

Notas

AMISTAD INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2024



While Gangs Surround Haiti Adventist Hospital Community, Staff Courageously Continues

Report from Dr. Scott Nelson, Orthopedic Surgeon

At the end of February, I packed my carry-on and headed out on a short trip from Haiti back to the U.S. Several days later, the Haitian airport was commandeered by gangs, and all commercial flights were canceled for three months. Even though it is now possible to fly to Haiti, the situation around the hospital has changed.

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Amistad International

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What is Amistad International?

Amistad, a word meaning friendship in Spanish, is a public nonprofit 501(c) (3) charity which supports humanitarian, self-help, and educational programs for communities seeking to lift themselves from poverty through education and opportunity.

Amistad works in partnership with local community leaders to help women and children develop the skills and knowledge necessary for building healthy economically-sustainable communities.

Some of the projects we support include:

- Kuda Vana Children's Home, Zimbabwe, a home for abused, ill, and abandoned children. <https://kudavana.org>
- Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD) in Kenya: providing agricultural training and marketable job skills including sewing and hairdressing for teen girls, anti-FGM coming-of-age rites for girls, Girls' Leadership Seminars, and Boys' Consciousness-Raising Seminars for protection and empowerment of girls and women. <http://cifordkenya.org>
- Universal Love Alliance in Uganda (ULA): empowering people of marginalized groups: vulnerable women and children, sexual minorities and refugees. Founders Samson Turinawe and Sharon Kukunda teach that "every human being should be respected simply for being who they are as a part of God's creation." <https://www.universallovealliance.org>
- Lambano Sanctuary: homes and hospice for children with life-threatening illnesses, in Johannesburg, South Africa. www.lambano.org.za
- Buddha's Smile School (BSS): a free primary school for 221 children of beggars, garbage collectors, lepers and refugees in Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Founder and director, Rajan Kaur. www.buddhas-smile-school.org
- Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BiACK): teaching sustainable agriculture, sewing, cookery, computer skills, fish culture and native seed saving. www.g-biack.org
- Haiti: Dr. Scott Nelson-founded orthopedic surgical program and dental clinic at Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti, Port au Prince, Haiti.

BSS and Karate Inspire Sashi's Dreams



Sashi, born into the Harijan (Untouchable) caste, first came to Buddha's Smile School (BSS) in 2006 when she was five years old. This year, Sashi graduated from high school. "She had every odd against her success," writes Rajan Kaur, Founder and Director of Buddha's Smile School, "but Sashi overcame those odds."

Sashi's first obstacle was the message from her father that school is not important for girls because they only need to work in the home and be a mother and a wife. Rajan encouraged Sashi's mom to bring Sashi and her sisters to BSS. Still, the patriarchal society meant that she also had to persuade Sashi's father, who is an alcoholic and a cycle rickshaw driver. "Sometimes, I rode in her father's rickshaw for short distances," says Rajan, "trying to convince him that education is crucial for his daughters. He always dismissed me, but I did not give up! Finally, the parents relented, and Sashi became an excellent student."

Rajan Kaur Saini (center), Founder and Director of Buddha's Smile School, with some of her students.

At BSS, Shashi became interested in karate to protect herself in her dangerous neighborhood. She took classes despite beatings from her father, and she and her sisters worked as day laborers during holidays to buy their food and other essential needs.

Recently, Sashi applied to join the police force! Because of her education, karate skills, and perseverance, Sashi feels confident that she has the physical and mental skills to be a policewoman. Shashi is a role model in her community, encouraging other girls to study at BSS.

"Recently, I met her father while riding in his rickshaw," said Rajan with a smile. "He apologized to me and expressed his guilt, now realizing that his daughters were right to insist on going to school."

My Heartfelt Visit to Kuda Vana: Changing Lives Together

In August, I had the extraordinary opportunity to return to my homeland, Zimbabwe, and spend time at Kuda Vana Children's Home. Having not visited for several years, the trip was deeply meaningful on so many levels. Kuda Vana holds a special place in my heart, and arriving there felt like coming home in more ways than one. As I stepped onto the grounds and saw the children playing, laughing, and interacting with one another, I was instantly reminded of the profound impact our work has on their lives. The joy and wonder in their eyes told a story of resilience, love, and hope—an undeniable testament to the power of community.

One of the most touching moments during my stay was sitting down for dinner with the children in one of the homes. Surrounded by laughter and the warmth of shared meals, I was filled with gratitude for the safe, nurturing environment that Kuda Vana provides. Despite the challenges these children have faced, there is an overwhelming sense of joy in their hearts. The sound of their laughter was more than just happiness—it was the sound of healing and a renewed sense of belonging. This is only possible because of the faithful donors who believe in our mission and have continually supported us over the years.

As I spent more time at Kuda Vana, joining in their singing, prayers, and playtime, I couldn't help but feel the deep sense of community that has been created

here. Our dedicated Mamas and staff pour so much love into each child, offering not just care, but a genuine sense of family. This experience once again reinforced how vital it is for us to continue our work—not only caring for these children but also working toward placing them in loving families through adoption and reintegration. This is our goal: ensuring that every child has opportunity to grow up in a family where they are cherished and supported.

Every donation given for our children at Kuda Vana is so much more than a financial gift—it's a lifeline for these children. Whether you've been part of our community for years or just recently joined, you are making an incredible difference. You are not only meeting their immediate needs but also investing in their futures, helping them experience love, joy and the security that comes from belonging to a family.

Vimbo Watson,
Kuda Vana Partnership International
Director of Development

Editor's note: Vimbo Watson joined Kuda Vana's U.S.-based support team in 2023. She lives near Washington, DC.

Most of the KVCH children come from traumatic backgrounds. The well-trained KVCH teachers work lovingly one-on-one with each child, helping each to do their best.



“And Now I Will Be Able to Care for My Child”

At the CIFORD Vocational School, young mothers in central Kenya come to classes daily to learn about hairdressing, makeup, facials, manicures, and tailoring clothing. The fifty students learn from energetic young professionals who wear the latest fashions and hairstyles.

The program supported by Amistad International is one year long. Alongside the vocational training, the economically-vulnerable teen girls receive training about maternal nutrition, breast feeding their babies, and sexual and reproductive health. During the second term, classes take place in the CIFORD

Vocational School classrooms, where students choose between tailoring and beauty coursework. They practice hands-on learning with sewing machines, blow dryers, and hair mannequins.

Mercy Kendi dropped out of school as a freshman when she became pregnant and estranged from her family. After completing CIFORD's Vocational School, she was lucky enough to receive a sewing machine as a gift from CIFORD. “I never dreamed of having my own sewing machine! My life will have a complete transformation, and now I will be able to care for my child,” Mercy says.

Another young mother, Eunice Karambu, said that attending CIFORD's training gave her an entirely new perspective and her first experience with self-confidence.

Frida Kamathi took the beauty coursework at CIFORD's Vocational School. After she graduated, she opened a hair salon in the market area, but she didn't have a dryer, which meant she couldn't do many of the styles her customers wanted. This year, CIFORD was able to gift her a hair dryer. Frida tells us, “I am happy I will get more customers to come to my salon now because I can fashionably style their hair. Thank you! I appreciate your support and I will not let you down.”

At CIFORD Vocation School, young mother students are encouraged to bring their babies to school while they learn hair dressing, sewing, and computer skills.



CIFORD Empowering Girls Through Modern Coming-of-Age Rites

"As young girls, we now know we are tomorrow's leaders. Circumcision is not important to my life; education is." This statement is both a simple and radical one from Fidelis Gatumi, a young teen in Meru District, Kenya, who attended CIFORD Kenya's Girls Anti-FGM Coming-of-Age Five-Day Seminar in August 2024.

For many girls, their reality is seeing their brothers and fathers fed before themselves and their mothers. When there is not enough money for school fees for all the children, girls are often the ones who are forced to stay at home.

But for five days during 2024, 381 girls like Fidelis were encouraged to expand their dreams for what is possible for their lives. Three five-day sessions throughout the year focused on sharing honest information about reproductive health and what happens during female circumcision. The girls learned practices to resist the harmful practice.

"Even if your mother forces you to get circumcised, refuse!" says Brenda Kinya, 8th grade. "It will damage your body. You cannot earn a degree through circumcision. Thank you, CIFORD, for teaching us what we didn't know."

Linet, Medical Assistant Graduate

A highlight of one seminar was graduate Linet Kambanja's testimony of how her life was changed by attending a CIFORD Seminar. Linet and her three siblings were orphaned at an early age and left under the care of their elderly paternal grandmother. The grandmother struggled to feed and care for the three grandchildren. Linet was invited to attend CIFORD's Anti-FGM Alternative Rite of Passage in 2013. She was deeply inspired during our program and decided to stay in school no matter what.



381 young girls graduated this year from CIFORD's anti-FGM Coming of Age Five-Day Seminars focusing on honest information about female health and rights.

After the Alternative Rite of Passage, Linet was accepted at Kanjaru Girls School. Her community organized a fundraiser to pay her school fees because her grandmother was unable to. Linet worked hard and won the right to attend the Kenya Medical Training College, graduating this year with a diploma in Community Health.

"I thank CIFORD so much for allowing me to attend their Alternative Rite of Passage Seminar, which helped me to focus on my future," said Linet. "It also helped me to make the decision not to undergo FGM. During my time, many girls were undergoing FGM. If I had not attended this seminar, I would have undergone FGM, and now I would have been long married with many children. Instead, I am now looking for a job to work to support my grandmother and pay for her medical care."

Linet now intends to support and empower girls as she was supported. Each girl empowered through CIFORD Kenya sees a new future of possibility and then begins to change what is possible for other Kenyan girls.

G-BiACK

Now Recognized as a Renowned Training Center Across Africa

In September, Amistad Founder Karen Kotoske had the privilege of a visit with Grow Bio-Intensive agriculture Centre/Kenya founder Samuel Nderitu in Davis, California. Amistad International donors have been significant supporters in helping G-BiACK build its campus and teaching programs. Samuel was in California to participate in the

HEIRLOOM Seed Saving Exposition in Ventura, CA, including presenting on “Reviving the Lost Crops of Africa.”

Karen asked Samuel to tell us about G-BiACK’s stunning progress in reaching farmers across Africa since he and his wife, Peris, founded G-BiACK in 2008. Samuel tells us...



"Since its establishment in 2008, G-BiACK has made a significant impact on sustainable agriculture and community development. Over the years, our center in Thika, Kenya, has reached more than 100,000 Kenyan farmers directly and indirectly, empowering them with the knowledge and skills needed to produce food using nature's own ingredients.

"G-BiACK has become a well-known center for teaching environmentally friendly, low-cost food production techniques that emphasize biodiversity conservation. A crucial part of this program is to save and promote the use of native heirloom seeds rather than genetically engineered (GMO) commercial hybrid seeds.

"To share our approach and improve livelihoods across Kenya and beyond, G-BiACK has contributed to creating nine agricultural satellite centers across Africa, benefiting over 10,000 farmers on the continent.

"One of the key initiatives launched by G-BiACK is the Girls Empowerment Program (GEP), which has provided more than 600 young women with vital skills in agriculture, sewing and computer skills. (Amistad has supported this program since its initiation.) These young women have graduated from the 18-month program, with the majority either securing employment in various organizations or starting their own micro-businesses. This program not only enhances the employability and independence of women but also contributes to the broader mission of promoting sustainable agricultural practices, which are essential for the future of food security in Africa."

When Amistad board member Tanya Cothran visited Kenya in April, she met Beatrice Wangui at G-BiACK, one of the 600 girl graduates, who is now employed as a Community Program Officer at the Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP). Beatrice showed Tanya the RIDEP's heirloom seed bank and their Grow Biointensive model farm.

When Amistad board member Tanya Cothran (right) visited Kenya in April, she met Beatrice Wangui (left) one of the 600 graduates of G-BiACK's Girls Empowerment Program. Beatrice showed Tanya the Rural Initiatives Development Program's heirloom seed bank where she had been hired to be a program officer.



In May, Amistad Founder and Executive Director Karen Kotoske met with G-BiACK founder, Samuel Nderitu in Davis, California. Samuel was invited to the US to make presentations on reviving the lost crops of Africa, a strong focus of G-BiACK's work.

In addition to its educational programs, G-BiACK has developed cutting-edge facilities to support its mission. The center has built hostels that can accommodate up to 33 individuals, training halls for workshops and seminars, and a fully equipped kitchen and dining hall, all supported by Amistad International. A key feature of the center is its demonstration farm, which includes over 200 double-dug growing beds, offering practical training opportunities for visitors. The center also houses a tree nursery, where fruit trees are cultivated for donation, contributing to reforestation efforts and community resilience.

Throughout the year, G-BiACK welcomes visiting international specialists from organizations such as the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and African Biodiversity Network (ABN), who come to learn how G-BiACK operates and how it teaches agroecological farming principles and methods. Their recognition of G-BiACK's efficacy is raising its influence to a whole new level.

We want to thank Amistad donors for supporting our pioneering efforts to teach small-parcel farmers how to grow food sustainably with low water use and using indigenous African seeds.

*Samuel Nderitu
Founder/CEO
G-BiACK.*

Despite Dangers New Dental Clinic is Best in Region

Report from Dr Scott Nelson, Orthopedic Surgeon

For a long time, my father, Dr. Peter Nelson, DDS, dreamed of opening a dental clinic at Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH). He made many volunteer working trips to the hospital but each time he was relegated to helping with other projects that took priority. With enormous motivation to make his dream a reality, my father raised over \$75,000 to construct and furnish the dental clinic. Three Haitian dentists now work in four operatory clinics with several assistants. A new digital X-ray system is in place, and a full range of services is available.

To build the dental clinic, we started renovations on an under-utilized area of the second floor of our outpatient clinic. We reinforced the building, moved walls, added additional space, and redid much of the plumbing and electrical. Extra effort was made to have planters, natural light, and fresh air to liven the environment. In the meantime, good quality dental chairs and equipment were acquired and sent to Haiti on an ocean container ship.

Our dentists are thrilled to have such a wonderful space for their work! We launched the clinic by offering complimentary services to our employees, who were very excited about this opportunity. Soon after, the clinic was fully opened, and people started coming from near and far. Our outreach programs through local churches have been popular, and we proudly provide low-cost services to people in our community. The clinic is developing a reputation as the best in the region. More importantly, it is the only place in our local community for people with little money to come for treatment.



Dr. Sylvain repairing the teeth of a young Haitian patient at the new HAH dental clinic.

*Dr. Janvier Yonel, director
of HAH dental clinic.*



Life-giving Waters for The Visionary Women's Centre Farm

In Kenya, Visionary Women's Centre made great strides this year toward creating a viable, small-plot sustainable model farm that can be a long-term source of income for the center.

Water is an essential need on any farm. Erratic weather patterns from climate change make a reliable water source even more necessary. The Visionary Women's Centre community began by digging a surface well. They dug down 60 feet until it became dangerous to dig any deeper. Despite their best intentions, when the dry season came, the women faced the sad fact that their well would not sustain their irrigation needs.

After the disappointment, the women regrouped to drill a deep, artesian well. This is a very costly endeavor in Kenya, and there is no guarantee that the water will be drinkable and usable for crops. First, they hired a technician to assess potential water resources deep in the earth. Then, impressive drilling equipment arrived, complete with a huge generator, and the drilling began. It went on for two days, nonstop. Ultimately, they drilled 325 feet to find a source of good, clear water.

A productive, deep well is a game-changer. It allows for nonstop crop production, even during the dry season, when there's a higher demand for produce. It also ensures the survival of their high-earning apple trees. VWC is deeply grateful for Amistad's support in realizing this precious resource!



In front of the well-drilling equipment are Lizette Gilday (right), Canadian Founder of Kenya's Visionary Women's Centre (VWC), Benter Obonyo (center), Director and Social Worker for VWC and Mary (left), a volunteer at the VWC Mother's Support Programme.



Refugees Growing Their Food at Rebuilder's Farm

This year, Amistad helped Rebuilders Foundation (Les Rebatisseurs) purchase a beautiful new red tractor for its farming program for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Bunia. As of March 2024, over 7.2 million people have been displaced because of fighting in DRC.

The Rebuilders Farm now produces a wide variety of vegetables for the IDP camps, including corn, squash, tomatoes, greens, pineapples, bananas, sweet potatoes, and green and yellow peppers. The program also trains young farmers to grow food so that they can establish their own farms.

One of the refugees, Madame Mave, shares her story: "I survived the militia attack which killed my husband and two of my children. Today, with my four remaining children, we are in the Bembey IDP Camp in Bunia. We have been looking for a place to do some farming but could not get it because we did not have any money to rent farmland. Rebuilders gave us a place to plant vegetables under their banana crops. Today, we have a very big space to plant, and we have food from our crops and Rebuilders Farm. We cannot imagine life without this farm."

Congolese refugee children are learning to grow food for their families.





Top: Congolese women refugees live in grief for the loss of their once-peaceful lives savagely stolen from them by armed rebels who burned their farms and used rape as a weapon of war.

Bottom: Rebuilders Farm is producing a large variety of food for internally-displaced refugees living in Bunia, DRC, refugee camps.

Here's What You've Done

KENYA: Grow Biointensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya (G-BiACK) has now graduated more than 600 young women in their Girls Empowerment Program since Amistad our support began in 2016. The young women learn farming, computer skills, nutrition, small business entrepreneurship, and sewing/tailoring so they can become economically self-reliant.

UGANDA: Amistad provided a grant to Universal Love Alliance/Uganda (ULA) to support their overhead. ULA provides life-saving support for battered women, people with HIV+ status, and LGBTIQ persons who are victims of the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality bill.

HERE ARE TWO OF THE PROGRAMS WE PROMOTED:

- Income generation for HIV+ women which includes agriculture and breeding of piglets. With their income, the women are able to provide school fees for their children, some

have built small homes, and others have put solar panels on their existing homes. Some of the groups have created group savings accounts which provide small loans to the members. A small clinic for HIV/AIDS counseling, confidential testing, and treatment; STI's counseling, testing, and treatment; provision of nutritious food to poor and hungry HIV-positive patients; and other health-related services.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:

- Rebuilders Non-Profit Foundation in the DRC was able to purchase a new tractor for their farming program for the Internally-Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Bunia. Thank you, Lindsay Aranoff, for sponsoring the tractor purchase. The Rebuilders farm is now producing a wide variety of vegetables for the IDP camps and for sale to the community. Corn, squash, tomatoes, greens, pineapple, bananas, sweet potatoes, green and yellow peppers are among the crops. The program is also training young farmers.

KENYA:

- During the month of August 523 girls and boys graduated during August from CIFORD seminars for youth which included Girls Leadership, Anti-FGM for girls, and Boys for Change (167 boys attended the program to deter male violence against women and to encourage the boys to stay in school).

AROUND THE WORLD:

- Amistad donors granted \$20,000 to Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM) for religious studies scholarships for young women from several countries.

167 boys attended CIFORD's Boys for Change seminars newly-created to teach young men about the urgent issue of male violence against women and the importance of the boys staying in school. Thank you, Ann Down, for making these seminars possible.



We Say Gracias

Dear Amistad,

The Universal Love Alliance/Uganda team thanks Amistad International for your support of Universal Love Alliance day-to-day operations which enables the many programs we carry out. We hope for your continued support in the future.

— Samson Turinawe, Founder

Dear Amistad,

Best wishes for your team. You are such a force for GOOD.

— Bill and Darleen Hemmerlin

Dear Amistad,

Your Notas newsletter is truly amazing. You are providing help, hope and comfort to thousands of needy persons around the globe. You are my hero!!

— Audrey Shaffer

- Thank you Kee Flynn, Jeanne Liston, Lois Blackwelder, Margo Kennedy, Soroptimist International of Glendale, California, Cheryl and Tom Abel, Soroptimist International of Manhattan Beach, CA, Debbie Cutler, Jane Karageorge, for sponsoring the 2024 Girls' Leadership Training Program at Community Initiatives for Rural Development/ Kenya (CIFORD).
- Thank you, Ann Down, for providing crucial support for the 2024 anti-FGM seminars at Community Initiatives for Rural Development/Kenya. Thank you for also sponsoring consciousness-raising seminars for young men at CIFORD and for also for your tremendous support of Buddha's Smile School, Varanasi, India.



In the DRC, a new tractor is helping the internally-displaced persons (IDP) camps grow food for refugee families.

- Thank you, Lindsay Aranoff, for providing the funds for purchase of a new tractor for the Rebuilders Farm (Les Rebatisseurs) program for internally-displaced persons camps in Democratic Republic of the Congo. With the crucial help of the tractor, the camps are producing a large quantity of fresh produce for refugees living in camps as well as training future farmers.
- We thank Don and Wanda Krein for their deeply generous support of Kuda Vana Children's Home/Zimbabwe and support for the sewing school at Grow-Biointensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya.
- Thank you Kee Flynn for purchasing sewing machines and hair dryers for CIFORD's job skill program for teenagers who are graduating in December '24. We wish these young women success as they become young entrepreneurs.
- Thank you, Chris and Bill McClure, for your crucial support of several programs including Girls' Leadership at CIFORD and Kuda Vana Children's Home/Zimbabwe. We thank you for your support of the children's Santa party each year at Buddha's Smile School, Varanasi, India.
- Thank you, Kathy Hayes Arct, for your gift which provided crucial funds for the water well for gardens at Visionary Women's Centre, Kenya.
- Thank you Editha Fuentes, Jane Karageorge and Carol Ann Burton for supporting a young woman's high school scholarship this year through CIFORD.

We Remember

- Paula Leen, humanitarian and founder of Murwira Children's Home (now Kuda Vana Children's Home), is honored by Gay and Duane Wilson, Tami and Darrell Erwin, Karen Kotoske, Mary Carlin, Carol and Russ Johnson, Joyce Runge, Bruce Sacco and Dolores Kuhlman.
- Bruce Sacco honors the life of Jim Beal, his friend at Sacramento Central SDA. Bruce remembers Jim as a kind and friendly gentleman.
- Kathryn Hayes and Michael Arct honor the lives of Robert and Sherry Hayes.
- Bruce Sacco honors the life of his dear friends Oliver "Ollie" Kolkman and his beloved wife Arlene Kolkman, who passed away four months after her husband. Ollie had an astounding ability to identify birds and was known as the "Birdman of Mendocino County", having written the book, "The Birds of Mendocino County". He also was faithful about picking up litter along roadways.
- Audrey Shaffer honors the memory of 'our dear friend' mission pilot, Conroy Donesky.
- Debbie Mayo Seguin remembers the life of her lifelong family friend Maurice (Mory) Hokama, a talented artist, sportsman and humanitarian.

We Honor

- The Randall Iverson Paul Family honors Elora and Thomas Livingston with a gift for the Haiti Orthopedic Surgery Program.
- Joyce Runge celebrated her 90th birthday with a gift for the children of Kuda Vana Children's Home.
- Karen Kotoske celebrates the 80th birthday of Bill Smith. Bill was the first person to bring volunteer youth groups to Amistad's outreach in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico in the 1980's. Bill and his wife Sue and their children Holly, Kari and Cody were a beloved and important part of Amistad's early work in Mexico.



We remember Paula Leen who dedicated her life to the orphans and needy children of Zimbabwe.

The hospital chauffeur and others tell us we still need to wait to return. Most of the lawlessness you hear about on the news was previously a few miles away, but now gangs have taken over the community immediately surrounding the hospital and Adventist University. They chased the police away, and immediately outside our gates, heavily armed individuals freely roam the streets.

Some lab reagents I was planning to take back to Haiti with me in March were recently nearing expiration in a refrigerator in Loma Linda. We called Ben Siapco, who is a roving lab technician for Adventist Health International, to see if he could use these supplies at a different facility. He suggested that he make a trip to Haiti and deliver them. Staff at HAH said that the gangs had planned a cease fire for seven days to allow the children in school to get through their final exams, and if Ben could travel before the gangs let loose again, things might be safe for Ben. Ben is 83 and wiser and bolder than any of us. Two days later, he took a red-eye flight, delivered the supplies, fixed some lab equipment, and returned to Loma Linda before the deadline. Even for Ben, the journey from the airport to the hospital was unsettling; their car was stopped several times by heavily armed individuals.

Our staff are putting forth a tremendous effort to keep the hospital fully functional and care for the many patients who continue to come. Mackenson, the Chief Operating Officer, is doing a phenomenal job leading the team. Jere Chrispens, our CEO, is in constant communication with him, and our administrative team meets regularly through video conferences. In the meantime, I am preparing a shipping container of equipment and supplies for the hospital, working part-time at Loma Linda University, and, in the meantime, have made several trips to Africa to teach limb reconstruction and pediatric spine surgery.

The HAH dental clinic that opened last year is operating at full capacity. Many physicians, nurses, and dentists are unfortunately leaving the country. However, those still in Haiti are eager to work at our hospital because it is one of the area's few functioning health care facilities. Dr. Jacky Jean, my orthopedic colleague, recently departed for Canada after facing threats from gangsters and pressure from his family. He is an excellent surgeon, and this was a big loss for HAH. Fortunately, two recent graduates from the state hospital orthopedic residency program are excited to join our team. They did several rotations at our hospital during their training, and they were two of the best residents in the program.

Maintaining a stable power supply is one of our biggest challenges at the hospital. We only have city power about 30% of the time, and even with our solar panels, functioning generators are still required. Currently, a battery backup system allows our operating room, lab, and business office to function without disruption, even when other sources of electricity are not functioning.

In past years, most of our donor funding has been used to build infrastructure. This includes the solar power system, renovations, oxygen generation, and other projects. These have greatly increased our capacity and decreased our operating expenses. Given the economic challenges of Haiti and the many patients who need our services, we are now judiciously subsidizing operating expenses to make sure that our employees are paid in a timely fashion, supplies are kept in stock, and patients without resources receive the treatment they need. We remain committed to the success of HAH and to helping those in need. Your support in the past, present, and future is greatly appreciated and making a huge difference in the lives of many.



The dedicated nursing staff at Haiti Adventist Hospital travel to work under great risk. Their own living conditions are harsh and some of them have even been displaced from their homes, but they do whatever it takes come to work and to give their very best to the patients.

How Can I Help Keep This Vital Outreach Going in 2025?

Funds are urgently needed for the following 2025 programs. Please mark "Wherever my help is most needed." However, if you prefer, you can support a specific program. We will do our best to direct your gift to that program.

Wherever my help is most needed

- India: Buddha's Smile School (BSS) In Varanasi, India, an elementary school for children of beggars, lepers and refuse collectors. \$ _____
- Zimbabwe, Africa: Kuda Vana Children's Home. Funds needed for day-to-day operations. \$ _____
- Kenya: Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD): Job skills training for at-risk teen girls, water tanks for women farmers, girls' health and leadership training, anti-FGM coming-of-age rites for girls. \$ _____
- Kenya: Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BiACK) teaching sustainable farming, job skills for at-risk young women. We support the salary of tailoring teacher, Moses Mgubua, \$3,600 per year. \$ _____
- Haiti: Dr. Scott Nelson Orthopedic Surgery Program at Adventist Hospital, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. \$ _____
- South Africa: Lambano Sanctuary and Hospice for gravely-ill children. \$ _____

Your gift is deeply appreciated. Amistad International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public foundation incorporated in 1980. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law and may be sent to: Amistad International, 2205 Shirland Tract Road, Auburn, CA 95603. You may request Amistad's EIN number.

Here is my contribution of \$ _____ Please use it for _____

If you would like to honor someone's birthday, life, anniversary, birth, or retirement, we will send an acknowledgment letter to the family or individual whom you designate. Please provide the following information.

Honoree or memorial name _____

Address _____

My name _____

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