
Fall 2025 Newsletter



Dear Friend,

As you may have heard, Hurricane Melissa recently swept through the Caribbean and left a tremendous amount of destruction in its wake. We are fortunate that St. Boniface Hospital did not sustain any damage and continued to care for patients, 24/7, throughout the storm.

While Haiti was spared the worst of the hurricane, many communities across the southern peninsula experienced deadly flooding and landslides. We mourn with the families who lost loved ones in this disaster, and continue to work with our partners across the region to understand the scope of the damage and how we can help.

You can read more about the impacts of Hurricane Melissa [on our website](#), including the storm's devastating impact on local agriculture. We will continue to keep you posted on any further developments as we continue to monitor and support the communities we serve.

As we enter the season of giving and togetherness, we wanted to highlight community in two different ways in this newsletter.

On October 23rd, more than 150 members of the HEI community came together for our 2025 Celebration in Boston, Massachusetts. You can watch the full event program at the link below, which includes a new video about St. Boniface Hospital and the importance of standing with the people of Haiti. This video features Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Boston City Councilwoman Ruthzee Louijeune, Partners in Health Co-Founder Ophelia Dahl, and more. We hope you enjoy it—and hope you can join in in-person next year!

We're also proud to highlight longtime HEI community member Dorothy Dahm for creating a special birthday fundraiser on our behalf. Below, you can read more about why access to quality healthcare is so personally meaningful to her, and how easy it is to start a peer-to-peer fundraiser of your own.

At the end of the newsletter, we've posted a great new interview with Miss Valcourt Kettelene, one of the nurse anesthetists on our surgical team. Click through to learn more about why Miss Kettelene chose to work in healthcare, what motivates her, and a patient she'll never forget.

As 2025 begins to come to a close, we want to thank you for your support during a tremendously challenging year for our organization and for the people of Haiti. On behalf of all our staff and patients, thank you for standing with us through it all.

Kenbe fèm,

Conor Shapiro

President & CEO
Health Equity International



Watch the 2025 Celebration

On October 23, HEI held its annual celebration with over 150 of its most ardent supporters. In addition to reviewing the heroic work taking place at St. Boniface Hospital, the event also honored Sharon McNally for her service and dedication.

[Read More](#)



Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser

Longtime HEI community member Dorothy Dahm decided to create her own fundraiser to support our work in honor of a special birthday. Click through to read about why she chose HEI and how you can easily create your own peer-to-peer fundraiser.

[Read More](#)



Staff Spotlight: Nurse Anesthetist Valcourt Kettelene

Ms. Valcourt Kettelene has been a nurse anesthetist at SBH for nearly five years. We interviewed her about how she entered her profession, what drives her, and the impact for SBH's surgical program.

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Health Equity International | 40 Glen Ave. | Newton, MA 02459 US

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