



# The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti

www.CMMH.org

August 2016

## Who We Are

The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to providing support for the delivery of medical and educational services to the people of Haiti through St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children, Port-au-Prince.

It also serves as an umbrella organization for related missions in Haiti and facilitates and organizes biennial Haiti Connection Conferences.

## CMMH Board

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## Haiti Connection 2016 Conference Focuses on Sustainability

The 2016 Haiti Connection Conference took place April 6-8, 2016 at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince. There were more than 178 people in attendance, representing 23 states in the U.S., the Dominican Republic, Canada and Haiti. Conferences have been held roughly every two years since 1992. During the event, participants had the opportunity to share information, learn from one another, and become inspired about mission in Haiti. The theme of the conference was "Sustainability in Mission."



*The Rev. Canon Bill Squire and Dieumene Cloristin (Saint Vincent Centre for Handicapped Children) enjoy the opening reception of the Haiti Connection Conference*

The main event opened with a banquet on Wednesday evening, featuring music from the Holy Trinity Cathedral orchestra and the bell choir from Saint Vincent Centre for Handicapped Children. Thursday began with an address from the Rt. Rev. Jean-Zaché Duracin (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti), followed by Snapshot Sessions from over 20 programs working in the areas of health care, education, and community development. Afternoon sessions included a presentation entitled "Successful Partnerships/Moving toward Sustainability," and focus groups addressing health care, teacher training, construction and community development. Friday morning focused on the practical matters of doing mission in Haiti and included a panel discussion and Q & A session. The conference concluded with a community Eucharist featuring spectacular music by the choir of Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Pre-conference trips traveled to Cap Haïtien and the North, the Central Plateau, and Les Cayes and the South. A downtown tour was also offered so participants could visit Holy Trinity Cathedral, Haiti Episcopal University, the diocesan seminary, Saint Vincent's, and the National Museum of Haiti.

A special moment during the conference came when Bishop Duracin recognized he Rev. Canon Bill Squire and his wife Margaret for their long and deep commitment to Haiti. Following his retirement as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of East Tennessee, Bill became a missionary to Haiti for three years, helping to develop the Partnership Program and traveling throughout the country in support of its many missions. He was later named interim director of Saint Vincent Centre for Handicapped Children, and also served as president of the Children's Medical Mission of Haiti for several years. During their time in Haiti, Margaret taught art at St. Vincent's and worked on various projects throughout the diocese.

Thanks to everyone who made this conference such a huge success!

## New Saint Vincent Governing Board Partners with CMMH

In the fall of 2015, The Rt. Rev. Jean-Zaché Duracin called for the formation of a new governing board to support the work of Saint Vincent Centre. Made up of members from both Haiti and the United States, the board is responsible for creating a strategic plan, setting policies, and providing oversight of all daily and long-term activities of SVC.

CMMH is represented on the SVC board by Ken Quigley, CMMH's secretary/treasurer. CMMH is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in the United States, and has been supporting the work of SVC since its incorporation in 1993. In support of the new board, CMMH will continue to be the primary source of funds for the Centre's operations, but it has

also agreed to function as the fiscal agent for the Centre. All funds sent to Saint Vincent Centre by CMMH go directly to the Centre's bank account in Port-au-Prince. Funds are used to pay salaries, buy food, electricity, and cover other operating expenses. CMMH receives regular financial reports from Saint Vincent's detailing funds received and payments made.

"The new board will make a major and necessary difference in the coordination of support, long-term direction, and growth of the Centre," Quigley says. "We are pleased to have been part of its formation and are delighted to continue as one of its key supporting organizations."

### DID YOU KNOW?

At the end of 2015, Saint Vincent Centre had an enrollment of 363 students. Over 100 individuals serve as teachers, administrators, physicians, physical therapists, nurses, technicians, cooks, caretakers, and maintenance staff. It currently has an annual operating budget approaching \$400,000.



*The Governing Board of Saint Vincent Centre for Handicapped Children (l-r): Ken Quigley, Robert Radtke (ex-officio), Sr. Kethia Jean-Simon, William Craddock, Dr. Stan Shaffer, Dr. Dianne Jean-François, Cynthia Jaar Handal, Régine Désulmé Polynice, Ary Theodore (not pictured: Dr. Susan Nelson)*

## SVC Welcomes Two New Staff Members—And a Website!

With financial support provided by CMMH, two new staff members have been hired to support SVC and the work of the SVC Governing Board. Aurélie Fièvre (Administrative Manager) lives in Port-au-Prince and will work with Fr. Frantz "Fanfan" Cole to manage the many operational and business details of SVC. She has a bachelor's degree in law (University of Montreal), and a master's degree in public administration (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City).

Jennifer S.T. Wickham (Development Coordinator) lives in Texas. Along with the Board of Directors, she is responsible for operational and capital fundraising, donor relations, communication, and coordinating partner relationships. She has over 25 years' experience in program development, education, fundraising, and social outreach in both the U.S. and in Haiti. She holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies (University of Tulsa) and a master's degree in sociology (University of Texas at San Antonio).

In addition, a new website will be launched on August 15th to help spread the word about SVC. Please visit <http://stvincentshaiti.org> for additional background, photos and information about Saint Vincent Centre.

## SVC Board Approves Plans for Relocation

The powerful earthquake of January 12, 2010 took the lives of ten members of the community and destroyed most of the SVC complex. In the aftermath, the academic, administrative and residential facilities were relocated, and temporary structures were built to provide additional space. The medical clinic and brace shop remained in the original location. For several years, these two sites have been the home of Saint Vincent Centre.



*Front entrance of the facility at Santo 17*

In the fall of 2015, generous gifts from Dr. Mary White, Episcopal Relief and Development, and the Episcopal Church were used to purchase property for future development. Referred to as “Santo 17”, the seven-acre site is located in a suburb northeast of Port-au-Prince. Surrounded by a security wall, the new property includes a large house which can be converted into a residence hall, fruit trees, and farmable land. It also includes a swimming pool which can be adapted for physical therapy.

In June 2016, the SVC board of directors voted to proceed with renovations to the Santo 17 site. Construction plans include housing for residential students, kitchen facilities, classrooms, and administrative offices. Andy Ripp from MSAADA Architects estimates that students will be able to relocate within the next several months. The brace shop and clinic will continue in their current location downtown. A fundraising goal of \$400,000 has been set to cover the cost of renovation, construction, equipment and furnishings at the new facility.

We are pleased to announce that CMMH has made a pledge of \$100,000 to help SVC meet its fundraising goal. The hope is that our gift will kick-start the fundraising campaign and encourage others to support the future mission and ministry of Saint Vincent Centre. Your help is also needed to make this dream a reality, so we ask you to join us! All gifts are fully tax-deductible and will be managed by CMMH and the SVC Board of Directors.

## A Message from the Director of SVC



I am grateful for the common vision and love we share for the children of Saint Vincent. First and foremost, we want to see the children move to a new facility and become comfortable in their new home. They have seen buildings

destroyed around their old school as the government rebuilds downtown, so we need to remember that stability and security are primary concerns when the time arrives to move.

It is also vital for our children to be able to integrate within society. At SVC we have children who have no disabilities, but the majority of our children have some kind of challenge. By learning side by side, all our students have the opportunity to learn from one

another and integrate easily--regardless of their physical challenges.

We want the children of Saint Vincent to finish their education, become employed and build homes for themselves. Not only will this enhance their lives, it will also create room for new students at Saint Vincent. We want the members of our community to connect with people who will help them become employed and fulfill their dreams.

We desire to work with all of you in providing the best for the children of Saint Vincent. The vision of the church is to work with those who are in need, especially those who have special needs. LET’S DO WHAT GOD CALLS US TO DO. Amen.  
—Père Frantz “Fanfan” Cole

## In Memoriam

All of us at CMMH were saddened to learn of the recent death of Joseph Jean Paul, also known as “Jojo.” He died on May 14, 2016 after a sudden illness. A resident of SVC for more than 50 years, Jojo was a pillar of the community. An extremely talented artist and outgoing presence on campus, Jojo exemplified the ministry and vision of Saint Vincent’s.

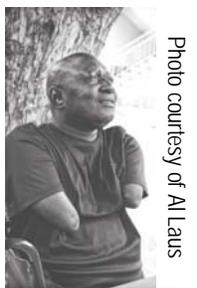


Photo courtesy of Allaus

A celebration of life took place in Port-au-Prince on May 28. Dr. Susan Nelson attended the service and writes, “It was a privilege to be part of the mourning time with St Vincent’s children and staff. Many of the older staff have known Jojo for 30-40 years, and the children have known him all their lives...Please pray for the community at the school; they have lost their strongest advocate and their guardian. Jojo watched everyone who came into the school and knew who was supposed to be there and who wasn’t. Who will do this job now?” He will be missed by many.

## Meet Jonas!

Jonas Nazaire came to SVC in second grade and was introduced to a sponsor from the United States. (The sponsor has asked that her name be withheld.) Weekly conversations with his American friend are sacred moments which provide him with tremendous emotional and psychological support.

Jonas states that her support is especially meaningful because he doesn’t live with his biological mother. His mother lives in one of the poorest areas of Port-au-Prince, and struggles with diabetes and unemployment. Père Fanfan met with her not too long ago and she thanked God for everyone at the Centre who has given her son another chance at life. Jonas is learning to be a computer technician, despite his motor impairment, and enjoys helping Père Fanfan with his computer work.

## Students Enjoy Camp Jacob

Every year the children are given the opportunity to participate in a summer program called “Camp Jacob,” hosted by Jacob’s Color Link Initiative. During camp, the children are given the opportunity to experience life outside the Centre. For seven days they are able to relax, enjoy nature, and have fun. Whether it’s in the suburbs or at the beach, the change of scenery is good. The exotic life they experience through TV, radio or books finally becomes theirs for a little while.

This year, the children spent an unforgettable week at Royal Decameron beach resort. On the way there they sang, laughed, clapped and shared stories. They all made plans and promised to take pictures by the pool and play games. Some were sad that cell phone use was prohibited, but that was the only complaint. Even those who can’t talk expressed their joy with their smiles and gestures.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Many students and clinic patients are unable to pay for the services they receive at Saint Vincent Centre, so we depend heavily on the generosity of others to help us fulfill our mission. Visionary donors are needed to invest in the Centre’s future development, and on-going financial support is needed to help the Centre provide food, water, classroom supplies, transportation, salaries, utilities, medicines and other items.

Please consider making a one-time or regular gift on behalf of your household, business or organization. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jennifer Wickham, the Development Coordinator for Saint Vincent Centre. You may reach her at [stvincentshaiti@gmail.com](mailto:stvincentshaiti@gmail.com).

**Please send your tax-deductible donation to:**

**CMMH**

**925 Hertzler Road**

**Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

**You may also make an online donation by visiting [CMMH.org](http://CMMH.org) and clicking on the “Donation” tab. THANK YOU!**