

STRENGTH IN UNITY

2024 Celebration
October 30, 2024





WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for Health Equity International's 2024 Celebration: Strength in Unity.

For decades we have worked together to transform lives and lift up communities, driven by the belief that all people deserve to be well. Our work has always been rooted in a spirit of unity. And that spirit has empowered us to continue building a better tomorrow even during the most difficult times.

Fr. Jerry Osterman made unity the cornerstone of our mission when he co-founded our organization more than 40 years ago. He knew that we could make real and lasting change for the people we serve only if we work together in accompaniment with them. This foundational belief transformed a one-room clinic into St. Boniface Hospital: the largest healthcare provider in southern Haiti. And year after year, this belief has saved countless lives.

As we honor Fr. Jerry's lifetime of service tonight, we will also share how unity and partnership drive every aspect of our work. At St. Boniface Hospital, teams of unsung heroes work shoulder to shoulder to keep every service running. And here in Massachusetts, our new shelter and stabilization team is helping our most vulnerable neighbors find peace, safety, and community after unimaginable hardship.

In a time when so much seems uncertain, we remain unwavering in our commitment to the people we serve. Your support plays a crucial role in ensuring that our work remains a beacon of hope, no matter the challenges that lie ahead. We are deeply grateful that you are a part of our community, and we thank you for joining us tonight.

Kenbe fèm,



Conor Shapiro

*President and CEO
Health Equity International*



Program of Events

Welcome

Fr. John Unni
Saint Cecilia Parish
Health Equity International

Conor Shapiro
Health Equity International

Logistics and Operations Keep the Hospital Running

Militza Michel
St. Boniface Hospital

Operations Team
St. Boniface Hospital

A Lifetime of Service: Fr. Jerry's Legacy of Compassion

Fr. Jerry Osterman
Health Equity International

Peace, Safety, Community: Shelter and Stabilization at HEI

Jamila Hussein
Health Equity International

Shelter and Stabilization Team
Health Equity International

Fund-a-Need

Dr. Michele David
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Health Equity International

Sharon McNally
Camp Harbor View
Health Equity International

Fr. John Unni
Saint Cecilia Parish
Health Equity International

Closing Remarks

Conor Shapiro
Health Equity International



FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Michele David

*Chief of Clinical Quality and Safety,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Board Chair,
Health Equity International*

Michele David, MD, currently serves as the Chief of Clinical Quality and Safety at MIT. Previously, Dr. David was an Associate Professor of Medicine at the BU School of Medicine until 2011, Co-Director of the Haitian Health Institute at Boston Medical Center, and Director of Community Health Programs at Boston University, Center of Excellence in Women's Health. She has focused her career on addressing issues of health disparities and cross-cultural medicine, and she has conducted educational campaigns on diverse health topics.



Sharon McNally

*CEO, Camp Harbor View
Board Member,
Health Equity International*

Sharon McNally is the CEO of Camp Harbor View, where she has led its work since its founding in 2007. Camp Harbor View partners with Boston teens and families through year-round youth programs and family services to cultivate long-term opportunity for young people and economic stability and mobility for families. An active community volunteer leader, Sharon serves on the Boards of Directors of the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare and the Clergy Trust of the Archdiocese of Boston, and is the Chair of the Board of Community Servings.



Conor Shapiro

*President and CEO,
Health Equity International*

Conor Shapiro, MPH, became President and CEO at HEI in 2011, leading the organization's operations in Haiti and the United States. Under his tenure, SBH emerged as the leading referral hospital in southern Haiti. Conor has overseen the growth of SBH to include new and expanded services including maternal and neonatal health, infectious diseases and emergency care, and orthopedic surgery. He holds a master's degree in Public Health from Boston University and has 20 years of experience with HEI, having first joined the organization in 2003.



Fr. John Unni

*Pastor, Saint Cecilia Parish
Board Member,
Health Equity International*

Fr. John Unni has served as pastor of Saint Cecilia Parish in Boston for the past ten years.

He attended Brighton's St. John Seminary and was later ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Boston in 1992. Following a transformative experience with the poor in Haiti almost thirty years ago, and inspired by wonderful parish experiences over the last twenty-five years, Fr. Unni's parish ministry embraces a commitment to gospel values and spiritual growth in the community, especially with those who are marginalized or impoverished in any way.

Honoring Fr. Jerry Osterman

Fr. Jerry has dedicated his life to serving others. Throughout his 50-year ministry and to this very day, he has worked to meet the often-unseen needs of vulnerable communities and inspired others to extend their hands to those around them.



In this spirit, in the early 1980s Fr. Jerry and his parishioners at St. Boniface Church in Quincy became inspired to support initiatives in Haiti. Soon, the group found themselves building a school and maintaining a one-room health clinic in partnership with the community of Fond des Blancs. Over the next 41 years, that clinic grew to become St. Boniface Hospital: the largest healthcare provider in southern Haiti.

Fr. Jerry's colleagues describe him as a visionary who saw the people of Fond des Blancs' dreams and knew these dreams deserved to be realized. He spent decades building bridges between Haiti and Massachusetts, creating a transnational community rooted in equity, social justice, and partnership. Together, this vibrant community has saved and changed millions of lives.

All of us at Health Equity International thank Fr. Jerry for his boundless compassion and lifetime of helping others find peace, safety, and good health.

Fund-a-Need



\$10,000

- Could run SBH's 24/7 emergency room for one week—the only facility of its kind in the region
- Could provide two unhoused families with the basic home goods and supplies they need when they transition from the shelter to living independently



\$5,000

- Could help a young person in southern Haiti realize their dream of becoming a nurse by funding a nursing school scholarship
- Could provide five unhoused families with warm coats, boots, and other clothing and supplies they need to make it through their first New England winter



\$1,000

- Could fund four emergency C-section deliveries in SBH's maternal health center, helping to save the lives of mothers and their children
- Could replenish an emergency stock of essential supplies for unhoused families arriving at our shelters with nothing more than the clothes on their backs



\$500

- Could fund two weeks of community health care in southern Haiti, including primary care, essential vaccines, nutrition support, and more
- Could provide five shelter residents with a monthly public transportation pass to help them get to and from work, appointments, and more



Any Amount

- **\$100** could deliver four babies at SBH's maternal health center.
- **\$50** could provide a child in our shelters with basic school supplies
- **\$10** could vaccinate 30 children against preventable illnesses in Haiti

Any amount will help provide life-changing health and support services for the people we serve.



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Listing as of 10.10.24

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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