

# HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Health Equity**  
International



**CHARITY  
NAVIGATOR**



**Four Star Charity**



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Conor Shapiro**  
President & CEO

One year ago, I traveled to St. Boniface Hospital to observe the 10th anniversary of the devastating 2010 earthquake with our staff. Just weeks after we gathered to honor the 250,000 lives lost on that terrible day, we were called upon to **lead the COVID-19 response** for all of southern Haiti.

As the only health care facility in the region able to **safely and effectively address the pandemic**, we immediately mobilized every resource we had to protect the communities we serve. Tens of thousands of patients have relied on us for COVID-19 education, testing, and lifesaving treatment throughout the year.

At the same time, our courageous staff, to whom this report is dedicated, saw **over 130,000 patient visits** across every hospital service. Their perseverance has shown that while the pandemic upended nearly every aspect of our lives, it could not diminish our fundamental belief that **health care is a human right.**

**You made this work possible.** Your generosity energized us during this tumultuous year and has given me great optimism for all that lies ahead. For that, and so much more, I am very grateful.

Kenbe fem,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CS', written in a cursive style.

Conor Shapiro President & CEO  
Health Equity International

# DEDICATED *to the* ST. BONIFACE HOSPITAL STAFF

For their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment during an extraordinarily challenging year.



# WHAT WE DO

Health Equity International is driven by the belief that all people deserve access to **high-quality, dignified health care.**

We own and operate **St. Boniface Hospital**, the largest health care provider and only tertiary care center serving more than 2.3 million people in southern Haiti. Here, Haiti's most skilled medical professionals provide world-class care to all who need it.

St. Boniface Hospital was **built in partnership** with the community that surrounds it, and our services were designed to **meet our patients' needs.** Our 184-bed facility contains the region's only 24/7 emergency department, COVID-19 Triage and Treatment Center, surgical center, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and more. Our community health team and satellite clinic in the mountain village of Villa ensure that **people living in even the most remote places can receive the care they need.**

**Our doors are always open,** even amid natural disasters, political instability, and a global pandemic. No patient is ever turned away because they cannot pay. At St. Boniface Hospital, providing quality, dignified care is our only priority: for **anyone, anytime, anywhere.**



# 2020 / BY THE NUMBERS

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest, patients came to St. Boniface Hospital because they trusted us to provide the lifesaving care they needed.



**133,061**

Outpatient visits



**6,279**

Inpatient admissions



**4,348**

Births



**4,563**

Surgical procedures



**9,119**

Emergency room visits



**1,156**

NICU admissions



**63,653**

Patients educated, tested  
and treated for COVID-19



**7,953**

Home visits



**14,198**

Vaccines  
administered



**1,296**

Patients began using a  
modern contraceptive



**11,009**

Prenatal visits



**15,499**

HIV tests  
administered



**66**

Young medical  
professionals trained



**403**

COVID-19 community  
education sessions



# **GROWTH AFTER TRAGEDY**



## Expanding Access to Care

The devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010, left Haiti forever transformed. In the wake of the disaster, we began **expanding staff and services at St. Boniface Hospital** to help repair the country's shattered health system and meet the overwhelming need for quality care.

We created Haiti's **only spinal cord injury (SCI) rehabilitation program** to help survivors heal and regain their independence. To date, more than 1,200 survivors and patients with disabilities have benefited from the program's medical, support, and advocacy services.

We then **increased our capacity** to care for patients by enhancing existing services and creating new facilities. Today, St. Boniface Hospital has **the region's only NICU, 24/7 emergency department, and specialized infectious disease center**. Thanks to support from our generous network of partners and supporters, **we are caring for more patients and saving more lives every year.**

# 2010–2020

## A DECADE OF GROWTH

# THEN

**24,000+** square-foot campus with a small range of services, seeing just 3,400 patients per year.

- Outpatient clinic
- Primary care
- Dental care
- Pediatrics ward
- Internal medicine
- Labor and delivery services



# NOW

**75,000+** square-foot campus  
with dozens of services, seeing  
**130,000+** patients per year.

- 1 Outpatient clinic
- 2 Internal medicine ward
- 3 Pediatrics ward
- 4 Maternal care center, women's health clinic, neonatal intensive care unit
- 5 Surgical ward, biomedical equipment repair shop
- 6 Community health and nutrition clinic, radiology, HIV/AIDS clinic
- 7 Center for Infectious Disease and Emergency Care
- 8 Spinal Cord Injury Center
- 9 Warehouse depot
- 10 Generator and laundry services
- 11 Laboratory
- 12 Staff residences
- 13 Staff residences



GROWTH | PATIENT STORY

## Fabian Finds Community

Fabian was on her way to school in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck. She was studying to become a psychologist. But then the ground shook and a piece of a nearby house crushed her. In the blink of an eye, she became **paralyzed from the waist down**.

Fabian received treatment for her injuries in Port-au-Prince and was airlifted to St. Boniface Hospital for **rehabilitative care in our SCI program**. At first, she struggled to believe that she could have a future in a wheelchair. But as she made progress in physical therapy and bonded with other patients, Fabian's attitude changed. "I was, and continue to be, so supported by the people here," she says.

“ We have dreams, we have a future. ”

Today, Fabian is proud to support herself with a full-time job at Build Health International in Fond des Blancs. She is also grateful for the **independence she gained** through the SCI program and hopes other people with disabilities learn from her story. To them, she says, "Don't think that because you can't do everything you want with your body, that your life is finished. **We have dreams, we have a future.**"



Fabian arrives at St. Boniface Hospital for the first time after becoming paralyzed in the earthquake.



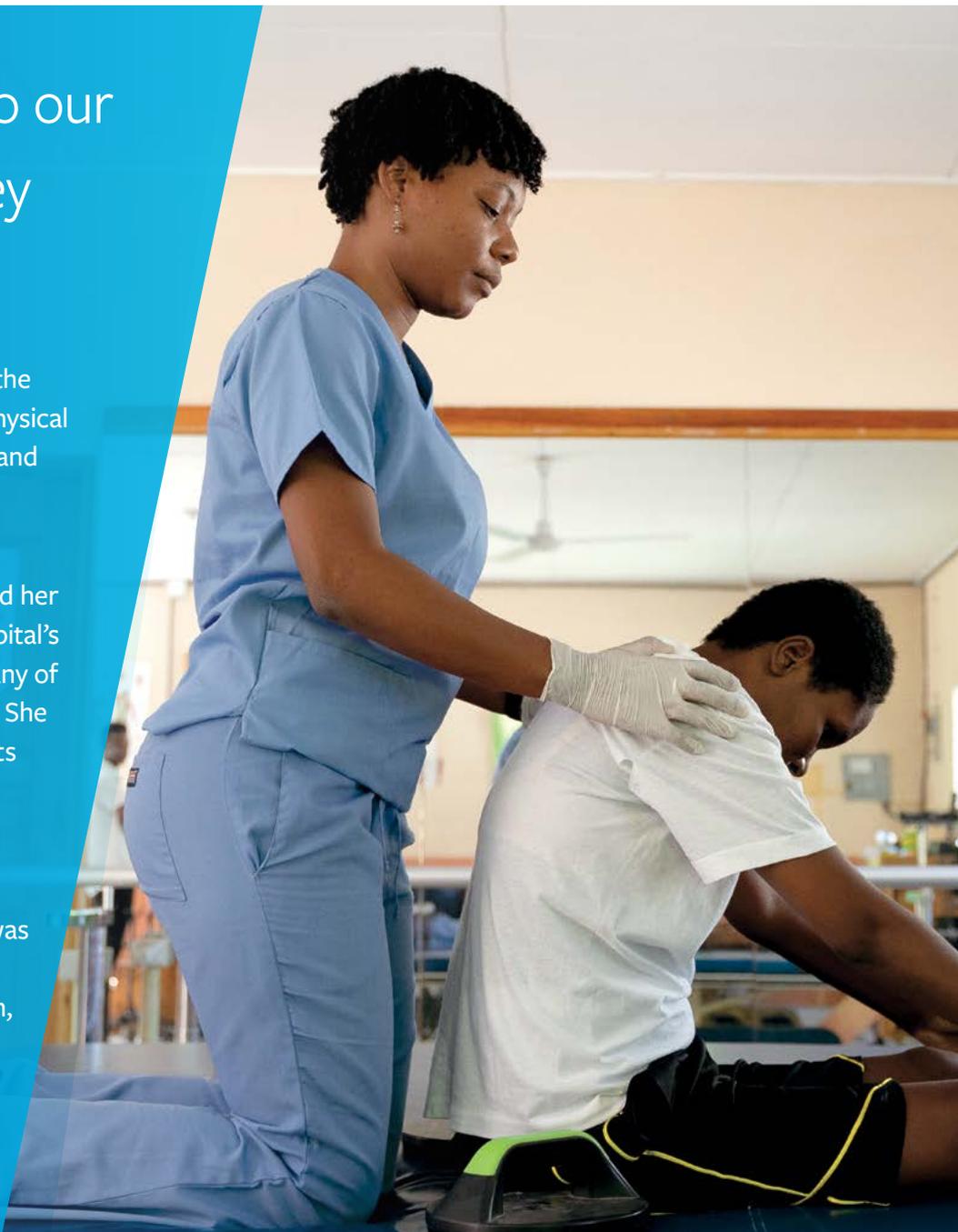
## SOPHIA: Helping Earthquake Victims Heal

“ We provide care to our patients even after they leave the hospital. ”

When the earthquake struck, Sophia was in the Dominican Republic studying to become a physical therapist. She lost her father in the disaster and decided she would return to Haiti and **help survivors—and her country—heal.**

Three years after the tragedy, Sophia finished her studies and became one of St. Boniface Hospital's first physical therapists at the SCI center. Many of her patients today are earthquake survivors. She also uses her formidable skills to help patients recovering from strokes, surgeries, and back injuries to regain their mobility and independence.

After the earthquake, a person with an SCI was expected to live no more than three years. But today, thanks to Sophia and the SCI team, hundreds of earthquake survivors are living the **full, healthy lives they deserve.**



# COMBATTING COVID-19





## Leading During Crisis

Health Equity International/St. Boniface Hospital have responded to every public health crisis that has impacted southern Haiti during our nearly four-decade history. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to bring hope and safety to the region.

By the time the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Haiti, we were ready to **save lives and mitigate the spread of the disease** in the communities we serve. Thanks to the heroic staff and our generous partners and supporters, we have educated and cared for thousands of people.

As the pandemic surges around the world, **Health Equity International/St. Boniface Hospital will continue to lead the response** for all of southern Haiti and ensure that every patient receives the safe, dignified care they deserve.

COVID-19 | PATIENT STORY

## Boss Raymond Overcomes COVID-19

Boss Raymond is St. Boniface Hospital's longest-serving employee. His many critical responsibilities include coordinating ambulances to pick up patients and helping community health workers travel to remote villages to provide care. He has rarely missed a day of work during his 25 years of service.

“ I owe my life to St. Boniface Hospital. ”

**Raymond didn't know he had COVID-19** when he fell ill in March—he thought his fever and aches would go away with some rest. But when he became too sick to get out of bed, our staff implored him to come to the hospital for care. After all of his years of service, it was time for St. Boniface to care for Raymond.

Once admitted to our COVID-19 center, Raymond received **oxygen therapy** to support his breathing and **medications to lower his fever**. He says, “The nurses took good care of me. I felt like a human being.” After four days, Raymond returned home and self-quarantined from the rest of his family until his illness was over. “I owe my life to St. Boniface Hospital,” he says. “If I found care, if I was sick and found treatment, if today I feel good, **it's thanks to St. Boniface.**”



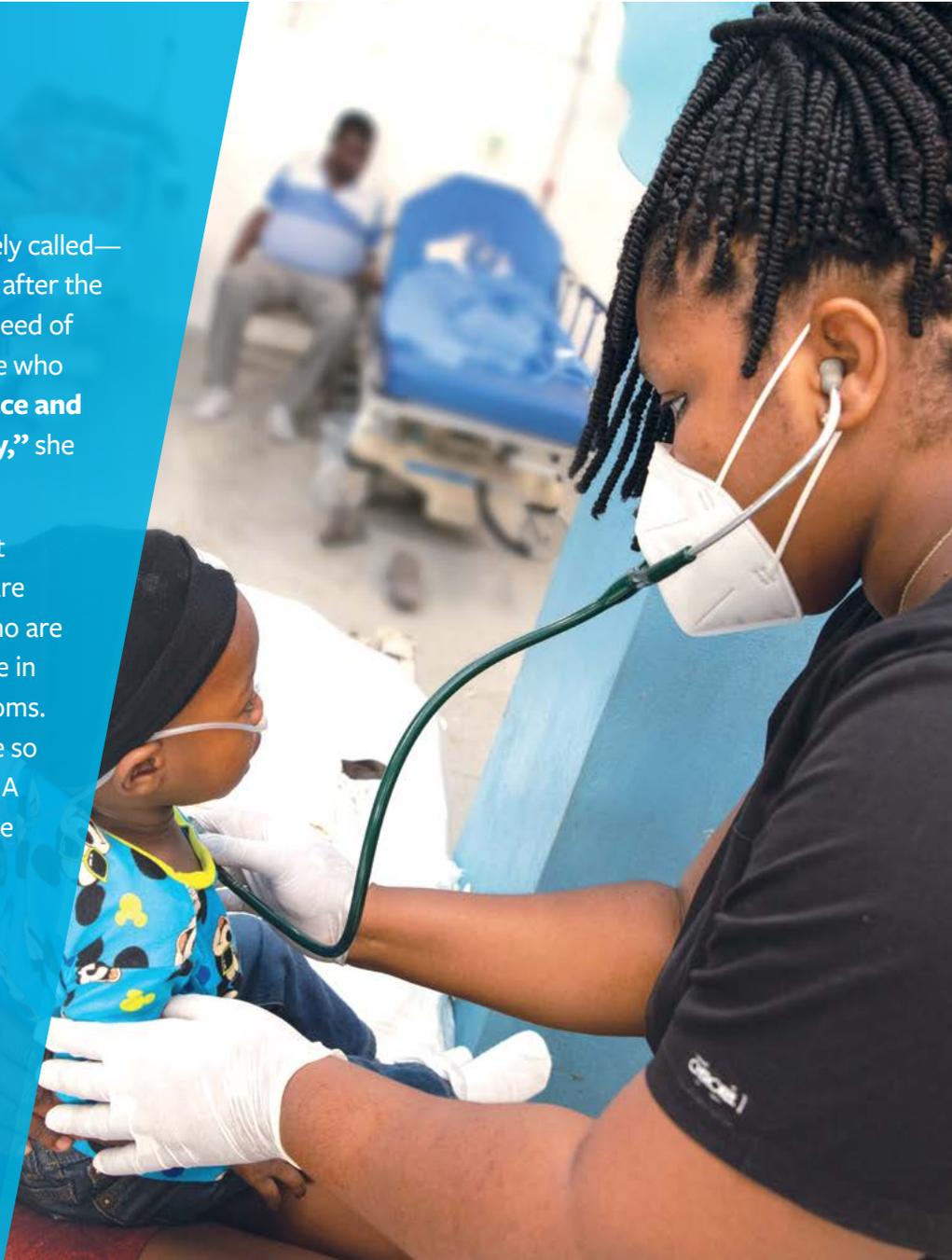
## DR. BIEN-AIMÉ: Caring for COVID-19 Patients

“ I’m so happy to be of service. ”

Dr. Bien-Aimé—or Dr. Mimi, as she’s affectionately called—was inspired to become an emergency physician after the earthquake in Haiti. She saw so many people in need of urgent care after the disaster, but too few people who were able to provide it. “From this, **I saw my place and how I could be most useful in the community,**” she says. “I’m so happy to be of service.”

Dr. Mimi became the Head of Emergency Care at St. Boniface Hospital in 2017. She and her team are trained to quickly diagnose and treat patients who are critically ill or injured—skills have been invaluable in caring for patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms. She says, “This is why I love emergency medicine so much because we react quickly and effectively... A lot of people who came were in bad shape but we helped heal them.”

“[People from the community] were really happy because they felt like they had a place to come to if they were sick,” Dr. Mimi says, reflecting on the impact St. Boniface has had since the pandemic began. “**They see that we are saving lives.**”



# *Men Anpil Chay Pa Lou*

## Many Hands Make Light the Load

Leading the COVID-19 response for southern Haiti has required that we **work together as a hospital, a region, a country, and a global community to save lives**. Coordinating our efforts has enabled us to mitigate the spread of the virus in the communities we serve.

Here we **recognize the partners and donors** who came together to expand St. Boniface Hospital's capacity to treat COVID-19 cases while safely seeing tens of thousands of patients in all other hospital services:

- **Build Health International** designed and built our COVID-19 Triage and Treatment Center, one of the only facilities of its kind in Haiti.
- **USAID** helped us procure critical equipment, staff, and supplies; supported community education; and expanded our lab's capacity to conduct COVID-19 testing.
- **The W.K. Kellogg Foundation** enhanced our capacity to produce lifesaving oxygen and helped ensure our staff were fully trained on COVID-19 education, triage, testing, and infection control protocols.
- The **World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization** trained our staff on infection control protocols and supplied critical personal protective equipment.
- **Direct Relief International** helped us to procure personal protective equipment and critical oxygen production equipment.
- **Acceso** donated locally-grown food to help us combat rising malnutrition rates due to COVID-19.
- **The Deerfield Foundation, Flora Family Foundation, IZUMI Foundation, MAC VIVA GLAM, The Neilsen Foundation, an anonymous donor, and hundreds of generous individual donors** supported our COVID-19 efforts and helped ensure our most vulnerable patients could access the care they needed amid the pandemic.





# PATIENT CARE



## Quality, Dignity, Respect

In 2020, our clinicians saw **133,061 patient visits** across all hospital services. Many of our patients traveled for hours to reach St. Boniface Hospital, navigating dangerous roadblocks and fearing COVID-19 on their journeys.

Every service at St. Boniface Hospital remained **fully operational throughout this year of uncertainty and fear**. Our clinicians worked for weeks without rest to meet the demand for surgeries, emergency care, and maternal health services. They knew that every patient they saw, and every life they saved, helped to **keep a family intact and a community strong**.

## Baby Lovelie Fights for Her Life

Baby Lovelie\* was tiny: born three months premature, she weighed **less than three pounds**. Suffering seizures from eclampsia, her mother, Kattiana, had been rushed into surgery for an emergency C-section after making the two-hour trip to St. Boniface Hospital. Lovelie spent a month in the NICU, **cared for night and day** by our highly trained nurses.

“ My hope is that one day she’ll become a nurse. ”

Every day, Kattiana held her daughter’s little hand in her own and watched her grow stronger. When Lovelie was finally ready to leave the hospital, Kattiana looked around the NICU for the last time, with her daughter in her arms. To the nurses, she said, “Today, I’m very happy. I’m going to return home with my baby. My hope is that one day she’ll become a nurse.” To her daughter, she whispered, “Let’s go home.”

\* Not her real name.

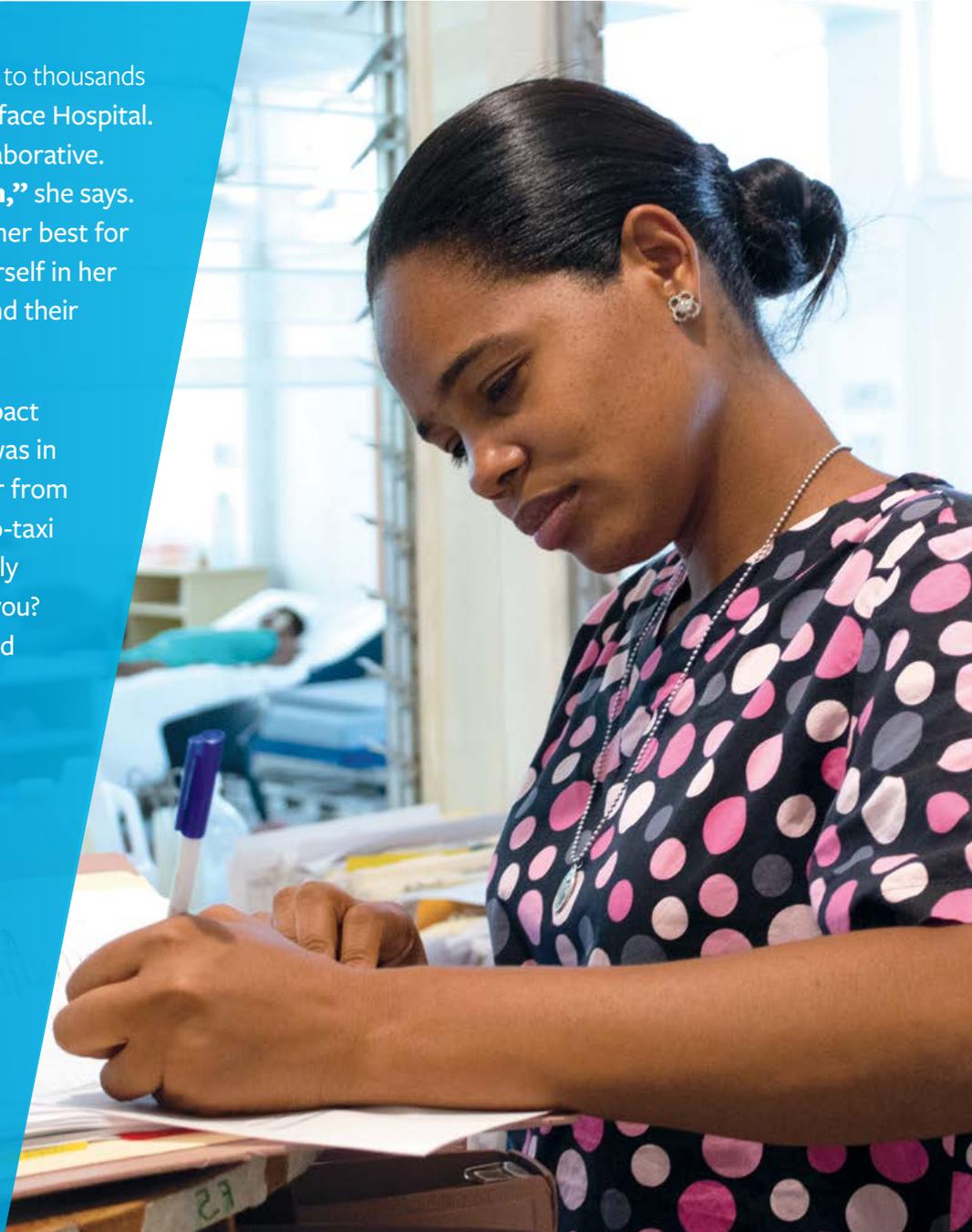


## NURSE MARIE: Nursing With Skill and Empathy

Nurse Marie has provided compassionate care to thousands of patients during her three years at St. Boniface Hospital. “What I like most is that nursing is very collaborative. **We are always working as part of a team,**” she says. She loves her work and always wants to do her best for each patient. That’s why she always puts herself in her patients’ shoes, so she can better understand their worries and concerns.

Her approach to nursing leaves a lasting impact on her patients. She told us, “Once when I was in Miragoane (a village approximately one hour from St. Boniface Hospital), I couldn’t find a moto-taxi to take me back to the hospital. When I finally found a driver he asked me, ‘Miss, how are you? Do you remember me?’ He told me that I had once helped his pregnant wife and that he really liked the way I cared for her. He drove me all the way back to Fond des Blancs. I was so touched. **It has given me more motivation to do my work.**”

“ We are always working as part of the team. ”



## Health Education Saves Edmonde's Life

Edmonde came to St. Boniface Hospital for prenatal care every month of her pregnancy. She knew these visits were essential, despite the arduous three hour walk across rocky terrain she took to get there. Hospital staff had explained the importance of prenatal care during her previous pregnancy, when hypertension seriously endangered her and her baby. This time, she was determined to do everything possible to **ensure her daughter's safe and healthy birth.**

One month before her due date, Edmonde realized she had hypertension again—her head wouldn't stop aching, and her legs had swollen. She immediately set out for St. Boniface, just as her nurses had advised. Our emergency care team stabilized her and paid for a safe ride home. A few short weeks later, **little Cyntia Delea was delivered safely** in our maternal care center to a grateful, healthy mother.

“ I am happy with the care I've received...all of my kids are healthy. ”



Edmonde snuggles baby Cyntia Delea as they wait for their postnatal checkup.



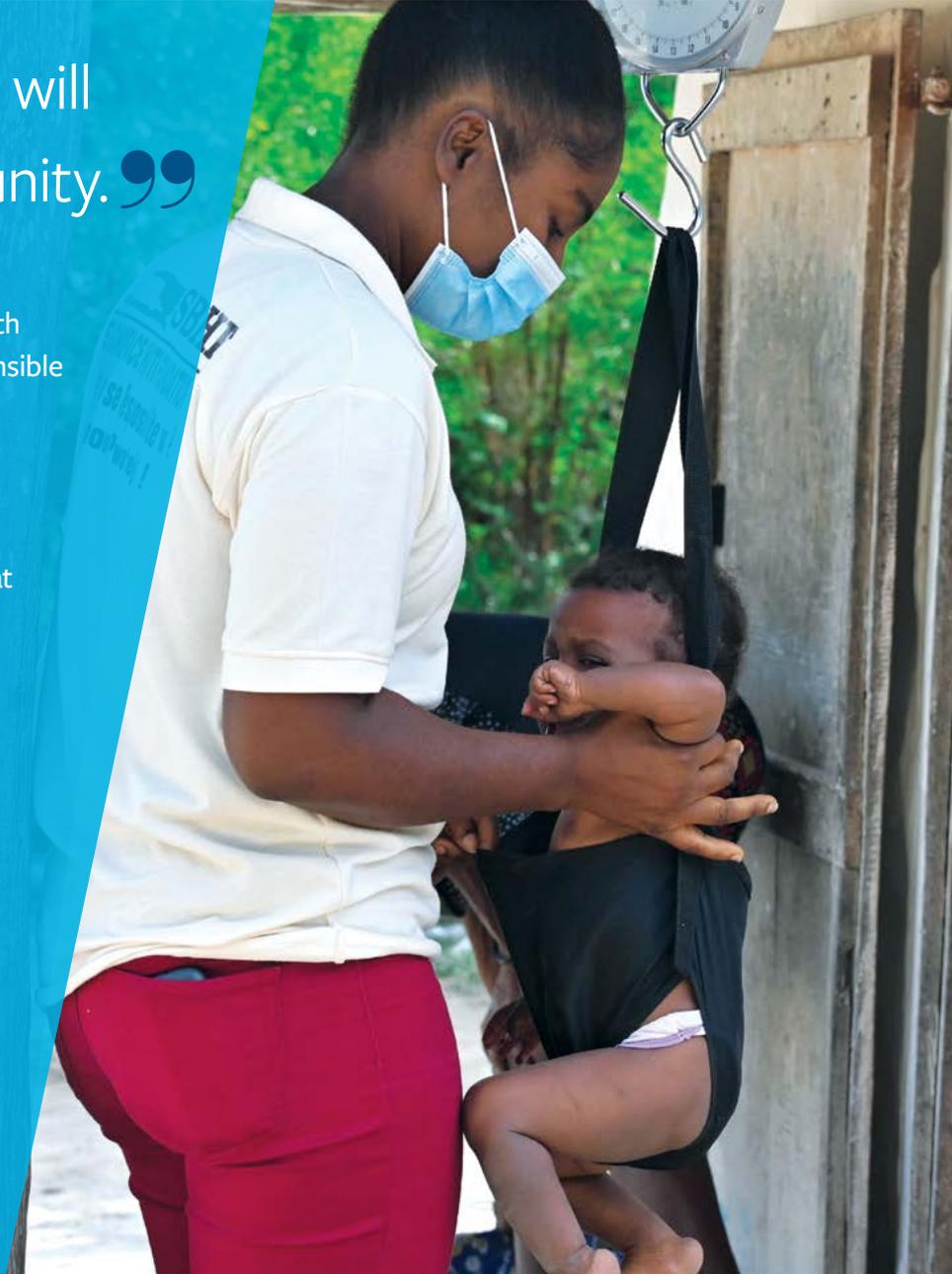
## NURSE CHERLINE:

### Strengthening Communities Through Education

“ I know what I’m doing will help people in the community.”

Community Health Nurse Cherline loves working with children in the communities she serves. She’s responsible for monitoring pediatric malnutrition cases, and she helps to vaccinate children and conduct health education sessions at schools. “What is unique in community health is that we are the only vaccine providers in these communities,” she says. “I see that when I give children vaccines, **it helps them, and helps the community work well.** That’s what makes me proud.”

Nurse Cherline enjoys teaching children because of their deep curiosity. When she visits a school to teach children about hand washing or mask-wearing, the students pepper her with questions and excitedly share what they’ve learned with their family and friends. Nurse Cherline does her best to make all of her lessons easy to understand, and easy to pass on. She says, “**I know what I’m doing will help people in the community.**”



## Enoc Overcomes Tuberculosis

“The hospitality I’ve received here has been so special,” 19-year-old Enoc said from his bed at St. Boniface Hospital. Over several months, Enoc had grown so sick from tuberculosis that **he could hardly stand**. He sought care near his home, but the pervasive stigma against people with infectious diseases—even among clinicians—prevented him from receiving the help he needed.

“ This is the first hospital that I’ve been to that has welcomed me like this.”

Aware that his life was at stake, Enoc managed to make the hour-long trek to St. Boniface Hospital on his motorbike. He was immediately admitted to an isolation room in our infectious disease center, and doctors began an aggressive medication regimen to **rid Enoc’s body of the infection**. He received nutritious meals, and plenty of fresh air and exercise in the center’s courtyard as he recovered. When Enoc was well enough to safely return home, he received his medications at our pharmacy and scheduled regular follow-up visits to **ensure his health stays on track**. “This is the first hospital that I’ve been to that has welcomed me like this,” he said. “I am very grateful to this hospital.”



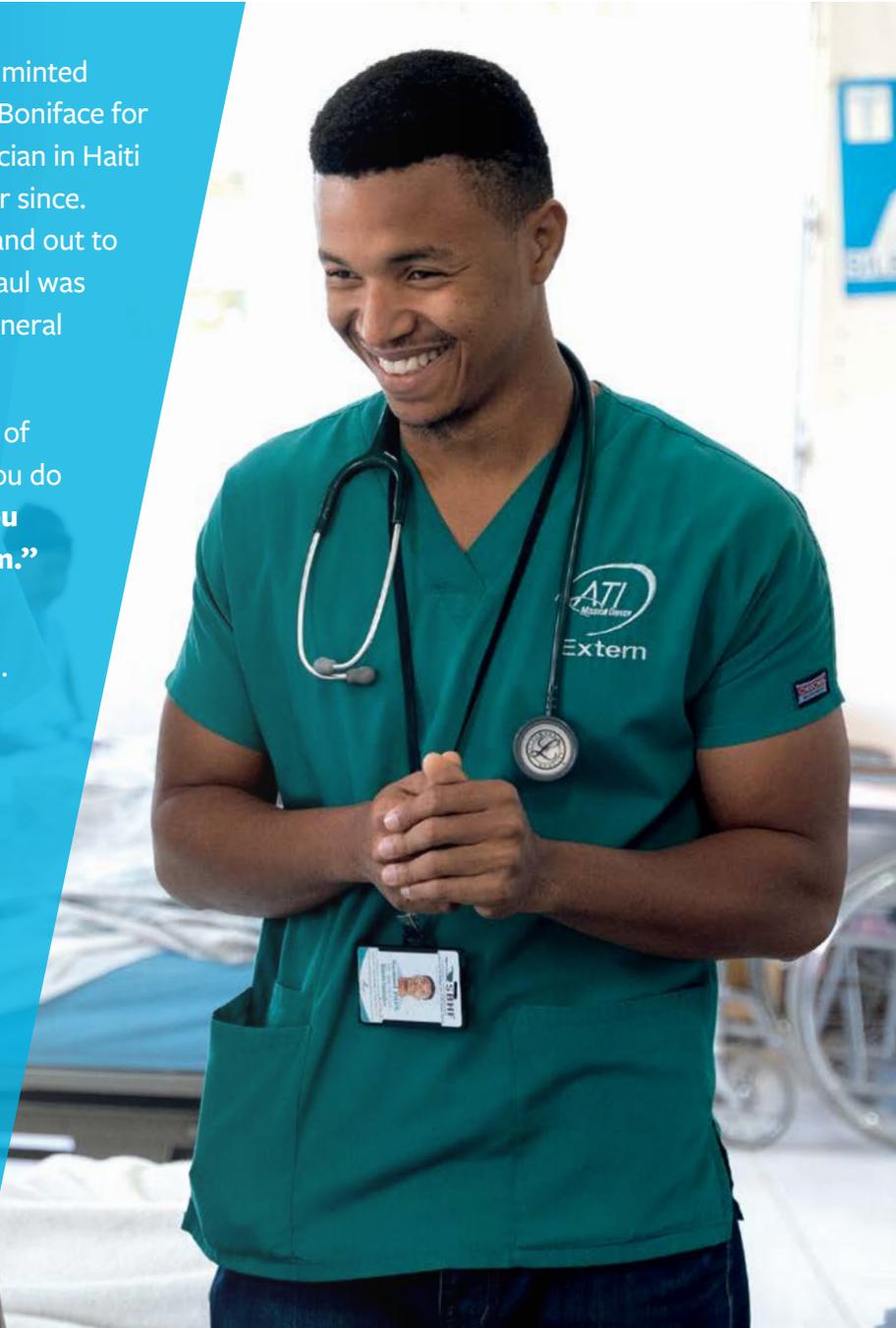
## DR. PAUL: Helping Those in Need

Dr. Paul arrived at St. Boniface Hospital in 2017 a freshly minted physician, eager to put his skills to work. He came to St. Boniface for his social service year—a year of training that every clinician in Haiti must complete after medical school. He’s been here ever since. His exemplary work and readiness to learn made him stand out to staff and patients alike. His training year complete, Dr. Paul was then invited to join St. Boniface Hospital full time as a general practitioner in the internal medicine department.

“I learned a lot from the other doctors, especially [Chief of Internal Medicine] Dr. Blaise. He always tells me that if you do everything you had to do, you won’t save the patient. **You must do more than what you had to do to save them.**”

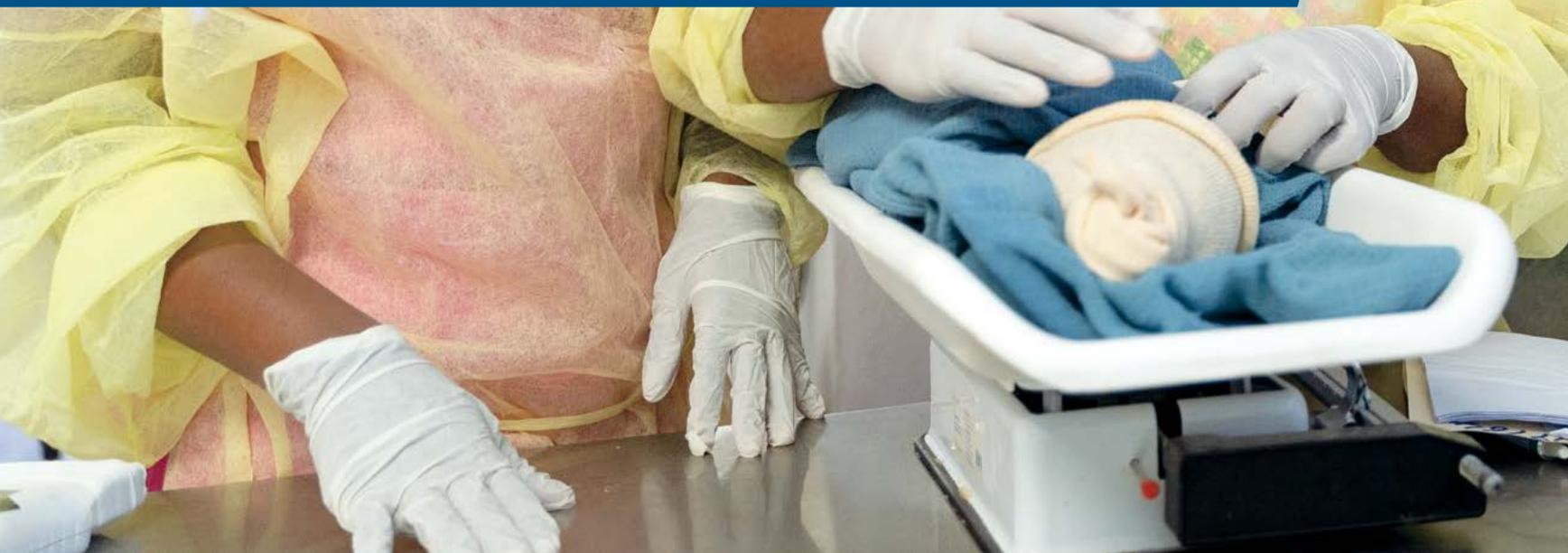
Because Dr. Paul’s patients require days or even months of inpatient care, he takes time to get to know them well. For him, **building relationships with his patients is just as important as providing medical care.** “At St. Boniface, we look at the patient and... determine what they need, not only at the medical level but also at the social and psychological level.”

“ We look at the patient and determine what they need. ”





# CAPACITY BUILDING





## Strengthening Health Care in Haiti

Each year, dozens of young doctors, nurses, and students come to St. Boniface Hospital for training. Because we never turn patients away, **our trainees see a wider variety of cases and gain more hands-on experience than at most other medical facilities in Haiti.** After honing their skills under the mentorship of our senior clinicians, our trainees help to strengthen Haiti's health care system by bring their knowledge and skills to hospitals and clinics across the country.

Health Equity International's Reparation Pou Amelyore Ekipman Medikal (REPARE) program is another critical way **we support health systems and economic opportunity in Haiti.** The program trains biomedical equipment technicians (BMETs): professionals who repair and maintain the tools clinicians use to care for patients. Trainees gain employable skills that help ensure more clinicians have **access to the equipment they need to provide lifesaving care.** They also gain the expertise to train future technicians, helping to build a sustainable workforce of BMETs in Haiti.

## NURSING INTERN ROSE: Gaining Skills and Confidence



Rose is a fourth-year nursing student studying at the Institution Louis Pasteur in Port-au-Prince. In January 2020, she came to Fond des Blancs for a six-month internship at St. Boniface Hospital.

“ Both the staff and patients have mutual respect for each other. ”

Rose worked in a different hospital service each month, learning at the hands of our experienced nursing team and reinforcing the training she received in nursing school. She said, “The nurses are very collaborative. **I get to learn more and apply my skills to become a better nurse.**”

Rose found working in the pediatrics department to be a particularly moving experience. “I love getting to feed our babies and help them with their medication,” she says with a bright smile. “That’s probably my favorite part.”

As her internship came to an end, Rose reflected on her time at St. Boniface Hospital. She said, “During my internship, I’ve witnessed how well organized [hospital staff] are. Both the staff and patients have mutual respect for each other. I am really appreciative of the level of care that I’ve seen provided here.”

## CHIEF BMET ALIX: From Trainee to Program Leader

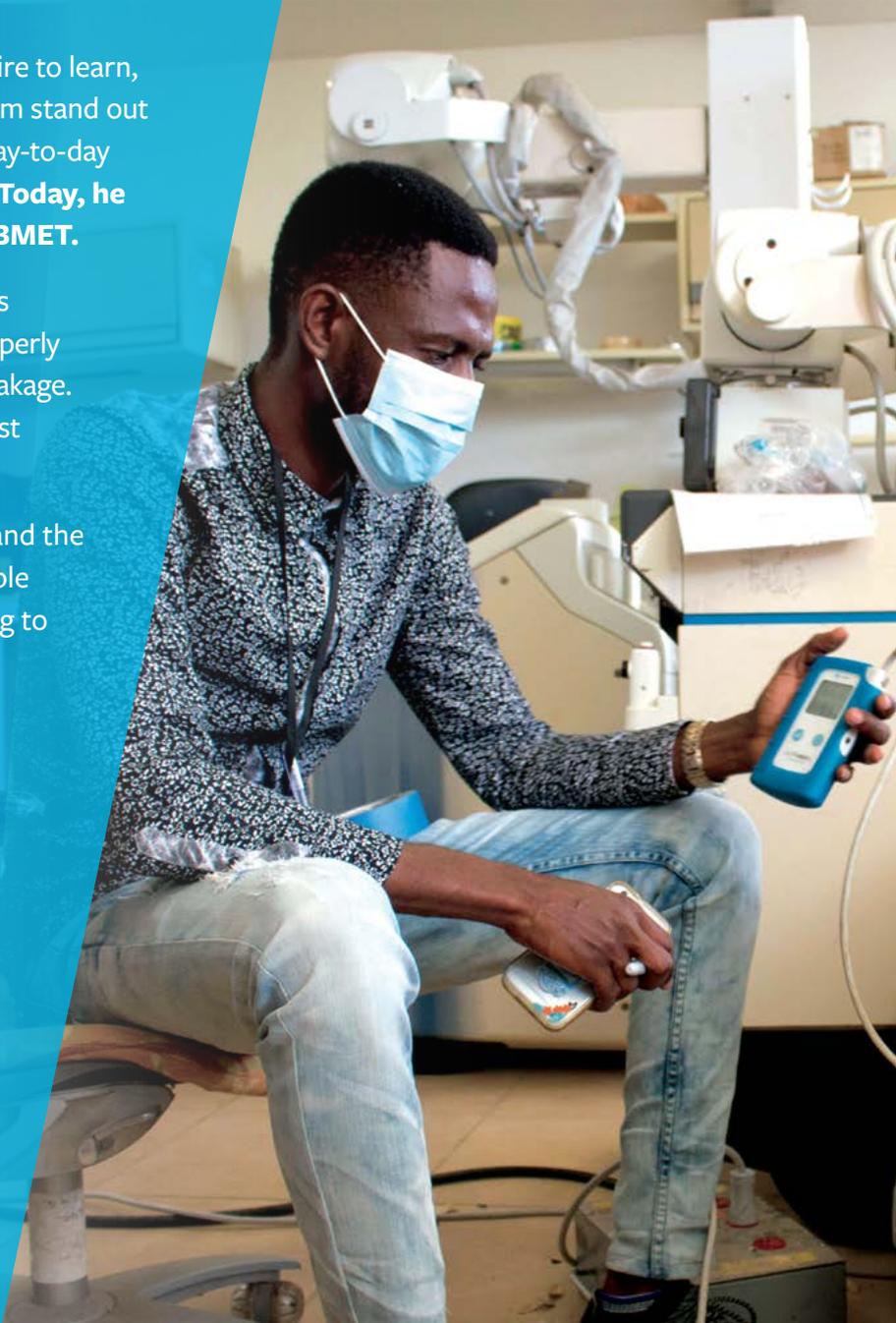
Alix joined the REPARE team as a trainee in 2017. His desire to learn, attention to detail, and aptitude for engineering made him stand out from his peers. Soon, he was managing the program's day-to-day operations and conducting complex repairs on his own. **Today, he leads the program as St. Boniface Hospital's Chief BMET.**

In addition to repairing and maintaining all of the hospital's biomedical equipment, Alix trains clinicians on how to properly use the machines to reduce user error and accidental breakage. Alix also travels across Haiti to train other BMETs and assist with equipment repairs.

There are currently few BMETs in Haiti. However, Alix and the REPARE team are steadily working to create a sustainable workforce of technicians in the country who are helping to keep lifesaving equipment in service at all times.

"Since I was a child, I always wanted to be a part of a team that takes care of people in Haiti," says Alix. "Giving life back to these machines is like giving life back to our patients."

“ Giving life back to these machines is like giving life back to our patients. ”



A newborn baby is lying in a hospital bed, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark blue pants. The baby is resting its head on a white blanket and has its hands near its face. A white identification band is on the baby's left wrist. In the background, a woman is lying in a hospital bed, looking towards the camera. The room is brightly lit, and there are other hospital beds visible in the distance.

# DONOR ROLL

Generous support from donors like you helped us to provide world-class health care during one of the most challenging periods in Haiti's history.

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# FINANCIALS

Calcul de l'hémoglobine et des globules rouges à partir de l'hématocrite

Soit 45 la valeur de l'hématocrite. Pour trouver l'hémoglobine on divise l'hématocrite par 3.

Exemple :  $45 \div 3 = 15$  g d'hémoglobine.

Pour calculer les globules rouges on ajoute 6 sur la valeur de l'hématocrite et on multiplie par 100.000.

Exemple :  $45 + 6 = 51 \times 100.000 = 5.100.000$  globules rouges

Constantes érythrocytaires  
TCMH, CCMH

... x 10 / nbre de globule



Health Equity  
International ended  
Fiscal Year 2020  
(July 1, 2019-June  
30, 2020) **in a strong  
financial position.**

Additional funding for our COVID-19-related expenses enabled us to expand our capacity to safely care for patients during the pandemic. Our most critical efforts during the year included constructing the COVID-19 Triage and Treatment Center; procuring supplies to provide oxygen therapy for every patient in need; and sourcing personal protective equipment for the safety of our staff. **We are grateful to our partners and supporters** for helping us continue to navigate the pandemic and unrest and provide the highest quality care for every patient in need.

# HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

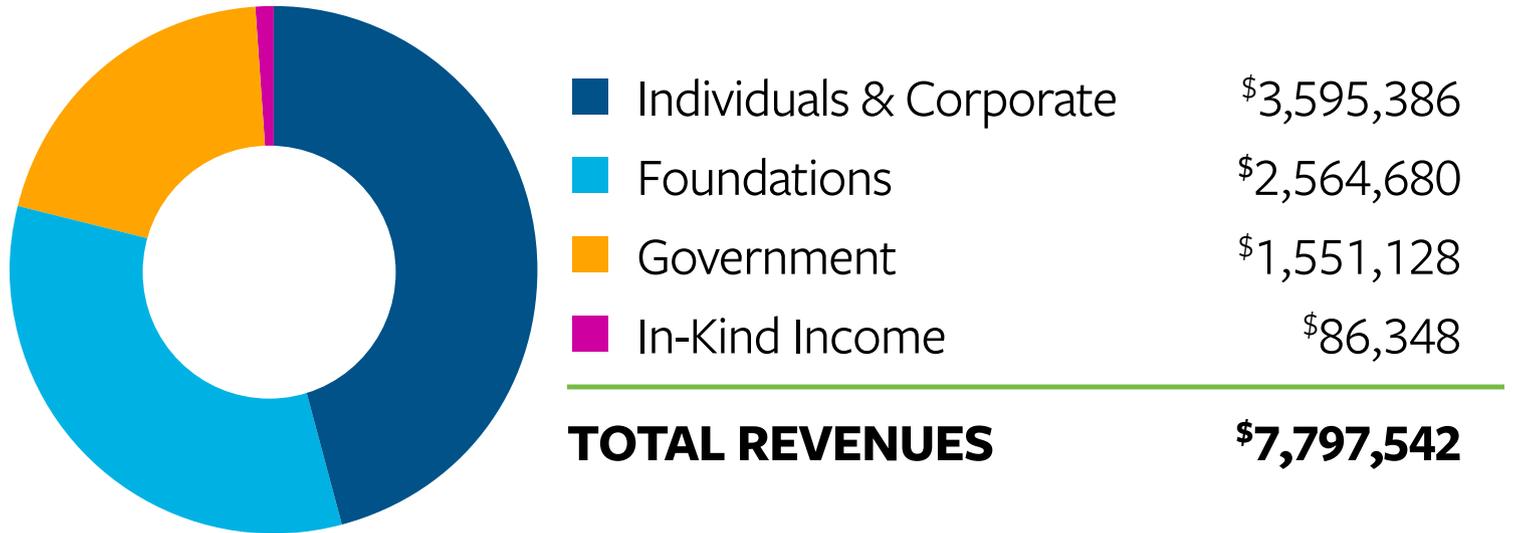
### ASSETS

	2020	2019
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash	\$2,019,185	\$1,050,309
Accounts receivable, net	\$355,319	\$282,802
Contributions receivable, current	\$2,500	\$370,104
Inventory	\$1,187,253	\$941,790
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$200,471	\$121,706
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$3,764,728</b>	<b>\$2,766,711</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET:</b>	\$6,218,969	\$6,729,234
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>		
Contributions receivable, net of current portions	\$40,000	\$60,000
Investments, at fair value	\$2,573,015	\$2,570,376
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$12,596,712</b>	<b>\$12,126,321</b>

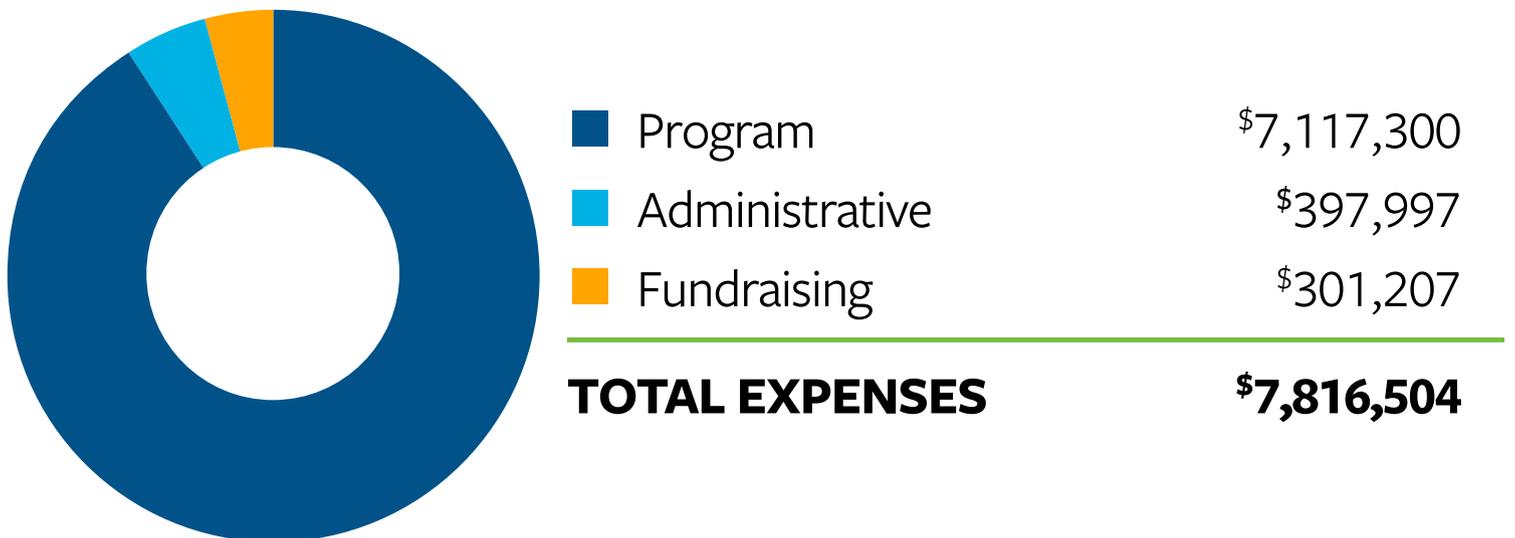
### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2020	2019
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$927,943	\$960,707
Deferred Revenue	\$1,182,145	\$698,828
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	<b>\$2,110,088</b>	<b>\$1,659,535</b>
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$10,251,666	\$9,891,292
With Donor Restrictions	\$234,958	\$575,494
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$10,486,624</b>	<b>\$10,466,786</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$12,596,712</b>	<b>\$12,126,321</b>

## 2020 TOTAL REVENUES



## 2020 TOTAL EXPENSES



# HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL'S WORK IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE WE ALL SHARE A SINGLE BELIEF:

That all people deserve high-quality, affordable health care. Thanks to your support, Health Equity International is building stronger, more resilient communities across southern Haiti and providing a model for health care in resource-limited settings around the world.

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**Thank you for helping us to make health care more equitable in southern Haiti in 2020, and beyond.**

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Photos by Gilles Poteau, Mikaela Raphael, Terry Sebastian, and Nadia Todres.