

## NEWS FROM GRAHN Reynald Altéma, MD



The AMHE-GRAHN Community Health Center is now a reality. In a gradual phase-in process, it opened its doors this past October 1, 2024, with the grand opening slated for January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. On behalf of the steering committee for the implementation of the project, as its chair, I extend a big thank you to all those who have contributed over the years to make this the fruition of a simple dream when we started this long journey way back in 2016. We survived many obstacles to achieve our initial goal of constructing the first phase. However, no matter how arduous a task we just accomplished, this capstone, in all likelihood, is just the start of the difficult process of establishing a successful institution that will survive the coming decades and for which the local inhabitants will find a vested interest to protect. Despite all hardships, we always forged ahead with the firm belief that *failure is not an option and no manna will fall from the sky*. Nonetheless, we know better than to fall victim to misplaced hubris. We pepper our optimism with a bit of time-tested realism of the fact that *success is never a given when failure is forever lurking, with constantly parched lips and a forever-hungry belly. Failure is renowned for its insatiable thirst and voracious appetite. Success is failure's favorite beverage and meal.*

This is a citizens' effort. It relies on the bona fide of patriots on both sides of the Atlantic. It is not meant to be a *Diaspora initiative*. We want to stay clear of our traditional infatuation with divisive distinctions that always end up with brinkmanship and never with progress. We want to be part and parcel of the knitting of the quilt, aka nationhood.

Hopefully, this legacy will thrive. We plan to mix North American ingenuity with our exquisite national survival skills to devise a health delivery model emphasizing prevention, low cost, and good quality.

We urge all of you to support this effort. Go to the [amhefoundation.org](https://amhefoundation.org) website in the USA and click on donate. Find the AMHE-GRAHN project and make a generous gift. In Canada, go to <https://www.fmch-montreal.org>. If you live outside the US or Canada and want to donate, visit either site. Rest assured, all of the money, minus the bank transaction fee, will go toward the project.