

# Global Birthing Home Foundation 2020 Annual Report



## Who We Are

Global Birthing Home Foundation (GBHF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit which funds and provides operational oversight for Maison de Naissance (MN), a midwifery-based maternal and infant health center in rural Torbeck, Haiti.

We empower women to receive the care they need by removing cost, access, and social barriers:

- Our fees are on a sliding scale starting at zero. No one is ever refused for inability to pay.
- We are located in the heart of a rural region with little to no access to other professional health care services, and we provide emergency transportation as needed, and mobile clinics to villages beyond our immediate zone of service.
- Our facility is designed to resemble a home, not an institution, which might inspire fear. Our midwifery-based model of care is based on the treatment of patients as family, and everyone is welcomed with dignity and respect.

OUR MISSION—“To significantly reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in rural Haitian communities”

OUR VISION—“Every mother and every baby, no matter what country they call home, has access to high quality and culturally relevant healthcare—the foundation of healthy, empowered communities”



## **From the Executive Director's Desk**

### A year we never could have foreseen

2020 is often referred to as a year we all want to forget. It seemed the whole world was ready to move on when 2021 arrived, and 2020 would be relegated to the history books, never to be mentioned again. However, it was also a year of great struggle, achievement, and hope.

Throughout the previous year, many small NGO clinics in the region around Maison de Naissance closed under the pressure of political unrest, which brought commerce in Haiti to a halt for extended periods and caused severe inflation. This situation was only compounded with the advent of COVID-19 in Haiti.

Our staff in the US and Haiti rose to the challenge to adapt to and combat the pandemic, supported by our loyal and generous donors. While many of the small NGOs which had endured the trials of 2019 faltered and failed in 2020, Maison de Naissance remained strong and even thrived. The 100% Haitian staff at MN never missed a beat, even when the single day record of over 500 patients was set early in the pandemic.

This, then, is our legacy and our future, as we pursue our mission with renewed vigor and hope in 2021.

Sincerely,

Jim Grant, Executive Director  
Global Birthing Home Foundation  
Sponsor of Maison de Naissance

## Thank You for Another Year of Milestones!



In 2020, we provided:

• Prenatal Consultations	6,175
• Deliveries	583
• Postpartum Consultations (in clinic)	659
• Postpartum Consultations (in home)	191 (following home deliveries)
• HIV Tests	2,458
• Well Baby Consultations	2,145
• Reproductive Health Consultations	120
• Family Planning Consultations	11,246
• Community Health Patients (in home)	17,058
• <u>Total 2020 Patient Volume</u>	<u>40,635</u>

Total safe deliveries since inception: **over 7,200**





## **Clinical Program Developments, 2021 and Beyond**

### Matwon (Traditional Birth Attendant) Training

Matwons (Traditional Birth Attendants) follow generations-old ritual practices in order to care for pregnant women and to deliver their babies. Generally, matwons do not have any professional training, and thus are ill-prepared to safely deal with pregnancy or birth complications. Matwon training typically begins with hygiene and sanitation, covers the best practices for monitoring pregnancies and delivering babies, and culminates with hands-on practice under the eyes of a professional midwife. The standards for this training are published by the Haitian Ministry of Health.

The training conducted at Maison de Naissance follows these standards as a baseline and then builds on them using our midwives' experience and skills. After completing the training course, matwons are given a cell phone, a monthly phone stipend, hygienic delivery kits, and access to an "incoming call only" phone at MN. Currently, 17 matwons are enrolled in our program, with a goal of 25 by the end of 2021.

With their new skills, matwons will be able to recognize pregnancy and delivery complications that require intervention. If additional help is required, they can call MN to consult with a midwife, or request an ambulance to come pick up the mother. Since matwons are close members of the communities in which they work, they can accompany their patients to MN, maintaining a continuity of care and reassurance for the mother.

## Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Testing and Treatment

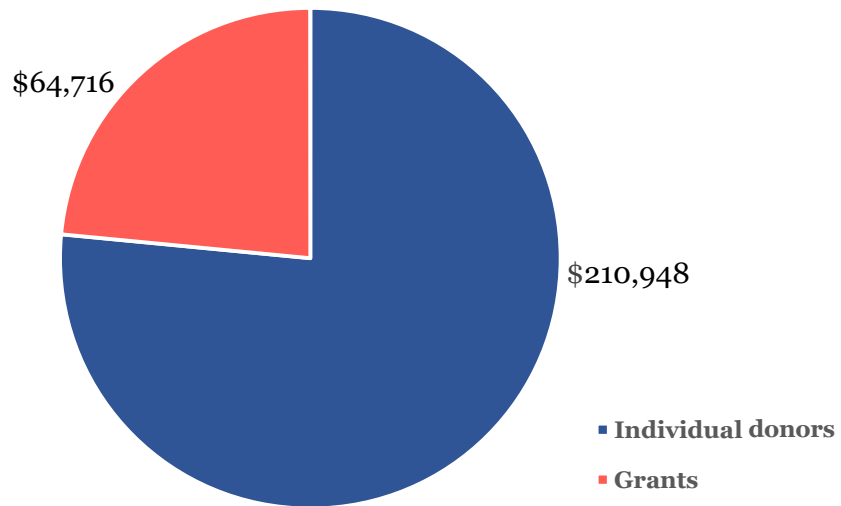
Our second new program tackles the persistent threat of HPV in Haiti. HPV is a precursor to cervical cancer in women worldwide. Due to a lack of education about HPV in Haiti and the absence of facilities equipped to treat it, cervical cancer is the most common and deadliest form of cancer among Haitian women.

In 2021, Maison de Naissance will acquire an HPV testing system, which is used to specifically identify precancerous infections. When a woman tests positive, she can be treated immediately by removing infected tissue before it becomes cancerous through a process called themocogulation. Our ultimate goal is to establish an HPV vaccination program which, over time, will *eliminate* HPV infections and cervical cancer in the MN community.



## 2020 Financial Overview

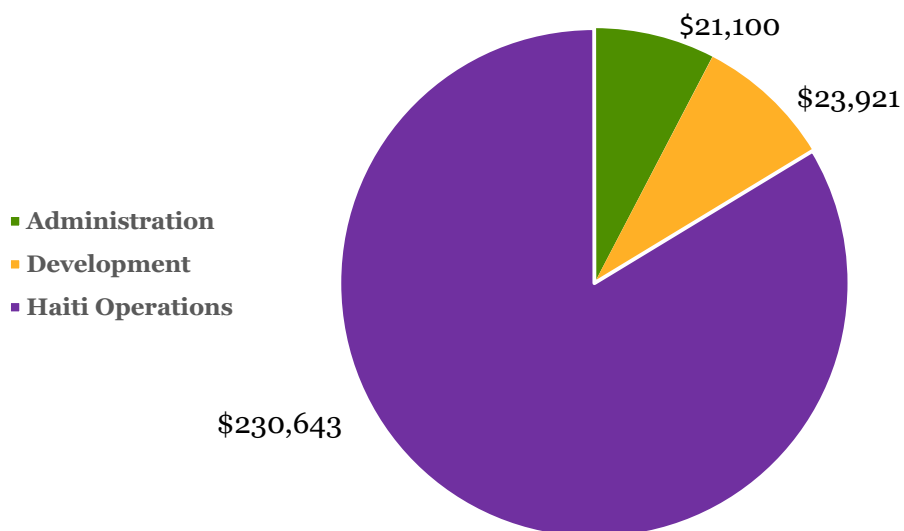
### \*Revenue \$275,664



We offer our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors, without whom none of the work at Maison de Naissance would be possible, and we hope you continue on this journey with us as we strive to do ever more with your support in 2021!

\*In-Kind Donations: \$48,950

### Expenses \$275,664



## Staff Spotlight



This year we are highlighting the amazing work of Mme. Beatrice Lotin, the clinical supervisor and lead midwife of Maison de Naissance.

Mme. Lotin has dedicated ten years of service to Maison de Naissance, and is an integral member of the entire staff. Mme. Lotin says she works at Maison de Naissance because it is her desire, and she believes it is her personal obligation, to help less fortunate women who would otherwise not have access to professional maternal health care. She knows there is a very high mortality rate for mothers and babies when they deliver at home without a skilled birth attendant, and that is why she became a midwife.

As an example of her dedication, she has come in on weekends to thoroughly clean all of the clinical space at the center to ensure it meets her strict personal standards.



## Strengthening Community at Maison de Naissance

Maison de Naissance is not merely an “institution,” but rather an integral part of the community it serves. Our waiting areas are communal spaces that include educational presentations from our staff as well as hosting a local food vendor. It is a place where women visit with friends from neighboring villages, and a place for their children to gather and play.



Our new partnership with Food for the Poor offers food assistance to needy families and will eventually offer new housing for those whose homes were lost or severely damaged by storms or floods, an annual occurrence in the plains of Torbeck.

Maison de Naissance also conducts mobile health clinics for women and children in villages outside of our zone of service, which were deprived of care when local clinics succumbed to civil unrest or COVID-19. Care is also provided to individuals in extreme circumstances, such as daily visits to a stage-four cancer victim who had no access to medical care or emotional support.



## Board and Staff Lists

### Foundation Staff

- Jim Grant, Executive Director
- Heather Jackson, Office Assistant
- Rabab Al-Araji, Contractor
- Kolette Bury, Social Media Reporter  
(On site at Maison de Naissance)

### Board of Directors

- Elizabeth Wickstrom, MD, FACOG,  
*President*
- Abbey Masonbrink, MD, MPH, *Co-Vice President*
- Guy Montes, *Co-Vice President*
- Janice Taylor, *Treasurer*
- Margaret McCann, PhD, *Secretary*
- Pere Frantz Casseus, PhD
- Sean Mawhirter
- Jaime Haeuser
- Laurence Coventry
- Benjamin Miller

### Maison de Naissance Staff

- Rosena Baptiste, *Director*
- Christanaelle Lemorin,  
*Accountant/Administrator*
- Pierre Lackson Chery, *Facilities Manager*
- Beatrice Lotin, *Clinical Supervisor/Senior Midwife*
- Marie Michelle Belteus, *Midwife*
- Imene Rigueur, *Midwife*
- Pierre-Line Forges, *Midwife*
- Margarette Medela, *Auxiliary Midwife*
- Rose Guerline Cesar, *Auxiliary*
- Marie Yolaine Cius, *Auxiliary*
- Fanelise Boisrond, *Auxiliary*
- Marie Osseline Gerard, *Auxiliary*
- Gerline Rosier, *Auxiliary*
- Fanelise Boisrond, *Auxiliary*
- Rose Myrlande Lamarre, *Lab Technician/Manager*
- Coeur Marthe Magalc, *Lab Technician*
- Lamarre Louis-Jean, *Mechanic/Driver*
- Pierre Carly Cherestal, *Ambulance Driver*
- Jean Pierraud Vital, *Ambulance Driver*
- Fednor Berlus, *Security Guard*
- Dieudonor Michaud, *Security Guard*
- Lucner Louis, *Security Guard*
- Fednor Berlus, *Security Guard*
- Marie Marilene Guillaume, *Custodian*
- Nicole Joseph, *Custodian*
- Marie Denise Prospere, *Custodian*
- Sylvestre Ketline Salomon, *Pharmacy Clerk*
- Merline Guerrier, *Laundry Attendant*
- Myson Lys, *Purified Water System Operator*
- Perpetue Jean Claude, *Community Health Worker*
- Marie Rosenie Sainte Paul, *Community Health Worker*
- Louna Julien, *Community Health Worker*
- Jean Irel Josil. *Community Health Worker*

## **Affiliations**

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our partners in the USA and Haiti:

- Episcopal Diocese of Haiti:
  - Reverend Dr. Frantz Casseus, Ordinary to the Bishop, South District, Diocesan Liaison and Global Birthing Home Foundation board member
  - Reverend Louis Toussaint Rosanas, Maison de Naissance community priest
- The E. Grey Diamond MD Program in International Medicine of the University of Missouri – Kansas City, School of Medicine
- The Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri
- St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, MO
- Direct Relief International
- Hope for Haiti
- Midwives for Haiti
- Food For The Poor
- Olive Tree Projects Birth Center
- GoodBirth.net (Global Freestanding Birth Center Network)
- Global Force for Healing (Maternal Health Network)
- Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population)
- Kansas University Department of Architecture
- Klinik Fonfred
- Little Footprints, Big Steps
- Medical Benevolence Foundation
- Haiti One
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock nonprofit academic health system
- Feed My Starving Children
- Prospect-Goshen Rotary Club, Louisville, KY
- Riverbend Rotary Club, New Orleans, LA
- Les Cayes Rotary Club, Les Cayes, Haiti

Thank You for Another Year of  
Miracles!



Working to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in impoverished  
Haitian communities.

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