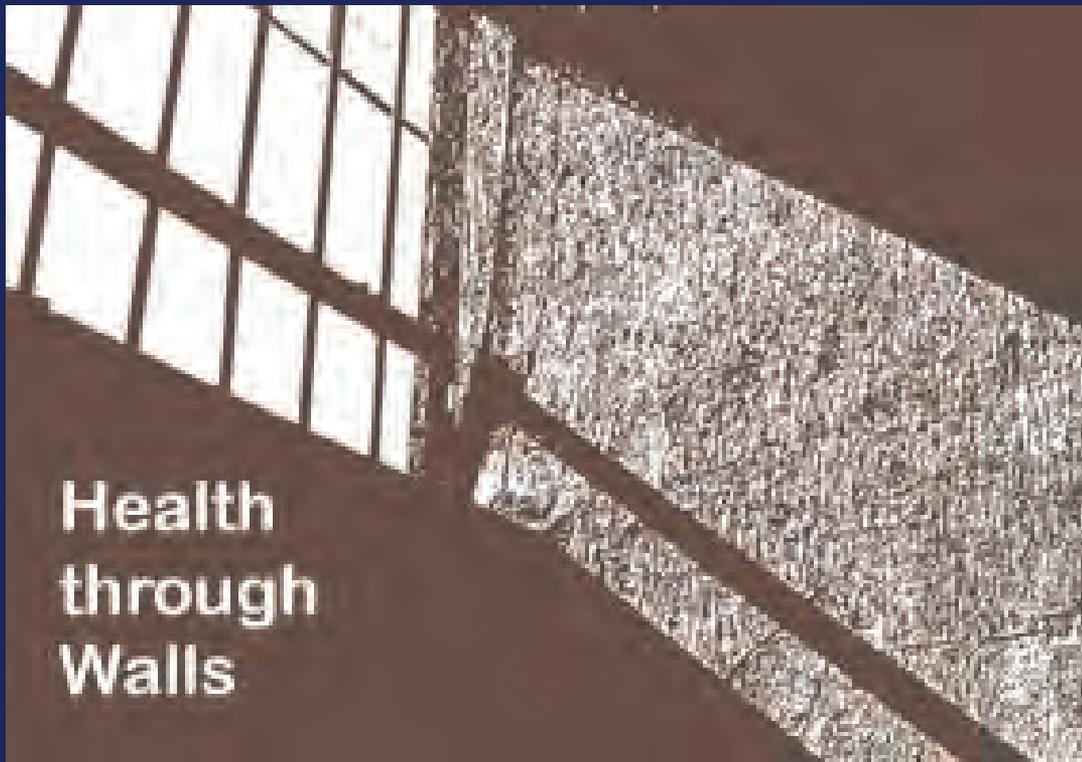


# Health through Walls, Inc.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021



***"Adequate prisoner health not only controls infectious disease, but also contributes to safe, secure, and humane institutions - part of establishing a society of justice, prosperity and peace."***

**- John P. May, MD, FACP - President, Health through Walls**

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# President's Message

Dear Friends,

As COVID-19 vaccinations began rolling out in early 2021, prioritization for who should first get the vaccine included those at high risk for complications and highest risk of contracting the virus. By all accounts, persons incarcerated in overcrowded prisons met that criterion, however, the distribution of vaccines in many jurisdictions did not prioritize incarcerated persons.

Throughout 2021, vaccinations within prisons of low-income countries happened sporadically. One exception was the country of Dominican Republic. Shortly after vaccines were available to the general population within the country, the Ministry of Health set up vaccination programs within the prison, assisted by health promoters of Health through Walls (HtW).

This same appreciation for health equity was realized in the Dominican Republic later in 2021 when the Ministry of Health agreed to make its supply of direct acting antiviral medications to cure hepatitis c available to qualifying persons in the prison just as any other citizen of the country. With grant support from Gilead Sciences, HtW was able to conduct a hepatitis C screening program of more than 8,000 persons at LaVictoria Penitentiary and bring treatment to all who needed it, modelling the first mass hepatitis C screening in any Caribbean prison.

Meanwhile, across the border, Haiti plunged deeper into crisis. Widening civil unrest with random and criminal violence caused the U.S. Department of State in June 2021 to issue its highest travel advisory, Level 4, Do Not Travel.

On July 7, 2021, the country's president, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated in his home. On August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake impacted many sections of the country, including prisons, and killed thousands of people.

The country's insecurity frequently interrupted food delivery and preparation for the prisons. HtW engaged a University of Florida team lead by Arch Mainous, PhD, and surveyed more than 500 persons in the National Penitentiary to document starvation level diets and found nearly two-thirds with malnutrition-level body mass indexes. Yet with each setback and challenge, more than 100 dedicated HtW staff continued their incredible work within prisons to ensure health services and support continued.

Working with the U.S. Department of State, HtW established a pilot farming program at a prison in Haiti's northern region. Despite all obstacles, HtW staff were able to develop the farm and train incarcerated persons in agronomics, aquaponics, and poultry production.

This 2021 Annual Report celebrates the joint efforts of HtW and our partners, and the shared commitment to secure sustainable and capacity building resources to ensure that our work has the greatest impact.

HtW believes in health equity for incarcerated persons. Our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers in the field work tirelessly to that goal. Without your support, and our amazing team, this would not be possible.

**John P. May, MD, FACP,**  
**President**  
 Health through Walls



## Top Impacts in 2021

**4**  
countries

Providing healthcare services directly to incarcerated people in **4 countries**, and thought leadership to international colleagues on effective service delivery.

**46,631**  
reports

By the end of 2021 Dr. Irving Waldman, in Florida, has read digital x-rays and together with his wife, Linda Waldman, they have prepared **radiology reports** for 46,631 persons in Haiti's prisons!

**13,703**  
assessments

Number of **medical assessments** undertaken in the Haitian prisons.

**93**  
percent

Percentage of medication compliance with **Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)**

**1,409**  
A.I. Screens

Number of persons screened for TB in Haitian prisons using a new technology of **Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) x-ray software**, resulting in a **17% abnormal detection rate**.

**8,479**  
individuals

The number of people at La Victoria Prison in the Dominican Republic screened for **Hepatitis C, HIV and syphilis**.

**3,043**  
assessments

Health through Walls assessment and treatment for formerly incarcerated persons and their families and the community, delivered via **Klinik Solidarite in Haiti** with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

# Our Scope of Operations



SECTION

01





# Prevention, Screening, and Treatment

Health through Walls works with prison authorities in low-resource countries to implement replicable and sustainable systems to develop their capacity to provide incarcerated persons with meaningful health services such as medical screening, treatment, and discharge planning leading to continuity of care upon release. Our priority is the prevention, identification and treatment of infectious and contagious disease -- particularly HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis, Hepatitis C and COVID-19. Our primary countries of impact in 2021 were Haiti, Dominican Republic, Malawi, and Jamaica.

HtW's largest and most comprehensive program is in the prisons of Haiti, one of the most overcrowded prison systems in the world holding more than 11,000 persons in 17 different prisons with approximately 87% of the prisoners being held in lengthy pre-trial detention. Its main prison, that detains more than 4,000 people lacks drinking water in cells, has gross malnutrition, starvation, poor ventilation, and high prevalence of chronic and infectious disease.

As recently as 10 years ago, preventable and treatable HIV, AIDS and tuberculosis were the leading causes of death for detainees in Haiti's overcrowded prisons. Since 2009, thanks to USAID, Gilead Foundation, AHF and Global Fund funding, HtW has been able to routinely conduct screening and quickly initiate treatment which has resulted in great reductions in death and transmission to others.



# Haiti

HtW utilizes multiple technologies in the diagnosis and treatment of prisoners with tuberculosis in Haitian prisons. All new prisoners in Haiti's National Penitentiary are routinely screened upon admission for TB by performing chest x-ray exams using the HtW mobile, digital x-ray unit. HtW also uses one of Haiti's few GeneXpert machines which allows sputum samples to be analyzed within hours instead of several weeks for the presence of the highly contagious, drug-resistant tuberculosis.

# DR

In 2021 HtW conducted a massive hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening and treatment program among all incarcerated persons and visitors at La Victoria, with 8,000 detainees, is one of the largest prison populations in the Caribbean. A collaboration between Fundacion Genesis, led by project Director Grace Butler of HtW, the Prison Services of Dominican Republic and the Ministry of Health. Incarcerated persons received education about the hepatitis C virus and were given the opportunity for free disease testing and treatment, including for HIV and syphilis.



# Malawi

Pastor Danileck Mitepa, Program Director of HtW in Malawi, visits several prisons to conduct HIV health education as well as to provide needed supplies including vitamin-enriched peanut butter. AHF provided funding for HtW to purchase COVID-19 relief items necessary to prevent its spread including buckets to create handwashing stations, soap, bleach, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, basins, blankets, food, and more. Additionally, HtW participated in national training for COVID-19 mitigation with prison wardens.

# Disasters and Crises - Challenges & Recovery



Entering 2021, and a world suffering from COVID-19, fear, tremendous loss and curtailed, or outright restricted, activities, Health through Walls (HtW) staff and volunteers in several countries worked tirelessly with prison officials and partners throughout 2021 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and protect incarcerated persons or advocate for their release. Many prisons did not have budgets, plans, or means to respond to a respiratory-born global pandemic. HtW provided guidance, volunteers, personnel, equipment, supplies, and provided training and education.

At the same time, major earthquakes, social/political unrest, gang warfare, insecurity, starvation in Haiti's prisons including deaths, assassination of Haiti's president, tropical storms and hurricanes; prison riots and mass escapes, and roadblocks -- yet HtW's health care teams continued to provide care in the prisons and assistance in the field.

Likewise, HtW continued its work in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Malawi prisons. HtW provided PPE, sanitation and hygiene equipment, drinking water stations, food to prisons. Each of the prison systems HtW worked in on a regular basis had its own adjustments and limited activities because of COVID-19 and they varied as well with regard to access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

In Haiti, HtW aggressively advocated for a separate COVID-19 isolation area, and focused on sanitation equipment and supplies; masks for prisoners, and PPE for prisoners doing Peer Education as well as for those assisting in sanitation work.



There was continuing concern about access to oxygen and medications, and many other items and equipment critical to fighting COVID-19 in Haiti's prisons. HtW together with its partner organization in the Dominican Republic, got our Hep C and STD screening program underway successfully testing 8,000 plus prisoners in La Victoria prison in Santo Domingo. In Jamaica although some staff and prisoner activities were limited, HtW and its partner organization, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) were able to continue being actively engaged in the HIV screening and testing process. Many thanks to our donors, partners and kind individuals who make our important work providing prison health care in low-resource countries possible.

# Peer Education

Health through Walls was able to benefit over **54,000** people across 4 countries on 2 continents in 2021.

The purpose of the Peer Educator training program in Haiti and the Dominican Republic's prisons is to educate a select group of prisoners on the basics of HIV infection, and train them to be effective communicators. They can teach others prisoners about HIV; diminish stigma related to HIV; promote behaviors to prevent HIV and TB transmission; motivate prisoners to learn their HIV and TB status for entry into prevention, care, and treatment program; prepare the prisoner population for medical examinations; and, establish a model that could be extended to other prisons in the respective countries.

The health promoter/prisoner peer education training included teaching about HIV, AIDS, TB, cholera, etc. and now COVID-19 was crucial in positively impacting the health of incarcerated persons.

Peer Educators selflessly and energetically assisted HtW and the prison authorities in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic to prevent COVID-19's spread and to assist medical staff engaged in treating those who were infected. HtW secured PPE for the Peer Educators as well as for those prisoners assisting in sanitation work. In the Dominican Republic, where HtW and the Dominican Republic based Fundación Génesis proceeded as planned to screen all 8,000 plus prisoners for Hepatitis C and STDs at the La Victoria prison, Peer Educators assisted the medical staff and worked to educate other prisoners.

In late 2021, in response to our submission for funding, HtW received notice that it would be one of the recipients of a Gilead Sciences *Ending HIV Epidemic* grant that we proposed using via HtW Project ECHO classes for incarcerated persons to train to be HIV peer educators while gaining crucial knowledge and skills regarding aspects of HIV prevention and treatment, as well as valuable communications skills. We look forward to advancing delivery in 2022!



“

I hope to see peer educators further develop as leaders in health education and health promotion in prisons, and to ultimately take these skills into the community upon release.

HtW is positioning incarcerated persons to develop many of the necessary skills required by employers. We understand that peer educators are essential to maximize engagement with health services in prisons.

Dr. Margarette Bury, Program

”

# Nutrition and Food Security

## Working Towards Solutions to Food Insecurity in Haitian Prisons.

In 2021, HtW saw a rise in severe malnutrition in the prisons exacerbating the impact of chronic and infectious disease resulting in a rise in deaths. Political, insecurity, economic, environmental, natural disasters, drought, climate change, an increase in food scarcity throughout Haiti, and misuse of funds or food inventory, all contribute to lack of sufficient food for Haiti's prisoners. Solutions include reduction in number of long term pre-trial detainees that is often as high as 87%, a functioning court system, and alternatives to detention programs. Meanwhile, HtW delivers nutritional supplements and support to prisoners with HIV infection or tuberculosis so that they can remain healthy in this challenging environment.



## Impacts

HtW is driving food sustainability through aquaponics, chicken and peanut/vegetable farming. These projects, which enhance each other, provide education, training and skills to incarcerated persons which they can use upon release, while also moving the prison system toward food self-sufficiency.

In Haiti in early December 2021, HtW announced a significant, short-term arrangement with World Hope International, Rise Against Hunger and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) to deliver twelve shipping containers full of food donations from the USA that would cover food needs in the prisons for at least three months.

In Malawi's Prisons Service, through Pastor Danileck Mitepa, HtW distributes food supplements, such as enriched peanut butter, to the most vulnerable prisoners in Malawi who have health needs such as HIV or tuberculosis.



“Integral to our mission to prevent and treat infectious disease are the obligations of prison authorities to comply with UN minimum standards known as the “Mandela Rules” which explicitly states that each prisoner is to be provided with nutritional food and drinking water.”

**Michelle Karshan,**  
Vice President, Health through Walls

# Collaboration for Impact



## Jamaica

**Health through Walls has employed a Care Manager to provide care for people living with HIV.** Under the auspices of HtW, the Jamaica Department of Correctional Services, and its Medical Director, Dr. Donna Royer-Powe, work with a Care Manager employed by Health through Walls to provide care to people living with HIV. Our Care Manager provides phlebotomy, medication administration, and support services to ensure that the coordination of care runs efficiently and effectively. Huge inroads have been made to increase the treatment population, and to reduce stigma through health education.

## COVID-19

**Health through Walls served as Advisors to the United Nations Peace Operations.** On July 14, 2021, HtW successfully completed its one-year contract providing the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with assistance building preparedness and enhancing contingency planning for health-related issues in prisons, focusing on mitigating risks of communicable diseases in low-resource countries. HtW provided remote desk support on corrections health issues in the context of COVID-19 emergency response within UN Missions in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Haiti, Sudan, Libya and Somalia.



## Design

**International Team of Architects and Engineers Donate Expertise to Design Emergency COVID-19 Unit for Haiti's National Penitentiary.** HtW recommended that a separate COVID-19 isolation treatment area be created in Haiti's overcrowded National Penitentiary but was met initially with resistance due to lack of resources. HtW reached out to the Design Committees of the International Corrections and Prison Association (ICPA) and the American Correctional Association (ACA) where volunteer architects and engineers designed an innovative **Medical Isolation Unit** structure that would incorporate shipping containers, local materials, ventilation and renewable energy sources that could be built in a few weeks at minimal expense.



# Discharge Planning and Continuity of Care

One of Health through Walls' greatest achievements takes prison health care to its natural conclusion – *discharge planning* and *continuity of care* upon release from prison making it possible for those being treated for infectious disease to continue their medical care upon release. HtW's *discharge planners* make every effort to maintain contact with all HIV+ and TB+ released patients to assure *adherence to treatment* and *medication compliance*. If the patient is being released to a different region, our discharge planner works with the patient to create *linkages to care* and follows the patient to ensure compliance with treatment at the clinics they are linked to.

In Haiti, HtW partnered with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and their community health clinic, ***Klinik Solidarite***, in Haiti's capital region where HtW provides released prisoners and their partners with free services including continuity of care, as well as provide HIV, TB, STD and COVID-19 testing and care for the community at large. In 2021, despite civil unrest and restricted movement for patients and staff, **3043 patients** were seen at our community clinic and were able to receive care and treatment without stigma or shame. In the event the patient cannot reach our clinic, our Discharge Planners visit them in their homes to deliver medication and check on their wellbeing.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation and HtW have a unique partnership providing safe community health clinics for persons released from prison (and their partners) who are living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other disease. These clinics operate in Haiti, Jamaica and Dominican Republic, are free, and welcome all patients.

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# Financial Summary



SECTION

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02

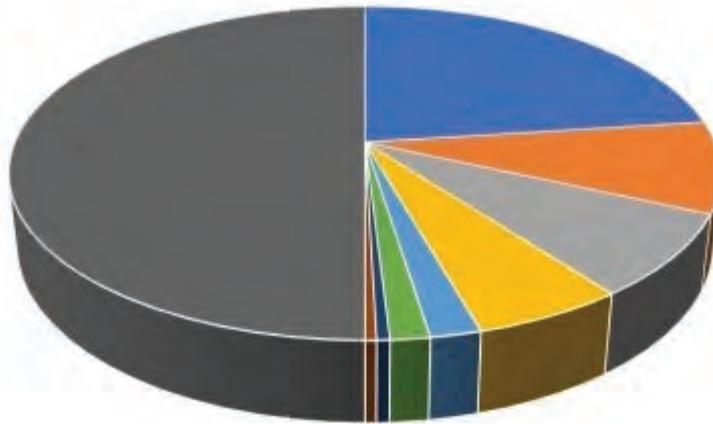


*“Our work is only possible due to the trust, confidence, and generosity of our supporters and funders. The Health through Walls team could not be more grateful to those people who enable our work.”*

**-- Mark Andrews, Secretary/Treasurer, Health through Walls**

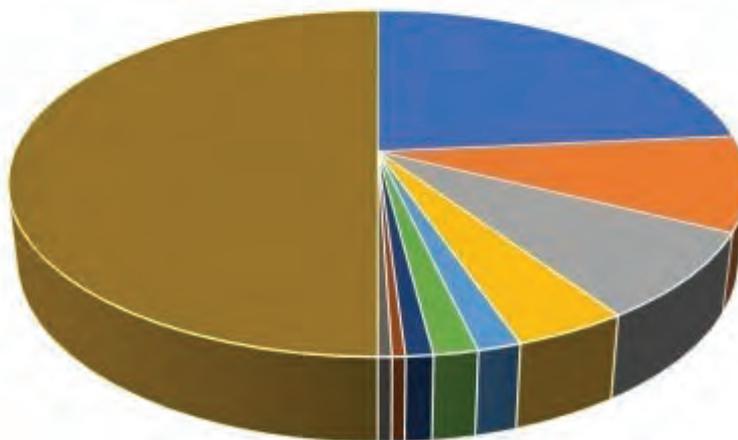
# Financial Summary

**Income Source by Donor**



- USAID
- AHF
- Other
- UNDP
- Global Fund
- Gilead Foundation
- INL
- Private Donor
- Total Income for 2021: \$2,996,887

**Expenditure Summary by Donor**



- USAID
- AHF
- Gilead Foundation
- UNDP
- Other
- Global Fund
- Committed Expenditure Project ECHO
- INL
- Private Donor
- Total Expenditure for 2021: \$2,974,193

# Our Supporters



SECTION

03

DiSPen Saire



# Donor Organizations

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Amazon Smile
- Community Foundation of Collier County for Good. Forever.
- Dan Gensler Group
- Gilead Foundation
- Network for Good
- PEPFAR
- Remke Printing, Inc.
- TB Reach
- The Global Fund
- United Nations Development Project
- United States Agency for International Development
- United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

## Especial thanks to our individual donors!!



Thank you to each one of our partners, without whom **Health through Walls** could not have achieved such remarkable results with and for incarcerated persons in 2021.



Ned Heltzer  
Board Member



# Partner Organizations

- AIDS Health Foundation
- Alternative Chance/Chans Alternativ
- American Correctional Association
- The Bridging Group
- Center for Disease Control
- CGL Companies
- Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
- Faculte de Medicine et de Pharmacie
- Fundación Génesis (Dominican Republic)
- George Washington University Criminal Justice Health Initiative (in development)
- Ingénieur travaux / BTP
- International Corrections and Prison Association (ICPA)
- Meds & Food for Kids
- Nova Southeastern University College of Medicine
- Partners in Health/Zamni Lasante (Haiti)
- Pastor Danileck Mitepa/Health Through Walls (Malawi)
- Prison Authorities and government offices of Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Malawi, Romania and Trinidad & Tobago
- Project ECHO
- SureAdhere
- UNAIDS (Haiti)
- University of Florida
- United Nations Development Program
- United Nations Department of Peace Operations
- University of Notre Dame
- US State Department
- World Vision

# Volunteers

Health through Walls gratefully acknowledges the work of the volunteers in 2021 who are central to our operations. With thanks to:

- Nathan Anser, Parametrix Inc.
- James Beight, AIA, Dewberry
- Robert Boraks, OAA, Parkin Architects
- Steve Carter, AICP, CGL Companies
- Ivan Calder
- Andrew Cupples, FAIA, DLR Group
- Laura Dirks
- Robert Glass, AICP, CGL Companies
- Elizabeth Gondles, PhD
- James Gondles, Executive Director, ACA
- Myrna del Mar Gonzalez-Montalvo
- Mohamed Hasan, Assoc. AIA, DLR Group
- Jenny Hildebrand, Chair, ACA Planning and Design Committee
- Haley Kehus
- Samantha Levano
- Tong Li
- Antwoine Little
- Cathy-Lynn May
- Kit Miyamoto, PhD, SE, Miyamoto International
- Keyanna Ralph
- Melissa Safi
- Ghania Salma
- Katarina Sydow
- Anne Spaulding, MD
- Guilaine Victor, Miyamoto International
- Irving Waldman, MD
- Linda Waldman
- Jingchong Zhang

# Board

Angela R. Deal, PhD  
Pierre Dorsainvil, MD  
Ned E. Heltzer, RPh, MS  
Michelle Karshan  
Johnnie Lambert, RN  
John P. May, MD, FACP  
Marty Mueller  
David L. Thomas, MD, JD  
Ana Viamonte Ros, MD, MPH

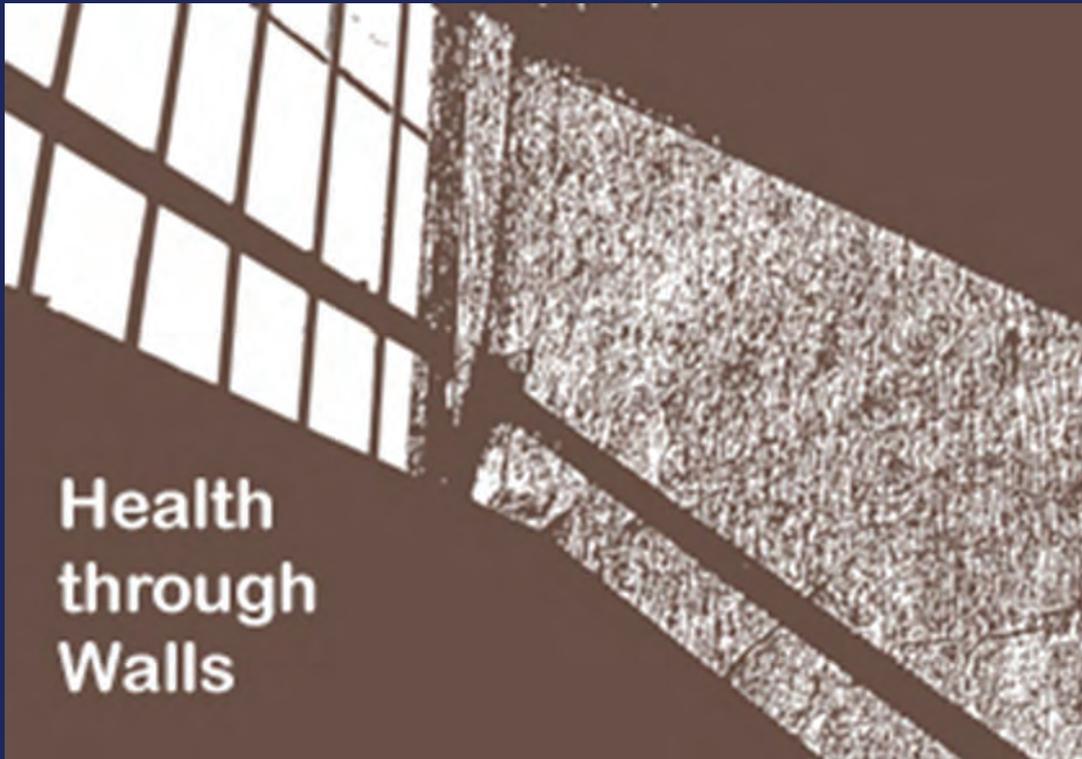
# Officers

John P. May, MD, FACP - President  
Michelle Karshan - Vice President  
Mark Andrews, M.Ed. - Secretary/Treasurer

## OUR MISSION:

**Health through Walls (HtW)** is a non-profit organization, based in the State of Florida U.S.A., whose mission is to assist low-resource countries in implementing sustainable improvements in the health care services of their prisons. A primary focus of this effort is the identification, prevention, and management of infectious and contagious disease, especially HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

Health through Walls is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation  
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## Contact Us

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