



# between FRIENDS

News from Friends of the Children of Haiti

April, 2010

## Friends: an aftershock of hope



Charles LaFond and mother Rose Iris  
photo by Josh Bradshaw

CYVADIER, Haiti —Meet an 11-year-old hero. On Jan. 12, Charles LaFond was visiting a friend's home in Port-au-Prince with Charles' brother, father and mother. Suddenly, the earth shook; flattening the three-story building they were in.

From the rubble, little Charles pulled out his mother, Rose Iris, 41. He could not get to his younger brother or his father, who died beneath the debris.

But Rose Iris remained in precarious shape - and intense pain. Rescue workers in the capital city had reattached a severed ear without anesthesia. Leg and foot fractures remained untreated.

Her loved ones believed her best chance at survival loomed far away, at the Friends of the Children of Haiti clinic. So, they helped her make the long trip over treacherous mountain roads. At the clinic, our medical personnel determined that the ear sutures had become infected, and the limb injuries had worsened.

Carried in, she walked out on crutches to stay with relatives in nearby Jacmel. Though she managed smiles and profuse "thank yous," we knew she was just beginning to comprehend the devastating loss she'd suffered.

“The teams treated multiple earthquake victims, but also saw to it that all of our patients received care for their chronic, ongoing diseases”

— Dr. Bill Edwards  
Friends' Medical Director

Meantime at the January and March clinics, the teams juggled continued care for chronic patients with the critical needs of earthquake victims. “The teams treated multiple earthquake victims, but also saw to it that all of our patients received care for their chronic, ongoing diseases,” said Dr. Bill Edwards, Friends' Medical Director.

### More survivor stories:

- Twin babies came in weighing only 3 pounds. Their mother had given birth to the preemies in Jacmel just two days after the quake and was still suffering from dangerous hypertension. Our team kept the infants warm and alive with an ersatz incubator made of a poncho, aluminum window trim, foil and exam lamps. The team watched them all night, and by morning the infants had improved.
- Just before the quake hit, a baby girl was born at Jacmel Hospital. Her aunt swaddled the infant and took her into the sunshine to meet the world, while her mother began to recover from a difficult C-section birth. Then life changed in an instant. Mom was crushed to death as the tremblor destroyed the hospital, while her baby survived in her aunt's arms in the courtyard. Days later, the aunt brought the child to the clinic for treatment of an eye infection. She will be fine, for now, and will be raised by the aunt.

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# CALENDAR

May 10-21, 2010

## General Practice Team

Cyvadier, Haiti

July 6-17, 2010

## General practice team

Cyvadier, Haiti

August, 2, 2010

## Golf Outing Event

Edelstein, IL

September 6-17, 2010

## General practice team

Cyvadier, Haiti

November 8-19, 2010

## General practice team

Cyvadier, Haiti

• After the dust from the earthquake had cleared, Taina Mentor, 5, was alive, but her left hand was crushed. So her mother brought her to the Friends of the Children of Haiti clinic. Dr. Garron Lukas examined her injuries and set her for surgery. What falling concrete had destroyed, Lukas hoped to restore. The earthquake had prompted numerous amputations elsewhere, but FOTCOH desperately tries to avoid that drastic option. And things were going well as Taina was prepped for surgery. Lukas then worked to repair the hand and Taina arrived in recovery, tended by her mother.

Earthquake victims will continue follow-up care at future Friends clinics. And for years, the country will face rebuilding and unprecedented medical challenges. We will adjust our treatment protocols to meet these new challenges while maintaining the same high level of health care that we have developed in over 25 years of service in Haiti.

## OSF donates supplies, helps Friends bring aid to earthquake victims

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center has donated \$100,000 of medical supplies and medications to Friends to help care for victims of the earthquake that devastated Haiti in January.

"This tremendous donation of essential goods will help us sustain the vital care that we're providing for the Haitian people," says Eric Behrens, Friends' Executive Director.

FOTCOH teams have been carrying these supplies with them to the clinic since the disaster struck. Special charter flights have also been arranged to deliver the goods, to help ensure that FOTCOH teams are fully supplied as they continue to provide on-going care for patients.

"We are deeply grateful for OSF's support, especially now, during a time of unprecedented need in Haiti," Behrens said. "We are very proud to work in close partnership with OSF on behalf of the Haitian people."

"Those who share their time and skills through the work of the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH) are champions among us. It is truly a privilege and honor to support their work. The mission of FOTCOH is fully aligned with the 133-year Mission and ministry of OSF to serve those in need with the greatest care and love" said Keith Steffen, CEO, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center.

## Friends names pharmacy director

Mark Purcell, RPH, has been named FOTCOH Pharmacy Director. Purcell, a pharmacist with Wal-Mart Stores, has been active with Friends since 2004. "As Pharmacy Director, I see my role as facilitating provision of comprehensive pharmaceutical treatment options for our providers, and also encouraging integration of our pharmacists as important components of a total medical team approach to our operations. Concurrently, the Pharmacy Director, working with the Board and other directors, is charged with ensuring that funds from our generous donors are spent wisely and judiciously to maximize benefits for the largest number of our Haitian patients."



Mark Purcell

## Just updated:



Richard & Barbara Hammond

### Friends co-founders honored

Friends co-founders Richard & Barbara Hammond have been awarded a "2010 Generosity of Joseph Honor" by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province. The Hammonds are being honored for their "unwavering dedication to and advocacy for the children of Haiti," said Sister Barbara Dreher, CSJ. The Hammonds will be presented with the award at a gala event in St. Louis, Missouri on April 30th.

### Friends Foundation seeks volunteers

"Remember that FOTCOH is an all volunteer organization and could greatly use your help," says Tim O'Brien, FOTCOH Foundation President. "We have several fund raising events and projects that need volunteers." If you're interested in helping FOTCOH please send your contact information (name, address, email address, phone number) to Tim O'Brien at: [tobrien@fotcoh.org](mailto:tobrien@fotcoh.org) and Tim will contact you with volunteer opportunities.

**BETWEEN FRIENDS** is distributed to inform supporters about the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH). Submissions for BETWEEN FRIENDS are welcomed for consideration and should be sent to: [email@fotcoh.org](mailto:email@fotcoh.org) Friends of the Children of Haiti is a non-profit organization.

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