

# WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Orphans  
CANADA  
Raising orphans. Transforming lives.



## St. Damien Pediatric Hospital



Dr. Pascale Gassant is the National Director of St. Damien Pediatric Hospital which is the only hospital wholly dedicated to pediatric and prenatal care in Haiti – a country of 11.5 million people. Without the valiant dedication of the people at St. Damien, several thousand children with treatable illnesses would suffer or die, and thousands of mothers would either perish in childbirth or not receive the necessary prenatal support that leads to bearing healthy children.



Beyond medical care, St. Damien also makes a positive impact on the economy and livelihoods of Haitians by employing more than 500 local people, including 300-plus Healthcare providers, such as doctors and nurses. Even as

Haiti continues to face extreme challenges, from political assassinations and earthquakes to poverty and unrelenting violence, the entire staff at St. Damien dedicates their lives to providing the most vulnerable children, women, and families with affordable and dignified health care.

St. Damien Pediatric Hospital is supported through private funding and with support from caring people around the world. St. Damien gives health and hope to the women and children of Haiti. Each year, on average, the medical team provides:

- ✚ More than 50,000 services to women and children
- ✚ Nearly 8,000 pediatric consults
- ✚ Nearly 2,000 emergency room visits
- ✚ More than 1,300 HIV consults
- ✚ And delivers more than 3,000 babies

**Adopt a Nurse** - These professionals work with the added stress of gunfire, kidnappings and failed government and infrastructure. The wild valuation of the local currency means they cannot rely on the purchasing power of their wages. Diesel fuel is required to be trucked through gang-controlled road check stop feed the electrical generators of the hospital. Water purification is required to avoid the spread of diseases. Some nights the staff will choose to sleep in the hospital rather than risk being kidnapped on the way home or on their return to work. Donate to our Adopt a Nurse program on our website.

## **Dominican Republic Project 2025**

A project is a wonderful time to enjoy the opportunity of making a significant difference at our NPH Home in the Dominican Republic.

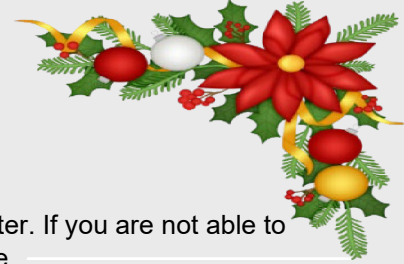
Contact Joy King ([iking787@gmail.com](mailto:iking787@gmail.com)) or Andy Uyl ([mandauyl@gmail.com](mailto:mandauyl@gmail.com)) for more information on joining the team.



# BETWEEN FRIENDS

## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### *JOYFUL TIDINGS*



The times they are a-changing.....

Welcome to another winter edition of our newsletter!

In an effort to streamline costs, we are minimizing the number of printed copies of our newsletter. If you are not able to access the electronic copy or wish to have a hard copy mailed to you, please contact our office. We will print and send copies upon request.

Our board of director slate has changed considerably due to vacancie. We are now actively looking for new people to sit on our board. Applications are available online or by calling the office. We meet approximately once a month for about two hours average in Guelph or by Zoom.

After a "brief" five-year hiatus, we have a long-term volunteer going to Dominican Republic to work with people in the new One World Surgery facility on site. We wish Claire the best of luck in her year away.

We have one project which will take place in the Dominican Republic beginning January 25 until February 22 and are now actively recruiting participants. Information is available by calling the office. We are looking at organizing another project in either Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras or Peru and need a minimum of 6 participants. Notify the office if you or someone you know may be interested.

Look for a revamp on our website coming soon!

*Merry Christmas  
from the Board of Directors and Staff  
at Fotocan*

Honoring the memory of  
Father Philip Cleary,  
who touched so many lives with his compassion,  
wisdom, and warmth.



*You are cordially invited  
Inaugural Gift of Giving Soiree  
At Casa Loma in Toronto  
December 1, 2024  
Get Your Tickets Today!*

