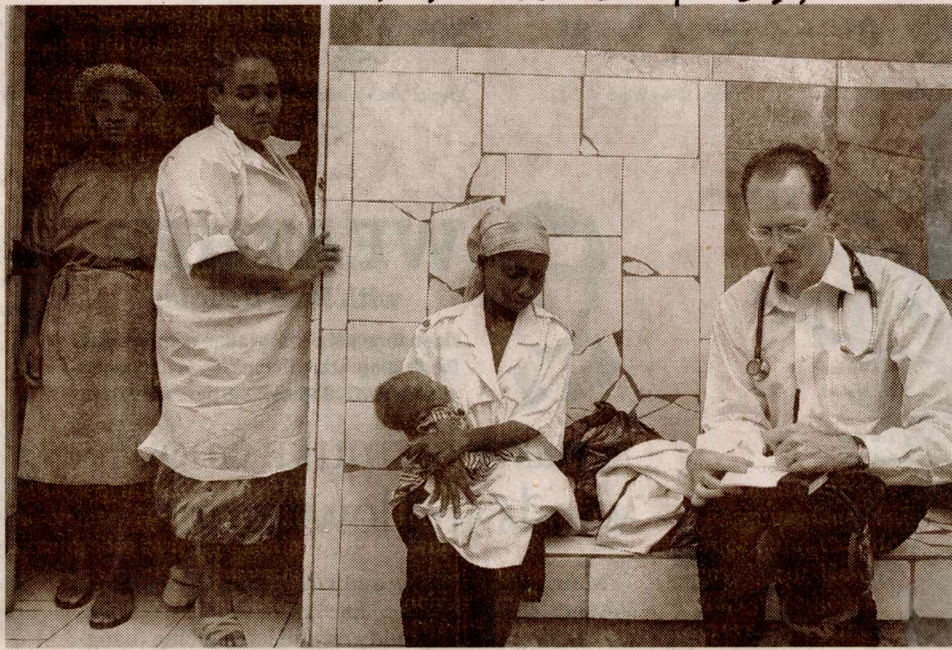


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ALSO NOTED



ANGEL FRANCO • New York Times

Dr. Paul Farmer, the American physician who co-founded the global nonprofit Partners in Health, brought high-quality health care to some of the world's poorest people.

Physician and humanitarian renowned for helping millions

Dr. Paul Farmer, 62, a U.S. physician, humanitarian and author renowned for providing health care to millions of impoverished people worldwide and who co-founded the global nonprofit Partners in Health, died Monday.

The Boston-based organization said Farmer unexpectedly died in his sleep from an acute cardiac event while in Rwanda, where he had been teaching.

He was a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and chief of the division of global health equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He wrote extensively on health, human rights and social inequality, according to Partners in Health.

"A compassionate physician and infectious disease specialist, a brilliant and influential medical anthropologist, and among the greatest humanitarians of our time — perhaps all time — Paul dedicated his life to improving human health and advocating for health equity and social justice on a global scale," wrote George Q. Daley, dean of Harvard University's Faculty of Medicine, in a statement.

Partners in Health, founded in 1987, said its mission is "to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care." The organization began its work in Cange, a rural village in Haiti's central plateau, and later expanded its operations to regions including Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kid-

der, who wrote the nonfiction book, "Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World," told the Associated Press the two traveled together for a month as Farmer treated prisoners and impoverished people in Haiti, Moscow and Paris.

"He was an important figure in the world," Kidder said. "He had a way of looking around corners and of connecting things. He couldn't obviously go and cure the whole world all by himself, but he could, with help of his friends, give proof of possibility."

One of Kidder's strongest memories of Farmer occurred in Peru, where the doctor was treating patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. Kidder recalled a woman wearing a Mickey Mouse shirt who followed them to their car, looking very shy.

With her head down, she said, "Thank you," to Farmer in Spanish. Kidder recalled: "Paul turned, took each of her hands in his and said, 'For me, it is a privilege,' in Spanish."

He added that Farmer was instrumental in getting AIDS treatments, and created various health systems around the world.

Michelle Karshan, vice president of a nonprofit prison health care system in Haiti who worked closely with Farmer, said he was determined, innovative and always knew how to get around obstacles and bureaucracy.

"He didn't take no for an answer," she said. "He didn't think anybody was too poor or too

illiterate to be entitled to receive health care."

Former President Bill Clinton praised his work. "Paul Farmer changed the way health care is delivered in the most impoverished places on Earth. He saw every day as a new opportunity to teach, learn, give, and serve — and it was impossible to spend any time with him and not feel the same," Clinton said in a statement.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with thousands of cases reported daily in Massachusetts, local health departments were overwhelmed by the task of contact tracing to help slow the spread of the disease.

The state launched a contact tracing collaborative in April 2020, and asked Partners in Health to lead the initiative, which made more than 2.7 million calls to residents at a total cost of about \$158 million, according to the state.

Paul Edward Farmer Jr. was born Oct. 26, 1959, in West Adams, Mass. His mother, Ginny (Rice) Farmer, worked as a supermarket cashier, and his father, Paul Sr., was a salesperson and high school math teacher.

After graduating from Duke University, he moved to Haiti, volunteering in Cange, a settlement in the central Artibonite plateau of the country. He arrived toward the end of the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier, when Haiti's hospital system was so threadbare that patients had to pay for basic supplies, such as medical gloves or a blood transfusion, if they wanted treatment.

He returned to the United States to attend Harvard Medical School and earn a degree in anthropology, but he continued to spend much of his time in Cange, returning to Harvard for exams and laboratory work.