



SAVE THE DATE SBHF ANNUAL GALA

Tuesday, October 30, 2018, 6pm

Boston Marriott Newton

Please join us on October 30th to celebrate all that your support makes possible in southern Haiti.

From advanced surgical care, to life-saving maternal health services and life-changing spinal cord injury rehabilitation; join us in reaffirming that health care is a human right for all.

For more information visit
haitihealth.org/gala2018



SBHF's Mission

The St. Boniface Haiti Foundation is dedicated to providing essential health services to the people of Southern Haiti, especially the most vulnerable. We are committed to building a comprehensive, efficient, and resilient health system that provides high quality care. We believe that ensuring access to life-saving and life-changing health services is a critical component to building strong and productive communities.

Vision

Working in partnership with local communities, we will transform Haiti's southern peninsula by ensuring that all people, regardless of their ability to pay, have access to high-quality, compassionate health care. By improving health, we will reduce unnecessary suffering and improve the standard of living for the entire region. SBHF's success will prove that quality health care can be a sustainable reality in Haiti, and will offer a model for health care systems in resource-poor settings around the world.

Values

- **WE BELIEVE IN EQUITY AND COMPASSION:** We believe that tout moun se moun ("all people are people"). We ensure that everyone, and particularly the poorest among us, has access to the health services we offer. We treat all of our patients with dignity, respect, and compassion.
- **WE ARE DETERMINED:** We get the job done. We are relentless because we care deeply about the well-being of our patients, and we have a sense of urgency because we know that the work we do saves lives.
- **WE ARE COLLABORATIVE:** We don't believe we have all the answers, nor that our work can be done without input from our partners and members of the community. We are always looking for ways to learn from others and improve our work.
- **WE ARE DATA-DRIVEN:** We measure what we do and use data to make decisions that impact patient care.
- **WE ARE TRANSPARENT:** We are accountable to the communities we serve, our donors, and the partner organizations that help sponsor our work.

KEEP CURRENT WITH SBHF

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Join SBHF on social media and online:

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PATIENT PROFILE

Fighting Against Time to Save Tika

You made it possible for Tika to survive two life-threatening illnesses

When is a bellyache not just a bellyache?

Tika arrived at St. Boniface Hospital in February after suffering from a bad stomach ache for over a week. As with many children who lack access to healthcare, Tika, age 10, had already been through a lot. Just getting from her home to the hospital was a huge challenge—the 25 mile trip takes almost two hours, and the rutted, washed out roads make for a bone-jarring journey that is difficult for healthy people, and agonizing for those already in pain.

Tika was already very sick. She was diagnosed with Typhoid Perforation, a common complication of the Typhoid Fever that still ravages many communities that lack access to routine vaccines. Advanced Typhoid causes holes in the intestines, and patients—most commonly children—suffer terrible pain and can quickly become malnourished because they cannot properly digest their food and get necessary nutrients from it.

Luckily, Tika came to St. Boniface, the only hospital in southern Haiti that can offer a wide range of life-saving surgeries at no cost to patients. The surgical team at St. Boniface quickly scheduled her for a minimally invasive surgery to heal the damage to her intestines. St. Boniface Hospital is the only place she could have this kind of laparoscopic surgery, due to our highly trained Haitian surgical team and equipment maintained by SBHF's nationally-renowned Biomedical Engineering Technicians.

In most cases, patients who undergo these surgeries begin to feel better within a few days or weeks. But Tika continued to get sicker, even after her surgery. She was wasting, getting thinner every day. Despite excellent post-operative care, Tika spiked a fever and developed an infection in her surgical site, which was quickly treated with a heavy rotation of antibiotics.

But her care team knew there was something more sinister was still going on—an otherwise healthy ten-year-old shouldn't still be this sick. So, the pediatricians, surgeons, nurses, and lab techs rallied together to get to the root of Tika's illness. They had to act fast and figure out what was going on before malnourishment took her life. They knew they were fighting against time to find a cure for Tika.



TIKA BEFORE: Tika was seriously ill, and losing weight rapidly. The St. Boniface Hospital team had to work quickly to figure out how to save her life.



TIKA AFTER: Tika after starting treatment for Tuberculosis Pleurisy. The obvious change in her health is thanks to your support of the hospital's comprehensive, high-quality care.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONOR SHAPIRO
PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

As you can see from the two stories in this month's newsletter, the access to high quality healthcare that you make possible is both life-changing and life-saving for SBHF's patients. There are so few places in southern Haiti where patients can get reliably get the care they need. That's why, at SBHF, we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care for all people.

This year, that has meant opening the new Center for Infectious Disease and Emergency Care (CIDECE) at St. Boniface Hospital. This state-of-the-art new facility was funded by USAID's American Schools and Hospital Abroad program, through the generosity of the American people. It is the largest and best-equipped facility for patients suffering from highly infectious diseases and acute health emergencies on Haiti's southern peninsula.

We are also in the midst of renovating parts of the original hospital building into a new, expanded Pediatrics department and post-operative ward. These renovations will provide improved spaces to care for children and patients recovery from surgery. Patients like Tika, who arrived at St. Boniface Hospital extremely sick, and needed the care of two major medical teams in order to recover. Her team of surgeons, pediatricians, infectious disease experts, and highly-skilled nurses, working in facilities equipped to help them care for her complex diseases, saved Tika's life. You made that possible.

Together we are proving that health care is a right that can and should be accessible to everyone, everywhere. Thank you for your support.

Kenbe fem,

Conor Shapiro
President & CEO

FIGHTING AGAINST TIME CONTINUED ▶

A month after she was first admitted to St. Boniface Hospital, Tika was diagnosed with Tuberculosis Pleurisy, a rare form of TB that causes fluid build-up around the lungs. Her body had been fighting the TB, but it couldn't keep a multi-front war going for long. Your support makes it possible for St. Boniface Hospital to offer top-notch tuberculosis treatment to all patients, regardless of cost.

Tika started the intensive regimen of TB medications as soon as her diagnosis was confirmed. She also had a chest tube inserted to help drain the excess fluid from her lungs. Studies have shown that chest tubes can help avoid some of the serious long-term complications that patients with Tuberculosis Pleurisy can develop, so the surgical team at SBHF was quick to implement this advanced treatment.



Tika celebrates going home with big smiles for her two lead doctors, Dr. Roland Desiré (Family Medicine and Pediatrics) and Dr. Luther Ward (Surgery).

Once her care team got her on the treatment she needed, Tika's health and outlook changed quickly. But it was still another two months before she was healthy enough to go home. In that time she received intensive medical treatments, nutritious food, and full-time care from the St. Boniface Hospital pediatrics department.

Having access to a hospital that provides all of these services at no cost to her family saved Tika's life. Your support pays for everything our patients need, from highly trained staff to high-tech equipment and essential medicines. If Tika's family needed to pay for her to get care, they might have been forced to make a terrible choice between their daughter's health and the wellbeing of their entire family. You make it so that no parent ever has to make those choices if their child comes to St. Boniface Hospital for medical care.

Three months after she arrived at St. Boniface Hospital, Tika finally went home with a clean bill of health. In southern Haiti so many people lack access to any kind of healthcare, let alone the advanced care that Tika got at St. Boniface Hospital. If she had not been able to get the care she needed at St. Boniface, Tika likely would not have survived. Hers is another life saved by our staff's relentless pursuit of high-quality care for every patient. That care is made possible by having the resources, facilities, and training they need, thanks to the support of thousands of people like you.

PATIENT PROFILE

"I Can Keep Living."

Finding a new life after a spinal cord injury, thanks to your support of SBHF's Rehabilitation Program

Prunier Toussaint made his living as a truck driver, providing for his family and participating in his community. In 2014 he was outside working on his truck when his street suddenly erupted in gunfire. In the midst of a fight he had nothing to do with, Prunier was hit by a stray bullet. Seriously injured, he was rushed to a major hospital in Port au Prince for emergency surgery. But after the surgery Prunier had limited sensation in his legs and feet, and almost no ability to move his lower legs. He couldn't walk, and returned home wondering how he would support himself and his four children. He could no longer drive trucks, and spent his days at home reliant on family and friends to help with daily tasks.

Three years after his injury, having sought out care and physical therapy at several different clinics, Prunier was speaking with a friend who had also suffered a gunshot wound. That friend told him about his experiences at St. Boniface Hospital's Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Center. Prunier immediately contacted the hospital to ask about enrolling in the program.

When he arrived at the SCI Center, Prunier remembers that his condition seemed bleak, and permanent. "I couldn't lock my knees to stand, or move my legs at all really. I didn't think I'd ever be able to move on my own again outside of my wheelchair."

In Port au Prince, relying on a wheelchair means being homebound. The narrow streets are rutted and nearly impossible to wheel over, and the intense speed and congestion of the traffic makes it dangerous to cross streets.

Prunier's care team at SBHF was optimistic, though. After several months of intensive therapy it was clear that he was a



"I hope the donors know they are doing considerable good work here, and they are helping so many people in my situation. I hope they will continue, and in this way we can keep making progress."

- Prunier Toussaint



Prunier working with Physical Therapist Sophia Laine and Rehab Technician Jean Charles Badette to learn how to walk with his new leg braces.

good candidate for leg braces to help with mobility. Thanks to our partners at Fondation Tous Ensemble in Les Cayes, Prunier was able to get the braces he needed. He learned to walk again with their support, and training from SBHF's physical therapy team.

Being able to walk even short distances means Prunier does not have to rely on his family to get to the market, or do basic daily tasks. He can be self-sufficient, and help support his family again by selling the art and crafts that he has learned to make at the SCI center.

In particular, Prunier is excited about producing sandals from leather and macramé—a skill he learned in the handicrafts classes at the SCI Rehabilitation Center. Having never made clothing or crafts by hand before, Prunier is excited about his new skills; "This knowledge, how to do these crafts, will be very useful in my life at home. Crafts will help me get on my feet—go into business, and whatever I decide to do after."

"The SCI Rehabilitation Center at St. Boniface has given me hope," Prunier said, smiling, the day before he left Fond des Blancs to return home. "When I was at home, before, I thought my life was over. Being here, I have realized that there are many things I can do. Even though [I have this injury], my life is definitely not over. I can keep living. All this is thanks to the St. Boniface Rehabilitation Center."

To learn about the ways you can contribute to SBHF, visit our website: haitihealth.org/join-us or call: 617-244-9800.

Want to learn more about how much of an impact your gift can make? Visit WWW.HAITIHEALTH.ORG for more information and to make your gift today!