



The Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives since 1981

May 2025

My Dear Friends,

When I last wrote a few months ago, I was in Florida after having fled Haiti last November – on very short notice – a due to intense gang violence near my house in Port au Prince. Although gangs still control Port au Prince and widespread violence and insecurity continues, an opportunity to return to Haiti opened in mid-April.

With the Port au Prince airport still closed, the only way into the country was by plane to Cap Haitien (on the north coast), then by helicopter into Port au Prince. Just before I arrived in Cap Hatien on April 4, there was an incident where a helicopter to PaP was shot at by gang members. As a result, all flights were cancelled. I ended up flying on a small plane to Le Cayes (on Haiti's south coast) and spent 2 weeks there with friends, visiting our elementary school and C-Tech in Mussotte. On April 19 the helicopter flights into Port au Prince resumed, and I flew back to Cap Hatien, then to Port au Prince. An exhausting and stress-filled journey, but I was glad to be back home.

My neighbourhood remains calm however the threat of violence is constant, and everyone must be very careful at all times. I have hired a young man I know to drive with me back and forth to work.

Despite the horrible conditions created by the gang control of Port au Prince, the miracle of God's protection of the children, staff, and operations of the Foundation continues. While no part of the city is safe, the area where the Children's Village and Hope Hospital are located remains relatively calm. There is no explanation for this except God's grace.

Our schools at the Children's Village and in Mussotte are open and doing well. Although food prices are crazy high, we are still able to feed 290 children breakfast and a hot lunch every day at the Village School. ***We cannot thank all of you enough for your generous support that allows us to purchase food supplies as they come available. We hope you know what a blessing you are to us, and how much you encourage us in the midst of the chaos.***

C-Tech continues to operate and give the 230 students there hope for the future. Hope Hospital – one of the last fully operational hospitals in the city – continues to serve the people of Port au Prince.

As for me personally, I am doing OK, trusting God for every minute of every day, and so grateful to Him for bringing all of you together with us in this work.

With love, *Gladys* (P.S. I hope to see you on the June 14th Zoom meeting !)

You are invited to an update from Gladys – Saturday, June 14 – By Zoom

Gladys will be joining the CFCH Annual General meeting – via Zoom – on Saturday, June 14.

The meeting will start at 1:00 pm, and the CFCH business meeting will run until 1:45.

Beginning at 1:45 Gladys will provide an update on the situation in Haiti and the ongoing work of the Foundation.

You are welcome to attend the full meeting or join us at 1:45 for Gladys' update.

Please RSVP to Judith at jarmstrong@shaw.ca to receive the Zoom link.

We look forward to seeing you June 14th.





The Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives... since 1981

May 2025

In the midst of violence and turmoil, some of the reasons why we're grateful...

1. *In 6 years of gang violence, the children, staff, and facilities of FCH have been safe.*

- The neighbourhood where the hospital and Children's Village are located is one of the few relatively safe areas of Port au Prince.
- The Mussothe area in southern Haiti – home to C-Tech and Mussothe Elementary School – has not been impacted by gang violence.

2. *All FCH activities continue to operate and are serving more people than ever.*

- At each of FCH's schools – the Village school (elementary, middle, and high school), Mussothe Elementary, and C-Tech (post-secondary technical training) – enrollment is considerably higher this year than last year.
- The new wing at Hope Hospital is open allowing FCH to serve more patients at a time when many other hospitals and clinics have closed.

3. *The generous support of our friends across Canada has allowed FCH to handle the crippling cost of food, and - in the face of frequent food shortages – purchase supplies as they come available.*

4. *Over the past 5 years, FCH has been able to make a number of key investments to increase capacity, efficiency, and sustainability.*

- Hope Hospital is now energy self-sufficient through solar power investments.
- Expansion of the Mussothe Elementary annex allowed increased enrollment.
- Middle school and some high school grades added to the Village school.
- New medical clinic, classrooms, residences, and upgraded solar power at C-Tech.
- New wing at Hope Hospital.



Above – Classes at the Village School: Elementary class (left); Special Education (right).

FCH provides employment for 260 Haitians at a time of unprecedented economic hardship.

Despite the turmoil in the city, the staff does all it can to keep life as normal as possible for the children living at the Children's Village.



The Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives since 1981

May 2025

Water Cistern at Hope Hospital - Circumstances require a change of plans !!

In our newsletter last fall we noted that the wells at the hospital and Children's Village cannot provide all the water required during dry periods. When well production falls short, water must be trucked to the sites, which is very expensive. When gangs disrupt traffic, deliveries may not be available. The solution is to build a cistern to store filtered rainwater and water from the well when it is producing more than daily requirements.

In mid-2024, estimated cost of a cistern at the hospital was \$32,000 US. Due to the cost, this was a "sometime-in-the-future" project. However, recent developments have changed the plan.

There have been heavy rainstorms in Port au Prince over the past few months. Rainwater run-off resulted in significant soil erosion, causing the collapse of a concrete wall along the property line behind the hospital. (This was not part of the building; it was a wall around the site.)

When wall repairs began, it was realized that – due to the sandy soil – there was a very large area of erosion under the paved parking area next to the collapsed wall. Thankfully, the parking surface above this "sink hole" had not collapsed.

After the parking surface was torn up and the loose sand around the sink hole was removed, the excavation was larger than the size of the cistern required by the hospital.

This faced the Foundation with a difficult decision at a time when funding is tight:

- Option A: Fill in the hole with non-sandy soil, rebuild the wall, and resurface the parking area. (Estimated cost \$15,000 - \$20,000 US.)
- Option B: With the hole already excavated, build the cistern now. The cost estimate is now around \$50,000 US. The price increase from 2024 is due to much higher cost for cement and steel, and the need for more fill material to shore up the sandy soil underneath the cistern.

Option A would mean that, when the cistern is finally built, the expense of completing the fill & repaving work would have to be re-incurred, and hospital operations would again be disrupted when the cistern is installed. Also, with the massive rate of inflation for building materials in Haiti, postponing the cistern project would significantly increase the price.

Even though funding is not currently in place for the cistern, the Foundation decided the most cost effective and operationally efficient way to proceed is to start the cistern now, and work slowly as funds are available.



Left: Cistern under construction.

Right: Aerial view of hospital.



Cistern location

Main hospital building is under the solar panels.

New wing



The Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives since 1981

May 2025

The Situation in Port au Prince Continues to Worsen

The international police force led by Kenya (that arrived in Haiti in last June) has been unable to control the heavily armed and well-organized Haitian gangs. As the gangs' firepower, territory, and economic strength continues to grow, violence in Port au Prince continues unabated.

Within Port au Prince, over 1 million people have been displaced as they seek to escape violence in gang-controlled neighbourhoods.

Poverty in Haiti has increased as gang activity creates shortages of day-to-day necessities and destroys the subsistence work many rely on to survive.

Gangs target children with violence and sexual assault, and actively recruit children by threatening to kill their families if they do not join, or offering them food and protection if they do. The UN estimates that between 30 and 50 percent of the country's gang members are now children.

During the ongoing crisis in Port au Prince, the Foundation for the Children of Haiti continues to be a beacon of hope and refuge.

We can't thank you enough for your prayers, support, and encouragement.



Above left: Room in new wing of hospital.



Above right: House Mom & family at Rainbow of Love.

Gladys and her team appreciate your prayers

Key concerns:

- Continued safety and security for the children, students, and staff of FCH.
- That Hope Hospital can continue to meet the overwhelming demand for health care.
- Availability of funds to deal with the incredibly high and increasing cost of day-to-day necessities, created by ongoing supply disruptions.