



## SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

[www.hopeforcuba.net](http://www.hopeforcuba.net)

### Message from the Founder and President

To all our distinguished [Hope for Cuba Foundation](#) (HFC) Advisory Council members, friends, and partners of HFC that support our mission as outlined in our website, I wish to thank you for your unconditional support as we work towards meeting all our goals and objectives that are focused on helping the people of Cuba.

As we observe with great optimism small but very important positive movement from the Biden administration as well as from the Cuban government in carving a path towards normalization of relations between the two nations, we believe that giant steps towards achieving complete engagement with Cuba could be made this year. Helping with these efforts is the Vatican and the Holy Father and majority of Americans and Cuban Americans.

We are very pleased to announce the development and implementation of several key HFC initiatives which include:

- Shipping and installing lifesaving "Water One" filtration systems to Cuba
- Embarking upon the "Food for Cuba" campaign with the help of Advisory Council member Mark Baum, Senior Vice President and Chief Collaboration Officer (CCO) of the Food Industry Association
- Delivering lifesaving medical devices by Advisory Council member Marvin Woodall, Chair of Thrombolex
- Introducing other Advisory Council members like Rolando Gonzalez Bunster, CEO of InterEnergy to assist in helping the people of Cuba in various areas of their expertise
- Developing entrepreneur workshops in Cuba

In the development stage we are working with Advisory Council member Renee Strickland, President of Strickland Ranch in an intense cattle breeding program in



Havana so that Cuba will be better able to breed dairy and beef cattle more effectively for the people of Cuba.

In the final development stage is the preservation of the coral reefs and oceans initiative led by Advisory Council member Dr. David Guggenheim, founder of Ocean Doctor and author of "The Remarkable Reefs Of Cuba: Hopeful Stories From The Ocean Doctor".

Additionally, in cooperation with Advisory Council members Trinity Washington University President Patricia A. McGuire and Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School President Mark Shriver, we are also developing student exchange programs, seminars, and country tours with/for our Advisory Council members.

All these programs have been made possible because of the support of the generous luminaries that make up our Advisory Council, as well as donations from our numerous supporters. And a special thank you goes to our lead counsel Winston & Strawn for their spectacular support not only in the OFAC compliance arena but also for their ongoing unconditional support in other areas.

Thank you again. We will be sending out this newsletter several times a year and encourage you to check our website frequently for updates in our News section and would appreciate if you could **follow us and share our posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).**

Onward and Upward!

All the best,

Jorge Ignacio Fernandez

Founder and President  
Hope for Cuba Foundation

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## Current Advisory Board Members

"I am overwhelmed by the support of these distinguished and venerable Council Members. As a Cuban American born in Havana, I founded the Hope For Cuba Foundation based on a simple, yet powerful mission and laser focus in mind... to help the people of Cuba. By joining our Advisory Council, they will help our Foundation's humanitarian mission and our vision to build a stronger proactive relationship between the People of Cuba, the United States, and the rest of the world."

We anticipate our Council's main role will be to provide its endorsement of our mission and vision while offering expertise and valued advice to the Foundation. As we begin the development of moving necessities consisting of medical, food and personal supplies, delivering specific projects such as water purification and conservation measures and medical treatment and educational training.

Each of our select Council members will provide their specific talents and expertise for each of these projects. We are proud to announce these HFC Council Members as listed on our website.

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**Candace S. Johnson,**  
**PhD**  
President and CEO  
Roswell Park  
Comprehensive Cancer  
Center  
Buffalo, New York

**Anthony Kennedy**  
**Shriver**  
Founder and President  
Best Buddies International  
Miami, Florida

**Dr. Nat Colletta**  
Adjunct Professor

**Thomas Schwaab, MD,**  
**PhD**  
Chief of Strategy, Business  
Development & Outreach

New College of Florida  
Former Manager  
The World Bank  
Washington, DC

**Paul D. Johnson**  
Chairman U.S. Agriculture  
Coalition for Cuba  
Chicago, IL

**Marsha Brown**  
Former Multi-Unit Owner  
Ruth's Chris Steak House  
New Orleans, LA

**Tito Sanjurjo**

CEO, RPCI Oncology, PC  
Roswell Park  
Comprehensive Cancer  
Center

Director  
InterEnergy Group  
Miami, Florida

**Mark K. Shriver**  
President  
Don Bosco Cristo  
Rey High School  
Takoma Park, Maryland

**María "Conchita" Mendez**  
**Piedra**  
Former Director Latin  
American Alabama Port  
Authority  
Spanish Fort, AL

Buffalo, New York

**Marvin L. Woodall**  
Chairman and CEO



Thrombolex, Inc.  
New Britain, PA  
Former President  
Johnson & Johnson  
Interventional Systems  
New Jersey

**Dr. Jeffrey Sharkey**  
CEO and President  
Capital Alliance Group, Inc.  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Mark W. Baum**

**Jack McGann**  
President  
International Trading Group,  
Inc.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Lonnie Anne Pera**  
Cuba Sanctions Specialist  
KMA Zuckert, LLC  
Washington, DC

**James C. Greenwood**  
Former President and CEO  
Biotechnology Industry  
Organization (BIO)  
Washington, DC

Senior Vice President and  
CCO  
FMI, Inc. - The Food  
Industry Association  
Arlington, Virginia

**Patricia A. McGuire**  
President  
Trinity Washington  
University  
Washington, DC

Former U.S. Representative  
for Pennsylvania's 8th  
District

**Joseph E. Farrell, Jr.**  
Co-founder  
Mission Resolve Foundation  
Founder  
Resolve Marine Group  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Thomas B. Trimble**  
Partner  
Winston & Strawn, LLC  
Washington, DC

**Rolando Gonzalez  
Bunster**  
Chairman and CEO  
InterEnergy Group  
Santo Domingo, Dominican  
Republic

**Renee Strickland**  
Founder and President  
Strickland Ranch & Exports,  
Inc.  
Myakka, Florida

**David E. Guggenheim,  
Ph.D**  
Founder and President  
Ocean Doctor  
Washington, DC

**Rick Garcia**  
Cuban American Artist  
[www.rickgarcia.com](http://www.rickgarcia.com)  
Miami, Florida

**Arturo Lopez-Levy**  
Assistant Professor, Politics  
and International Relations  
Holy Names University  
Oakland, California

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## HFC Applauds Recent DC Initiative Towards Cuban Immigration:



### Washington, DC

Hope For Cuba Foundation applauds the recent announcement regarding the reinstatement of a "Full Visa Processing" mandate to be resumed at the US Embassy in Havana in early 2023.

Jorge Ignacio Fernandez, Founder & President states, "For five long years, Cuban families have suffered the interruption of visa processing, that would allow for them and their relatives to experience legal and uninterrupted directions to immigrate to the US. This directive will go a long way in helping to restore the strained relationship between our two countries and implant a new confidence in moving Cuba forward as a true member of the world community.

As in 2021, we have seen advancement with the Embassy re-staffing with our personnel to handle the immense backlog visa applications as well as movement to again provide 20,000 plus immigrant visas a year to Cuban nationals. We are sincerely hoping this new development will continue moving us forward in repairing our relations and eventually lifting the current embargo."

Pictured February 16, 2023: Cuba Embassy Council Members, Jorge Fernandez and Mark Baum

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## Latest Initiatives:



### **HFC to Introduce Thrombolex to the Cuban Coronary Medical Community in 2023**

Founded in 2016, Thrombolex, Inc. is an industry leader in the design, development, manufacture and distribution of innovative endovascular catheters used in procedures such as Thrombolysis. Also known as thrombolytic therapy, thrombolysis, in simple terms, is a state-of-the-art treatment to dissolve dangerous clots in blood vessels and improve blood flow.

In April 2023 HFC President and founder Jorge Ignacio Fernandez traveled to Havana to meet with Dra. Carmen Rosa Martinez Fernandez, Director, Institute of Cardiology and Vascular Surgery, Havana Cuba. Mr. Fernandez and Thrombolex chairman Marvin Woodall will travel to Havana later this year to meet with Cuba's coronary medical community to bring this game changing technology to the Cuban people.

### **HFC and FMI Implement Cuba Food Initiative**



Earlier this year, Hope for Cuba Foundation Founder and President Jorge Ignacio Fernandez introduced Mark Baum, Advisory Council member and CCO of FMI, The



Food Industry Association, to Cuban Ambassador Lianys Torres and her staff at the Cuban embassy in D.C. The Hope for Cuba Foundation project “Food for Cuba” will be made possible with the help of FMI, and its members.

In June Mr. Fernandez took Mr. Baum on his first trip to Cuba as part of the initiative. They had numerous meetings vital to the project, including with the Cuba Chamber of Commerce, ALIMPORT, and independent Cuban entrepreneurs in the food sector. This trip gave Mr. Baum a first-hand appreciation of Cuba’s needs relative to food consumption and distribution logistics. The next step will be to establish a Cuba information forum for FMI’s members later this year.

### **HFC Brings Innovative Water Purification Filter Systems to Cuba**

HFC has started installing state of the art water filters in Havana this year and will partner and work with leading water purification system manufacturers to donate these systems for the people of Cuba. Continuous exposure to multiple storms and flooding has uncovered an urgent and immediate need for these systems on the island.



Seen here: Hope For Cuba Foundation Founder and President Jorge Ignacio Fernandez inspecting donated water filters at St. Rita Catholic Church in Havana and visiting day care center located within St. Rita campus that will benefit from the filtered drinking water.

“We are so thankful that Hope for Cuba has brought safe water to our Parish community,” said Pastor Monsignor Perez of St. Rita Catholic Church. “Purchasing bottled water is too expensive on a day-to-day basis for our community. This is truly a life changing financial and health benefit for our Parish and locals.”





## In Collaboration with HFC, Lead Counsel Winston & Strawn Hosted Important Meeting in Washington D.C. May 5, 2023



Pictured from left to right: Zack Haas, Office of Cuban Affairs, Sanctions Team Lead - U.S. Department of State Washington DC; Dr. Thomas Schwaab, MD, Ph.D, Chief of Strategy, Business Development & Outreach CEO, RPCI Oncology, PC - Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center Buffalo, NY; Joseph E. Farrell, Jr. , Co-founder - Mission Resolve Foundation and Founder Resolve Marine Group Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Renee Strickland, Founder and President - Strickland Ranch & Exports, Inc. Myakka, FL; Jorge Ignacio Fernandez, Founder and President - Hope For Cuba Foundation LLC New Hope, PA; David E. Guggenheim, Ph.D., Founder and President - Ocean Doctor Washington, DC; John E. Howard, Executive Director and Senior Advisor - Hope For Cuba Foundation LLC New Hope, PA and Marvin L. Woodall, Chairman and CEO - Thrombolex, Inc. New Britain, PA

HFC President and founder Jorge Ignacio Fernandez, along with Winston and Strawn managing partners Thomas Trimble, and Cari Stinebower, planned a Cuba strategic informative summit meeting for May 5, 2023 in Washington, DC. This meeting included six of our Advisory Council members as panelists, as well as our team and select partners along with high level Cuban diplomats and staff members from the US State Department.





Our goal was to educate our attendees concerning the current state of Cuba- USA relations, current rules and regulations when dealing with Cuba as well as humanitarian and trade opportunities in the island nation during the current embargo.

A special thank you to our friend former Senator Christopher Dodd (pictured center) who has been appointed as the Special Presidential Advisor for the Americas for meeting with Hope for Cuba Foundation Senior Team on January 13, 2023 in Washington, DC to share with him the mission and vision of the Foundation and the importance to normalize relations with Cuba for the benefit of the people of Cuba and America.

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## Support Hope for Cuba Foundation

### Visit our Website to Learn More

You can make a big [impact](#) by becoming a donor today which allows H4C to fund the various projects in support of our mission.

## About Hope for Cuba Foundation

### Who We Are

The Hope For Cuba Foundation (HFC) is a Not For Profit humanitarian organization. Its key purpose includes providing humanitarian aid to the Cuban people, conducting humanitarian projects related to health and medical matters, promoting entrepreneurship and business opportunities, expanding civil and cultural exchanges, encouraging scientific research collaborations, and supporting a path to achieving full normalization of relations. Please visit: [hopeforcuba.net](http://hopeforcuba.net)