

Sharing the Gospel with the people of Haiti through evangelism, education and medical care in partnership with the Mission Communautaire de l'Eglise Chrétienne des Cités. (MICECC)

A Publication of Haiti Outreach Ministries



AN EXTENDED STAY - MAKING MORE FRIENDS

Leon, Nadege, Alex, Alayna, and Dieulanda

by Gary Fulton

Leon Dorleans has been in the United States since early 2024. He originally came to make one of his usual month-long visits to visit churches, attend a conference, and visit friends to talk about the ministry of HOM/MICECC. But he was unable to return home when the airport in Port-au-Prince was closed due to gang violence and social unrest. He planned to go back home as soon as the airport re-opened, but as the situation in Haiti continued to be chaotic and it was not safe to return to Haiti, Leon adjusted his plans and is staying in the US long-term to share the good news about Haiti Outreach Ministries with more people.

While Leon has been in the United States he has had a lot of wonderful experiences visiting long-time friends, making new friends, visiting churches, speaking with church school classes and fellowship groups, teaching in Vacation Bible School sessions,

attending the 35th Anniversary Celebration and the Spring and Fall HOM Board meetings, attending conferences and retreats, visiting family with Nadege, Alex, and Alayna, and of course making many telephone calls to his friends and supporters.

Reflecting on his extended time in the US, Leon says, "My experience here the past 10 months has been nothing but positive. It is a big encouragement that our supporters and friends are still so supportive and not discouraged. I am glad for the faithfulness of all of our supporters, how encouraging they are, and how glad they are to hear about Haiti. I am particularly glad that people have not given up on Haiti. Of course, it gives me great joy to be able to visit Nadege and her family more often."

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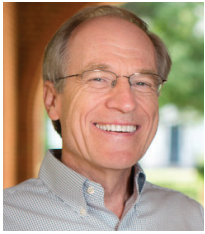
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LOOKING BACK...LOOKING FORWARD: A LETTER FROM INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARY FULTON



As one year ends and a new year starts it is a great time to look back and also to look ahead. This is true for individuals and for organizations. It

is not just a time to be sentimental, nor is it just a time to be nostalgic, although in reflection of the past year there are elements of both. Looking ahead isn't just wishful thinking, although our thinking of the future always includes hopes and dreams. Both acts of reflecting on the past and thinking about the future are grounded in reality and possibilities.

As 2024 came to an end and 2025 begins, I have been reflecting on HOM and Haiti's past as well as thinking about the possibilities for the future. Two phrases keep coming to me: "Bondye ap travay," ("God is at work"), and "the best is yet to come." Both of these are phrases that Leon and Jacky say often. I remember Jacky first writing "Bondye ap travay" on a piece of paper so I would remember the Haitian Creole phrase that describes the reality of HOM/MICECC's work in Haiti.

To be sure, 2024 has been a traumatic year for Haiti. Gang violence rages. The national transitional council was formed and a Prime Minister named, only to see these attempts to bring stability

and forge a path forward falter. An international police force led by Kenyans is in the country to quell the violence, but gang activity and violence seem to escalate. The closure of the port of Port-au-Prince meant no containers of food were received for our ministry in 2024.

However, the other reality is that in 2024 our schools, medical clinic and churches were able to stay open even when many others (most even), closed. After we used all of our previously shipped meals and beans we still fed our students with food purchased locally. The MICECC staff is resolute and resourceful.

In 2019 I posted on Facebook that schools were back open after a period

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THOUGHTS FROM HOM BOARD CHAIR CAROL VASSEY



Bönn Ane, my friends. My hope is that the New Year finds you looking ahead for signs of Goodwill and Peace. Sitting in church on the first Sunday of Advent, I listened as my pastor, Christopher Edmonston, told a short story about an experience in an impoverished area in Nicaragua with his seminary classmates years ago. They were given the task of assisting

a woman in preparing copious amounts of beans and rice. As they neared completion, she rang a bell. Suddenly the area was swarming with children, coming from the nearby dump area, where they were searching for food or anything they could find of value. It was an overwhelming sight for those seminary students. When the food was gone and clean-up was completed, those seminary students chatted briefly with the woman. They asked 'what do you hope for?' That Jesus would come today, she replied simply. "For Jesus to come back TODAY and take us out of this hell..."

Haiti was also referenced several times in his sermon. Christopher also talked about hope. He talked about how Reinhold Niebuhr wrote that 'nothing that is worth doing in our lifetimes can be completed by us - so we are saved by HOPE...' Often I feel that I won't live long enough to see a healthy and vibrant Haiti — but I pray our young Haitian students will.

We have just celebrated the birth of Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. Most of us believe there is a promised Second Coming. I believe there will be a Second Coming, in God's time. But do we go to bed with the prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

TODAY! I'll be honest - maybe once or twice when my heart was breaking - but not often. I love my life — my faith, my family, my heart for Haiti, and so many aspects of this life. Yet, I can imagine that many of our Haitian brothers and sisters have prayed that prayer. The news we read is disconcerting — the government falling apart and the world turning away. Not enough food, or clean water. Violence in the streets, threatening homes, hospitals and schools. Fear and anxiety as close as air. It is not what I think God wants for His children.

It's our tendency to build walls as defense mechanisms. Perhaps some think 'that could never happen in our country.' Or that Haitians need to 'pull up their bootstraps.' We listen to people tell us 'Haiti is a lost cause' and then utter a sentence or two about education or mercy. We are told to shore up those 'real world' walls so that we can keep our hearts 'safe and secure.' I ask myself 'safe and secure from what?' Not from anything Christ taught us.

Perhaps we should remember, as Cameron Tribble said, "The cracks in our hearts - the struggles, vulnerabilities, and losses - God can use those to water seeds of compassion, resilience, and connection." So, hope and joy and peace and love - those are my prayers. I want to worry less and pray for our world more. I want to nurture compassion and help people see that 'dawn breaks from even the darkest night.'

As did my pastor, I close with the first lines of the poem by Emily Dickinson: "Hope is the thing with feathers — That perches in the soul — And sings the tune without the words — And never stops at all..." May we never stop hoping and praying for better tomorrows for Haiti. And singing the tune with our prayers.

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AN EXTENDED STAY – MAKING MORE FRIENDS



Caption from left to right: Leon with a new friend; Leon as a beekeeper; Leon with Chris Tuttle after church; Leon with Nikita Lindsay and Lerla Joseph at the 35th Anniversary Celebration.

As much as Leon enjoys being in the US, it is also hard to be away from Haiti. The hardest part is being away from his wife Jacky. He says that Jacky is doing well and stays very active with the ministry talking with staff several times throughout the day. Leon says, “Jacky is a woman of faith with joy. Her joy comes from her love of God. So even though we are apart her faith sustains her. We talk at least twice a day. She is safe and now lives with my brother, Henri and his wife Mica. Jacky worships every day with Henri’s mother-in-law.”

A real sadness for Leon and Jacky is the loss of their house in Delmas 3. The gang ransacked the house and took out everything of value. Leon reports that the whole neighborhood is vacant now. The gang has driven everyone out. They have taken everything out of the house: the solar converter, the wiring, everything, including Leon’s books. As we can all imagine, it is a great sadness to lose your possessions that have meant so much to you.

Daily life for Leon is different in many ways. One significant change is the weather. Instead of sunny days that regularly see the temperature in the 90s with high humidity, Leon is experiencing temperatures below 30 degrees. Despite

the cold outside, Leon says, “I am feeling warm inside and excited because of the response I have been getting from supporters.”

Leon is also taking care of himself, both physically and spiritually. He shared, “When I was visiting with Janet Horton and Vince Tanner I walked with Vince even when it was in the low twenties. When the temperature has a 3 (in the 30s or 43, 33 or 23) I think of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and I go for a walk. I am trying to walk six days a week. My walks are my meditative times”.

Some of Leon’s favorite experiences are when he is invited to visit churches to give “minutes for mission” and meeting with groups. He loves teaching Sunday School classes and talking with groups where he can have lively interactions. He loves to share the stories about HOM/ MICECC’s work in Haiti.

So far Leon has visited 36 churches and 16 states. Leon bought a car to make it easier to travel around and visit. He drives several hundred miles each month. He usually stays with friends, moving from place to place. Leon is grateful for people’s generosity and caring for him.

Everywhere Leon goes, he shares about

the situation in Haiti and the work of Haiti Outreach Ministries. He is an ambassador for the good work that is being done, despite the adverse conditions in Haiti. And there is good news: the three primary schools and the secondary school opened on January 6. Leon gets excited when he talks about how highly motivated and dedicated the teachers and medical staff are. They go to work regularly to teach and care for the children and patients who need them.

While Leon may be away from the MICECC staff, he talks with Troy Sanon, the Executive Director of MICECC in Haiti, and other staff members regularly. The staff in Haiti have weekly staff meetings and Leon joins those meetings through WhatsApp at least once a month.

Leon is always thinking about the future. He is concerned about the present, but hopeful for the future. About the situation in Haiti Leon says, “Life in Haiti is full of people who are criticizing whoever is in power. In the process I hope it will raise the conscience of the leaders. I am hopeful that 2025 is going to be better.” Leon plans to travel to Haiti when it is safe to do so. Indeed, with Leon’s determination, the dedication of the staff in Haiti, and support from all of you — his friends, there is hope for the days to come.

Leon is available and wanting to schedule more visits with new churches. He is also wanting to visit churches he has visited previously. His schedule is open starting in September 2025. Please contact Leon at leon.dorleans@yahoo.com or Gary at gfulton@haitiom.org to schedule a visit.

MICECC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

LUCSON JEAN LOUIS, DIRECTOR OF THE REPATRIOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lucson is a wonderful example of the importance of the ministry of HOM/ MICECC. The nurturing love and influence, the ongoing support, and mentoring by Jacky Dorleans, the administrators and teachers of the ministries' schools have helped Lucson grow into being the leader he is.

Lucson was born in 1991 in Cité Soleil, Haiti. He is the sixth child in a family of eight children. He says he had a happy childhood living with both of

his parents and siblings. Unfortunately, in 2005 when Lucson was in the eighth grade his father died and then his mother died three years later. Both parents were ill. Since the death of his parents he continues to live in his parent's two room house which is across from the Terre Noire Christian Church.

He now has three sisters and three brothers. One of his brothers is living in the countryside and his other siblings are living in the Dominican Republic. Sadly, one of his brothers died in 2009 and a sister died in July 2024. The hard reality of life in Haiti kept him from being able to attend his sister's funeral. He writes, "I am still grieving over her death because due to the dangerous road situation and due also to financial troubles, I could not attend her funerals in the north of the country. I am praying for the Lord to comfort my soul and to grant me with His peace."

Education has been very important in his life. When asked to describe his life, Lucson marks his life by his educational opportunities.

"I am a former student of the MICECC Cité Soleil Christian School. I joined the Preschool class there when I was 3 years old. Reaching 6th grade, the last class available at that time, with a heavy heart, I had to leave the Christian school to go to the Public High school (Lycée Jean Marie Vincent), several blocks away.

I attended that Secondary school in 7th grade till 13th grade. In 2012, I had the possibility to attend UNIKA, a private University in Port-au-Prince. At the University I studied Administration and Economic Sciences. In 2016, I obtained my bachelor's degree in Economics.

I am the only one in the family to be able to pursue higher education and to become an important person in the community of Cité Soleil. Thanks be to God, to the Christian school and to the sponsorship program!"

Lucson began doing volunteering work at the Christian school at TN in 2008. In 2009 he assisted in the TN library. In 2012 he helped tutor the children who failed in their lessons and worked with many of them with their homework in the afterschool program.

Because of the promise and character that Lucson showed through his studies and his interest in helping in his community, Jacky hired him in 2017 to be an Assistant Director, first at the Terre Noire primary school and after a short time at the Repatriote school. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to be the Director at Repatriote, where he has served for the past six years. Of this position, he says, *"I really love to serve the students there, to assist the teachers, and to encourage the parents."*



Lucson with Jacky and as a young student.

Lucson's background at the school has prepared him well for his current role as Director of the primary school in Repatriote and for his life as a leader in the community.

"As a former student of the Christian school, I am in the right place to understand better the students and their parents with their daily struggles, and to give them all the love that I have received from my former Principal, Mrs. Jacqueline Dorléans.

Through my spiritual education at the Christian school, and the special care of Mrs. Jacqueline, I came to know about Jesus Christ, and to accept Him as my personal Savior. I was even baptized at the Terre Noire Christian Church."

Lucson is a person of faith who exemplifies gratitude for the life that God has given him, saying, "It is by the grace of the Lord that I am the young adult that I am today." He is glad and thankful for the opportunities that he has to be a leader in the schools and communities of Repatriote and Terre Noire.

The Haitian resilience contributes to Haiti's regenerative capacity from disaster and adversities. For years, the capacity to deal with difficult situations has allowed the country to regain normal functioning through and after setbacks despite the absence of tailored courses of action. While our target communities are resilient enough to survive adversity and disasters, many people could die each year from lack of access to safe water, food and basic health in their community. MICECC has been providing access to safe water and food to people who have no choice but to starve and carry heavy vessels long distances almost daily.

Troy Sanon, Executive Director of MICECC

HOM BOARD – PROVIDING COMMITTED LEADERSHIP

Haiti Outreach Ministries has an all volunteer Board of Directors who are highly engaged and committed to the ministry. From the beginning of the ministry, the board members have brought functional expertise in many key areas that help the ministry thrive.

In this and future issues we will introduce you to our Board members



Meet John Bruns, serving his first term: In March 2017, John traveled to Haiti for the first time with friends from another church and was immediately hooked. The next year he began leading trips from his home church, Georgetown Christian Church, Georgetown, Indiana. On their last trip in March 2020, they learned upon arrival back in the US that Haiti had documented their first two cases of COVID-19 and closed the border that day.

John is a 1976 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He earned an MS degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio (1984) and a Certificate of Christian Leadership from Louisville Bible College (2012). He is retired from the US Air Force Reserves and UPS.

John says, “I fell in love with the Haitian people on my first trip and miss not being able to visit. I pray for peace and reconciliation in Haiti and for the day we can return.”

John is married to Debbie, and they have five children and ten grandchildren. He is very involved in his church. He leads the Galatians 6:10 ministry—a group that provides home repairs and builds handicap ramps for people in need. In addition to local projects, they have traveled to several disaster sites to aid in tornado rebuilding. Lately he has been organizing church wide meal packing events. John looks forward to the day we can return to our friends in Haiti.

“Even though retired, I still enjoy flying small airplanes, locally and to visit friends and family. When the weather cooperates, I fly our C-172 to board meetings. I am also currently building an airplane. I’ve been working on it for four years and hope to finish it in 2026.”

The current Board, chaired by Carol Vassey, has 12 members who bring years of experience and engagement to the oversight of the ministry. The Board Members are:

- Carol Vassey
Raleigh, NC
- Carol Anne Moehring
Raleigh, NC
- Ben Mitcham
Gray, GA
- John Bruns
Floyds Knobs, IN
- Bart Edwards
Mount Pleasant, SC
- Rick Giles
Jacksonville, FL
- Linda Jagiela
Shamong, NJ
- Nikita Lindsay
Charlotte, NC
- Esme Teel
Pittsburgh, PA
- Maddie Wilkins
Dallas, TX
- Leon Dorleans
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Chris Northup, Ex Officio
Cary, NC

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LOOKING BACK...LOOKING FORWARD

of instability caused them to be closed for a couple of months. We celebrated the good news that students were able to go back and experience growth. Little did we know that we would experience similar closures and similar situations every year since. But we don't give up hope. We continue to do our important work and good things have happened.

In September of 2024 Caroline Hammock, our Executive Director, resigned her position. Caroline led us with enthusiasm, skill, commitment, and vision. She led us forward. Since October the ministry is continuing to go forward. The HOM Board has been hard at work.

A search committee is in place to look for a new Executive Director. In the meantime, I am enjoying the privilege of serving as the Interim Executive Director.

Leon is in the United States sharing the good news of the ministry. He is visiting friends and church partners every week. He is meeting with new churches and making new friends. In Haiti, the MICECC Board and staff in Haiti are serving our communities, nurturing our students, caring for the sick and our communities. Jacky, Troy, Espayder, Lucson, Fritzon, Dr. Plaisir, Annaus, Jimmy and all the many other MICECC staff are doing all they can to help our communities not

only survive, but to thrive. It is not easy, but we must strive to go forward.

And the people of Haiti are planning on going forward. Leon reports that a record number of parents have signed up their children for school next year. Plans are being made for the future.

Yes, we live in a difficult reality, but we are doing well and we plan for a better future.

God is at work and the best is yet to come. These are not just phrases to make us feel better, but they are the reality of our lives. I pray that Haiti, HOM/MICECC, and all of you have a year filled with peace, love, and joy.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

by Bob O'Brien

OVERVIEW

There have been no major construction projects underway on the five campuses. However, the construction team has been working on two major projects, the Baryé Fé cafeteria and the solar at Repatriote, and the team in Haiti has been working on maintenance projects.

BARYÉ FÉ CAMPUS

Cafeteria/Chapel/Kitchen

- The construction team has proceeded to the design phase of the project and is now constructing a budget for the project. A preliminary conceptual budget indicated funds in excess of \$800,000 will be needed for the project. A more detailed estimate will be completed after structural drawings are complete.
- The dining hall is designed to seat 352 students. A stage will be provided at the far end of the dining hall for various programs.
- The kitchen expansion will allow an enclosed dish washing room and storage for over a container shipment of food stuffs and other food supplies purchased locally. It is envisioned the kitchen expansion will serve as the main depot for all the schools to use.
- The staff at Baryé Fé and in the US are working on plans to provide more outdoor seating for students before the cafeteria is complete. The plans range from placing a large tent (similar to what was used in Repatriote for church services after the earthquake) on the future cafeteria pad or future basketball/volleyball court and constructing more picnic tables and rehabilitating the tables they have. After approval a budget estimate will be prepared for the project.
- It has been noted previously the campus soccer field and pads for the future administrative building and future classroom flood during heavy events in the rainy season. A concerted effort to minimize flooding by cleaning and adding drainage swales, cleaning the main storm drain and adding fill to the future building pads should be instituted this spring to address this problem.

REPATRIOTE CAMPUS



Fresh painted youth building at Repatriote.

As highlighted in a previous newsletter, HOM/MICECC has reached an agreement with a local Haitian owned solar company to provide solar power for the campus. MICECC representatives have visited four sites the provider has completed and were very impressed with their work. Currently, MICECC and the provider are working

on details to provide a safe secure workplace and a secure route for transporting panels and equipment from their warehouse in Petionville to the site.

The exterior of the Youth Building was painted in September and the Youth Building is now complete. Thanks to all who participated in completing this much needed building, both with donations, prayers and work on the ground.

TERRE NOIRE CAMPUS



Rain events noted above at Barye Fe' are also present at TN. A plan to construct a large storm drain retention structure, clean out drainage swales, use the soccer field as a retention pond and adjust the slope of the medical clinic waiting area have been proposed and are awaiting funding.

CLEAN WATER REPORT

All four campuses report a total of 433,195 gallons of clean water to schools and communities we serve from January to October 1st of this year. It was good news from Don Boothe, our clean water

maintenance overseer in the US that recent shipments of water repair parts, filters and replacement ozone bulbs were received in Haiti even with the violence, picked up at the shipper's terminal and are safely in the MICECC storage area.



Parts delivered to Shippex in Orlando — The crate received by Wisly and Emile in PAP two months later.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance work is being coordinated by Tad Prewitt in the US and Poudy Wisly in Haiti. During the summer recess in the schools there were a number of projects such as desk and chair repair and cleanup completed before classes resumed. Many items of deferred maintenance still need to be addressed. This work will be a challenge for the maintenance crews. Maintenance funding from all would be a blessing and is sorely needed.

2024 was a year of challenges and successes for the clinic staff. Dr. Suzie Chéry, medical director, reports that although the conditions the physicians and staff must travel through to get to the clinic is often dangerous, the clinic is open on an average 18 days a month with a full staff. "Our staff at the clinic are valiant people who sacrifice themselves for the well-being of others." Dr. Suzie's hope for 2025 "is for a better tomorrow where we can go about our activities in peace."

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The expanded on-site clinic lab opened in late October and has proven to be an asset enabling the physicians to make accurate diagnosis more quickly to provide the appropriate care their patients need. The patients have noticed, and many have said how pleased they are that the clinic continues to offer more services to help the patients.
- The new record-keeping system has also been a big success. Under the old system where the patients kept their record, they were often lost or damaged. Having the records in the clinic guarantees the information is available and in good condition.
- Pre-recorded programs on prenatal care are being utilized to help educate expectant mothers.

CHALLENGES:

- Due to the increased cost of everything, the clinic struggles to make the medication budget stretch through the month.
- Getting to the clinic with the ongoing violence presents the biggest challenge - the staff often must use alternate longer routes or transportation or resort to disguises.
- Staff retention is an ongoing problem as people leave Haiti to find safer places to work and live.

Patient satisfaction remains high, the clinic collects evaluations from the patients daily on the quality of care they receive and regularly receive positive comments. The new lab has been highly praised, one patient commented that they were impressed that the laboratory technician apologized that the wait time had taken longer than expected.

The clinic has applied for several training programs through the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) to maintain staff competency and to learn new skills. This is in addition to continuing education classes

the physician and nurses attend, and the other learning opportunities provided by MICECC.

PARTNERSHIPS

- The MASTAS program (Manman An Sante, Timoun An Sante)* continues on schedule with trained leaders sharing a variety of maternal-child health topics with Care Groups made up of local women from the Repatriote community. The goal of this program is to reduce the high maternal-infant death rate by providing education and getting at risk mothers the help they need in time. **translation - Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
- We explored a possible partnership with a hospital in Cap Haitian last year. Unfortunately, we felt that the location, cost and safety issues made it not a viable option for our teams.

CLINIC STATS JAN - NOV:



205

of days open



4,212

Total # of vaccinations
(OB & peds)



5,656

New medical patients



12,344

Total # of medical
patients seen



1,739

New dental patients



1,128

Total # of dental
patients seen

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLINIC?

Contact Janet Horton, FNP at medtrips@haitiom.org. Clinic donations are always appreciated at haitiom.org/donate.

DONATIONS

Contributions may be made securely at haitiom.org or by mailing a check to:

Dawn Walker, HOM Financial Secretary
PO Box 942
Matthews, NC 28106

Designate your funds on the check memo line.
Undesignated funds will be added to our general fund.



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Haiti Outreach Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

YOUR GIFTS KEEP OUR MINISTRY GOING.

Even though we are not able to travel to Haiti, our ministry is thriving through the hard work and dedication of all of the MICECC staff who work tirelessly, often under difficult circumstances.

Your generous gifts and ongoing financial support are what makes our vibrant ministry in Haiti possible. THANK YOU!

EDUCATE A CHILD

Schools are open! Please support our students.

- Primary school (\$480 annually)
- Secondary school (\$780 annually)

HEALTH

Our clinic provides much needed medical and dental care. The MASTAS program provides outreach into the community to help lower infant mortality and increase maternal health.

SPIRITUAL NURTURE

The churches provide weekly worship, pastoral care, and study. In the summer Vacation Bible School is offered for children.

THANKS FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HAITI! HAITIOM.ORG/DONATE

*Prefer to donate stock or set up an IRA/QCD distribution?
Contact Bobby Benson at bbenson@haitiom.org*

Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you have an IRA and are 70 1/2 or older you may be eligible to give a gift to Haiti Outreach Ministries with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) by making a direct transfer of funds from your IRA. In addition to the joy of knowing you are helping friends in Haiti through HOM, your gift through a Qualified Charitable Distribution can be part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and can be excluded from taxable income. HOM does not give tax advice so consult with your IRA custodian and tax advisor before making any gift.