



## PATIENT PROFILE

# 10 YEARS LATER: Mamille's New Life

You helped us to build the only Spinal Cord Injury Center in Haiti, helping thousands recover from tragedy

You can usually find Mamille zipping around St. Boniface Hospital in her wheelchair, or making handicrafts to sell at a local store with her fellow artisans. Little Mylee Hadassa, Mamille's two-year-old daughter, is always perched on her lap. Mylee—the light of her life.

### Ten years ago, Mamille's life looked very different.

On January 12, 2010, a massive 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Port-au-Prince. The walls of Mamille's home collapsed on top of her, trapping her alive. She was there for days, though she can't remember how many, or how she was pulled out of the rubble...

“I HAVE BEEN IN A WHEELCHAIR FOR 10 YEARS, AND I AM HAPPY.”

The weeks went by in a haze as she struggled to find care. It was by chance that Mamille met a relief worker who connected her to SBH, **knowing we could provide the care she desperately needed.**

At our Spinal Cord Injury Center, Mamille worked tirelessly to rebuild her life—a task that she sometimes thought was impossible. Her physical therapy sessions were physically

and emotionally grueling. She ached thinking about her life before the quake. **But at SBH, she was not alone.** Mamille and dozens of other patients injured in the disaster recovered together. **They empowered one another**, and relied on each other's strength to keep forging ahead towards a new life.

On the 10th anniversary of the earthquake, Mamille shared her story with the whole community of Fond des Blancs.

**“If I hadn't found the Spinal Cord Injury program, I wouldn't be here today,”** she said.

“My doctors here really encouraged me. The program taught me how to work, to garden, to make things. It's thanks to St. Boniface that I am here today.

**I have been in a wheelchair for 10 years, and I am happy.”**





## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Conor Shapiro**  
President & CEO

Dear Friends,

**Men anpil chay pa lou—many hands make light the load.** I am reminded of this Haitian proverb today as I write this letter to all of you. You'll notice that much of this newsletter is devoted to reflecting on the progress that we have made as a hospital, and as a community since the earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010.

Over the last decade, your support has turned our primary care clinic into the largest health care provider in southern Haiti, and the economic engine of the Fond des Blancs region. Each month, **we deliver nearly 500 babies**; scrub in for **over 300 surgeries**; and **vaccinate thousands of children** against life-threatening illnesses. Our staff provides care day and night because they believe **we all have the right to be healthy**.

In partnership with you, **we continue to move forward at an astounding pace**. We are implementing new projects in collaboration with some of Boston's most prestigious teaching hospitals. We are initiating quality improvement protocols that allow us to further increase neonatal and maternal survival rates. We are training young Haitian doctors to practice high quality medicine in the face of tremendous challenges. And we are honing our disaster preparedness and supply chain operations to ensure that **the hospital will be up and running, no matter what**.

We still have much work to do and the scope of that work can feel infinite. But continuing it is our only option. There are so many excuses for why we shouldn't invest in Haiti. But we don't accept any of them and we know you don't either. **We are tremendously grateful for your partnership and your help in lightening the load.**

Kenbe fem,

Conor Shapiro  
President & CEO  
Health Equity International

## BUILDING A BETTER HOSPITAL

# 10 YEARS LATER: A Decade of Growth

The unwavering dedication of our staff, partners, and supporters transformed a small rural clinic into a world-class hospital

# THEN



**40,000+**  
patient visits  
per year



**60**  
beds

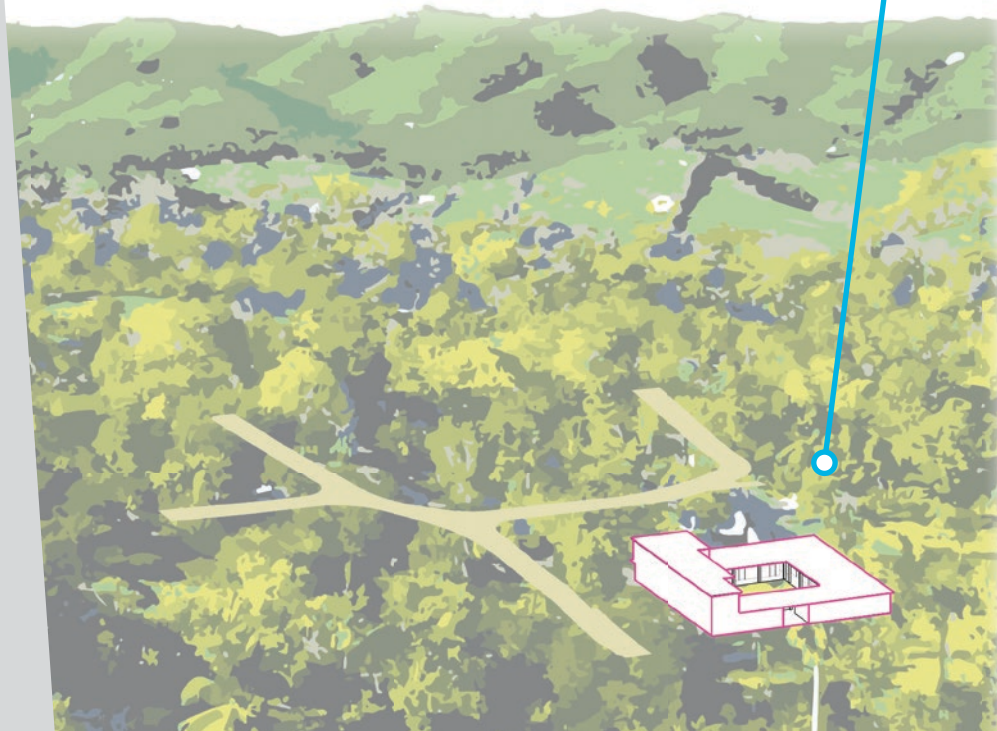


**ONE**

small building to provide  
basic primary care



**600**  
births per year



Learn more about the impact of your support and make a gift today!



# NOW



**130,000+**  
patient visits per year



**500+**  
staff



**184**  
beds



**4,500+**  
births per year



**75,000+ square foot campus**  
with dozens of services, including:

- 1 Main hospital (patient registration, outpatient clinic, pharmacy, dental clinic, waiting room)
- 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 13 Staff residences



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## STAFF PROFILE



### Dr. Catherine Scipion

General Physician,  
Internal Medicine,  
St. Boniface Hospital

In 2019, Dr. Scipion noticed that many of her pregnant patients were giving birth prematurely. “When a baby is born preterm, there are more acute complications,” she explains. “Many can’t survive.” Dr. Scipion began a research project to **better understand the maternal risk factors that lead to premature birth**. With this information, our staff can better identify women who are most at risk and provide them with more targeted prenatal care. After studying 1,000 births, Dr. Scipion found that leading risk factors include having too few prenatal visits, and having gestational hypertensive disorders. In April 2020, Dr. Scipion will travel to the US to present her research at the 11th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference. **We’re proud to have her representing our organization at this prestigious conference** and to showcase the ways in which we are helping to decrease neonatal mortality in Haiti.



## SAVE THE DATE!

**October 1, 2020**  
**HEI Annual Gala**

*Honoring Jim Ansara,  
HEI Board Member,  
Executive Director  
& Co-Founder of  
Build Health International*

## Our Mission

Health Equity International 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.

## Stay up-to-date!

### JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE:

- Visit our website for updates and news at [healthequityintl.org](http://healthequityintl.org)
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