



## Foundation for Advancement of Haitian Midwives, Inc 2022 End-of-Year Funder Update



# ***EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.***



Midwives have been proven to offer the most cost-effective sexual and reproductive health care. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and the State of the World's Midwifery report, two-thirds of all maternal and newborn deaths could be averted with skilled midwifery care. Almost all global maternal deaths could be prevented by ensuring that all women have access to quality, respectful and equitable midwifery care.

Investing in Midwives is an investment in happier and healthier families and communities.

***Midwives = sustainable health care***





# FAHM's SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FAHM's innovative strategies address nine of the seventeen goals. We promote equitable, accessible midwifery care in Haiti.



Evidence demonstrates that in order to improve maternal and neonatal health and to meet the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), midwife-led continuity of care is crucial. Policies that support midwives and allow them to perform their full scope of practice would strengthen primary healthcare systems all over the world and foster happier, healthier families and communities.

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** or **Global Goals** are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more [sustainable](#) future for all".<sup>[1]</sup> The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the [United Nations General Assembly](#) and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a [UN Resolution](#) called the **2030 Agenda** or what is colloquially known as **Agenda 2030**.<sup>[2]</sup>



# FAHM's KEY IMPACT AREAS

PROMOTE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

PROMOTE MIDWIFERY LEADERSHIP

PROMOTE THE PROFESSION OF MIDWIFERY & THE MIDWIFERY MODEL OF CARE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (IN HAITI AND THE DIASPORA):  
sexual & reproductive health, general health education, and gender-based violence

*Kore Saj Fanm Ayisyen pou Ayiti pi djanm*

*Standing with Haitian Midwives for a stronger Haiti*



# MIDWIFERY IN HAITI

## ADVANCES IN THE PROFESSION OF MIDWIFERY IN HAITI

Haiti has an overwhelming need for more professionally educated midwives. Currently, there are less than 400 midwives in Haiti. It is estimated that Haiti would need 2,200 midwives to meet its populations' needs. In 2013, a two-track route to midwifery was created (the direct-entry 4-year track for non-nurses, and a 3-year track for licensed nurses) and supported by the Ministry of Health as a means to educate more midwives. In 2021, Midwifery was officially integrated into the university system. The midwifery school currently has three sites: in the west, the north and the south. The goal is to decrease the maternal-infant mortality rate in Haiti by improving access to skilled, professionally educated midwives.

The Midwifery Association, L'Association des Infirmières Sages-Femmes d'Haiti (AISFH), was founded in 2004. In 2022, their name was officially changed to Association des Sages-Femmes d'Haiti (ASFH) to better reflect their membership and the profession of midwifery. Their mission is to help promote the profession of midwifery in order to decrease Haiti's high maternal and infant mortality.



[Click here](#) to view what one of our longstanding partners from the Haitian Midwifery Association wants to share:

Jeffthanie Mathurin  
Midwife  
Director of Communications  
ASFH





# PARTNERSHIPS

## PARTNERSHIPS MAKE INNOVATIVE CHANGE POSSIBLE.

In 2022, FAHM formed two new and exciting partnerships.

MADRE made it possible for FAHM and our partner, Grace Community Birth Center (GCBC), to become certified Vitamin Angel distributors in the north of Haiti: providing education and distributing prenatal vitamins and vitamin A to pregnant women and young children.

Also, thanks to a generous grant from MADRE, through our membership in the Haitian Women's Collective (HWC) and the in-kind generosity of one of our Impact Partners (monthly donor) @Groundworks.space, the FAHM Team was able to work on organizational capacity building strategies and participate in a workshop on values at our annual retreat.



Another meaningful partnership was formed with New York University's first ever Global Doctoral of Nursing Practice studying Positive Youth Development: "*Enhancing an Existing Education Program for Haitian Adolescents with the Use of Infographics.*" This project provides sexual and reproductive health education and community/relationship building skills..





# FUNDING & PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS



Murphy Burkhardt  
Family Foundation

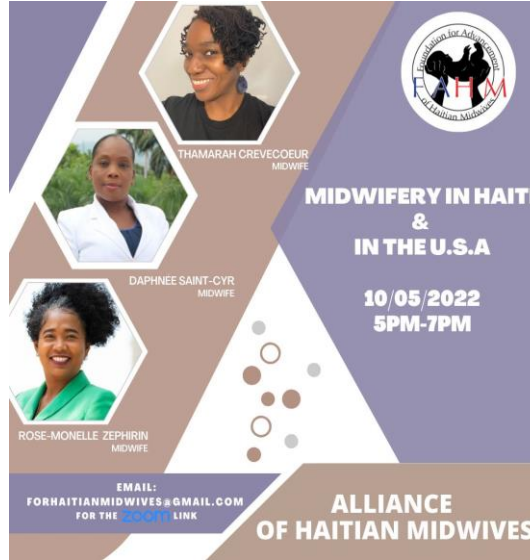


# ***2022 HIGHLIGHTS: FAHM & PARTNERS PROMOTING MIDWIFERY IN HAITI AND IN THE DIASPORA***

- Continue to work on the Midwifery Bridge Program (Bachelor Degree) for those who graduated prior to the bachelor level program currently in use as well as the development & implementation of a Masters Degree (research and education)
- Promoting midwifery in educational institutions
  - Promoted the profession of midwifery as an honorable and viable profession to four high schools in the northeast region of Haiti (115 students)
  - Columbia University-Disparities in Women's Health course: "Midwifery's role. Promoting the midwifery model of care to provide micro and macro sustainable solutions for low resource countries" (18 students)
  - SUNY Downstate - Professional Issues course: "Global Needs for Maternal Health Services & Midwifery" - Virtual panel with Renee Fiorentino (USAID) & Laura Sheperis (Doctors Without Borders) and Martine Jean-Baptiste (FAHM) (15 students)
- Promoting midwifery to the public in Haiti and in the diaspora
  - Haitian American Nurses Association (HANA) of Hudson Valley radio talk show: "State of Midwifery in Haiti and FAHM's work"
  - The Haitian Times interview – "Midwifery, its role in Haitian culture"
  - ASFH-Media (radio, newspapers, television) Press Conference: "Pregnant women's rights to access respectful and quality maternity care in Haiti"
  - Black Mamas Matter Alliance and National Black Midwives Alliance- "Global Black Midwifery Panel and Screening"- an official event of Black Maternal Health Week 2022, while also marking International Day for Maternal Health and Rights
  - Haitian Women's Collective- Instagram Live: "Are midwives the answer? How can we help women get a full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health?"
  - Mother Wit Podcast— Instagram Live "Midwifery care and homebirth"
  - Young Black and Giving Back (YBGB)- Instagram Live: highlighting FAHM's work
  - Joined Support Black Charities



# ALLIANCE OF HAITIAN MIDWIVES



*Haiti is rich in culture and knowledge. Over the years FAHM has been asked to develop an interactive exchange between Haitian midwives living in Haiti and those in the Haitian Diaspora. Thus, the Alliance of Haitian Midwives was formed where we have explored various topics including: “Your calling into midwifery,” “Myths and taboos related to pregnancy, birth, postpartum and the newborn,” and “Midwifery in Haiti and the USA.” Our last session was attended by 92 midwives & student midwives representing 9 of 10 of Haiti’s Regional Departments and 3 diaspora countries: 4 states within the USA, Canada and France.*

Our mission: Bringing together Haitian midwives and midwifery students in Haiti and the diaspora to explore and build a safe space for mutual exchange and learning while keeping our traditional Haitian roots alive.

***We have so much to share.  
Together we stand strong!***



# LEADERSHIP

January 25, 26, 27, 2022

Leadership skills are an essential component for building a vital, proficient and strong midwifery profession. FAHM is always happy to partner with Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) in promoting our shared mission of unlocking potential and increasing opportunities to collectively build a prosperous, self-reliant and stronger Haiti.

Thirty-four (34) fourth-year midwifery students of INSFSF (L'Institut National Supérieur de Formation de Sages-Femmes) attended an intensive, three-day course on building their leadership and management skills. They covered such topics as communication, conflict resolution, time management, and entrepreneurial skills.

***“As a leader I hope to...***



*bring change to women's health by competently practicing the midwifery profession.”*

~Cassandra



*provide my help to the Haitian community for the advancement of the country.”*

~Jennifer





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## March 8

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8th. It is a time to celebrate women's achievements. It is also an occasion to rally for women's equality, gender equity and human rights. 2022's theme is **#BreakTheBias**.

Midwives advance gender equality, gender equity and uplift women and girls in Haiti. Healthy women make a positive and effective impact. Your support helps ensure that women can access sexual, reproductive, and maternal/newborn health services while safeguarding their rights to health and well-being.





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

## March 6-12

*#BreakTheBias*

*"#BreakTheBias. Changing Climates: Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow recognizes and celebrates the contribution of women and girls around the world who are working to change the climate of gender equality and build a sustainable future.*

March 6th

Breaking stereotypes, building self esteem, and opening doors to a life of possibilities starts with our youth.

In partnership with Grace Community Birth Center, we hosted 80 girls for a day full of celebration and learning about gender equity and building a sustainable future through interactive activities (music, poetry, dance, plays). Each participant was given a citrus tree plant to take home and care for. They learned about the impact of agriculture on climate change, and the nutritional benefits of citrus. This is part of an ongoing pilot project with New York University's first ever Global Doctoral of Nursing Practice studying Positive Youth Development.



March 8th

*Keeping Haitian women "djanm" (kreyol for strong)*

Cervical cancer is preventable with proper screening and treatment which is scarce especially in remote areas like Port Salut which was affected by the August 2021 earthquake. The only midwife working in Port Salut, and other hospital staff, noted high rates of women presenting in labor with abnormal/irregular bleeding, recurrent vaginal infections, and abnormal cervical findings. We were able to provide education, screening and prevention of breast and cervical cancer and sexually transmitted infections as well as teach about gender-based violence (GBV) to 227 women that day.

This is what makes Haitian midwives "pi djanm" (even stronger). They see something and do something! Empowered women empower others.





# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE

## May 5

### ASFH - First National Midwifery Conference

(Attendees: 125 in person & 50 virtual In Haiti & the diaspora)

Theme: *"For Risk-Free Maternal Health, Good Reproductive Health: Let's Focus on Midwifery Practice."* Raising awareness about the profession to affect policy change. This historic event received a lot of press and attention by public officials and the public.



### Outreach & education for high school students

FAHM partnered with Midwife Ninotte Lubin from Grace Community Birth Center to promote the profession of midwifery to 115 high school students from four (4) high schools in the northeast region of Terrier Rouge and Grand Basin. The midwifery profession and midwifery model of care as well as sexual and reproductive health were discussed. The students received pens & beautiful copybooks which included a page filled with midwifery quotes and midwives' roles and responsibilities in communities.



# BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM AND FOSTERING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES

June 25

Learning where you come from helps you understand who you are and what you are capable of.

In 1804 Haiti triumphed in abolishing slavery and became the first independent Black republic in the western hemisphere. Sixty (60) adolescent girls from the Positive Youth Development cohort attended a field trip to Fort Liberté to learn about their history. The pilot project not only covers sexual & reproductive health but also building healthy relationships and strong communities.

*“Learning about slavery and what it means to be free made me really appreciate what it means to be respectful of not only myself but of others. To totally be free means we have respect and honor for our ancestors, our communities, our families and ourselves.”*

~Yasmine (age16)





# SEX EDUCATION CLASS (BOYS)

July 16: Sexuality

Oct 15: Sexual violence, body autonomy, human rights, community living

Dec 2: Intimate relationships (gifts distribution: Copybooks, pens and pencils for school, and a soccer ball for each leader of the three neighborhoods represented)

Haiti has a population of approximately 11 million people, and Haiti's youth, those 25 years of age or younger, make up more than half of that population. Haitian midwives are in the optimal position to provide accurate and culturally appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and on gender-based violence (GBV) to Haiti's youth.

In partnership with Grace Community Birth Center, our Boys' Group was launched in July. It started with 26 youth ranging in age from 12 to 17 and has since more than doubled to include 55 youth ranging in age from 12 to 19. We provide Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE: is developmentally and culturally relevant, science-based, medically accurate information on a wide range of topics, including human development, gender identity, sexual behaviors, communication skills, empathy, and mutual respect. It encompasses identity development, gender equity, building healthy relationships, and violence prevention). In order to take steps towards dismantling and eradicating GBV, all genders must be included in the conversation.

Your support helps equip Haitian youth with the necessary knowledge and life skills to develop healthy self-identities, challenge societal norms, prevent GBV, and ultimately, lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. It's way more than just teaching young people how to have safer sex. It helps dismantle systems of power, oppression, and misinformation that allow for sexual and reproductive health and rights injustices to even exist.



“At the end of the workshop, it was so breathtaking to listen to one of them rapping and singing: *“If your girlfriend says no, please listen. She means NO (everyone joined in to shout “no”). Do not force her, that’s her right.”* ~ Pastor Jhonny (Co-coordinator of the Boys Group)

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

October 8

You and the midwives of Haiti help raise awareness to ensure protection of every girl's right to access health care, education and to keep safe from violence and exploitation. Together we promote gender equality.

*"Our time is now—our rights, our future"*

FAHM stands strong and unwavering in our support of bringing Haitian girls opportunities that assist them in being the changemakers who lead progress in their communities. Your support enables us to stand accountable by our investment in a future that believes in their agency, leadership and potential.

Due to the current unstable political and economic crisis in Haiti, the opening of schools has been postponed. Thanks to your support, on Saturday, October 8th, along with Grace Community Birth Center, we hosted 66 girls for a day of celebration, education (educational music, role playing and short plays: created and performed by them) on sexual and reproductive health and developing and navigating healthy relationships. They each received back-to-school supplies to ensure that they are on top of their game when school reopens.



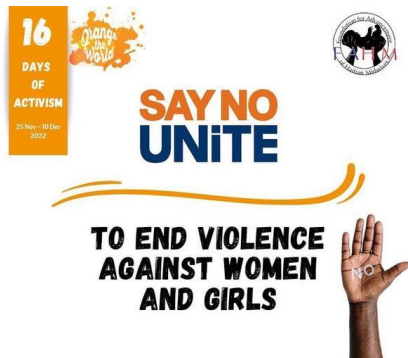


# Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global health problem that disproportionately affects women and girls.

The 16 days between November 25th and December 10th (Human Rights Day) are known as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The slogan used is **“Orange the World.”** Orange symbolizes a brighter future free of violence.

## Sombering facts:

- Globally: 81,000 women and girls killed in 2020 (58% by an intimate partner or family member)-- or one death every 11 minutes
- Haiti:
  - According to the latest demographic health surveys in 2016-2017, approximately 26% of women in Haiti report lifetime physical or sexual intimate partner violence and 14% of women reported an episode of sexual or intimate partner-based violence within the last year.
  - Partner violence: Among non-single women, 34% reported having experienced, at some point, various forms of violence, either physical, emotional or sexual, exerted by their husband/partner.



Haitian midwives and FAHM are committed and dedicated to becoming part of the solution to end GBV. Midwives are key points of access to health care for GBV survivors. They also serve as advocates for women and girls, contribute greatly to prevention efforts, and are community educators.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## November 25

Nov 22 & Nov 29

During the month of November and early December, FAHM ran a social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram highlighting its Haitian partner agencies. We continue to post free hotline phone numbers where GBV survivors and those seeking mental health counseling and services can reach out to connect to care.

FAHM's focus is on capacity building for Haitian midwives and student midwives through evidence-based continuing education (presented by multidisciplinary professionals). This enables them to understand the issues in Haiti's cultural context as well as implement trauma-informed care (screening, evidence gathering exam, reporting, referrals for ongoing mental health support and other local resources). Our outreach includes public education through youth groups as well as the general public in Haiti and the Haitian diaspora.



FAHM  
Fédération des Associations  
de Haïtiens Américains

**THEME: VIOLENCE BASEE  
SUR LE GENRE**

**22 NOVEMBRE 2022  
1:30PM - 4:00PM**

**INTERVENANT  
DR. JOSEPH VILAIME ALEXIS**

GYNÉCOLOGIE - OBSTÉTRIQUE  
MALADIE ET CHIRURGIE DES SEINS  
ONCOLOGIE GYNÉCOLOGIQUE  
CHIRURGIE ESTHÉTIQUE DES SEINS

CONTACTEZ L'ASSOCIATION POUR LE LIEN  
zoom

SESSION POUR LES SAGE-FEMMES  
&  
LES ETUDIANTS SAGE-FEMMES HAITIENS

In 2022, we held two virtual GBV conferences for midwives and student midwives:

Nov 22- *“Gender-based Violence (GBV)”* (167 participants)

Nov 29- *“GBV and it's psychological effects on survivors and health care professionals who care for them”* (72 participants)



FAHM  
Fédération des Associations  
de Haïtiens Américains

**THEME: LA VIOLENCE  
BASEE SUR LE GENRE  
& SES REPERCUSSIONS  
PSYCHOLOGIQUES**

**29 NOVEMBRE 2022  
1:30PM - 4:00PM**

**INTERVENANTE  
NATHALIE COICOU**

PSYCHOLOGUE CLINICIENNE

CONTACTEZ L'ASSOCIATION POUR LE LIEN  
zoom

SESSION POUR LES SAGE-FEMMES  
&  
LES ETUDIANTS SAGE-FEMMES HAITIENS



# Annual Holiday Festivities for the Youth Groups at Grace Community Birth Center Terrier Rouge, Haiti- December 29

*Great way to end the year!*

We hosted 210 kids and young adults (ages 3 to 20) with an end-of-year celebration offering educational and interactive activities that help to foster body autonomy and self-respect, and provide sexual & reproductive health education.



# **2023 Looking Forward**

## **FAHM's Infrastructure**



### **Operational**

- Continue to involve and utilize volunteers: professionals, interns and others
- Increase our social media presence and outreach in Haiti and the diaspora

### **Programmatic**

- Continue to center work around access to respectful evidence-based midwifery care, gender equality, sexual and reproductive justice, body autonomy, and gender-based violence through continuing education conferences/webinars for midwives, student midwives and other health care providers as well as raising public awareness and providing public education
- Increase and continue to foster and strengthen partnerships with entities that are Haiti-based as well as in the diaspora with similar values and guiding principles through partnerships and consulting
- Advocacy and Policy work, both in the USA and Haiti, which supports and promotes health, education, sexual and reproductive health, girls' empowerment, leadership and community development, business development and civic engagement, and the midwifery model of care

### **Financial**

- Grow our monthly donor support
- Increase grant funding
- Diversify funding

### **Organizational**

- Board development, professional development for staff and board members, and strategic planning
- Network/partnership building with Haiti-based organizations as well as non-Haiti based universities and other entities
- Focus on long term impact reporting



As the year winds down to a close we reflect on our joint accomplishments of the year. Your support is appreciated and invaluable. You helped facilitate the provision of health equity: equal access, care and healthier outcomes for all no matter economic, social or environmental disadvantage.

[Click here](#) and enjoy a brief clip of our joint efforts.

