



Organization:

Haiti Micah Project
501(c)(3) organization
established in 2005
CFC # 86354

Project:

Haiti Micah Project
A Residential Home for
Street Children and
Vulnerable Children

Location:

Mirebalais, Haiti

Officers:

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant
President
The Rev. James B. May, Jr.
Vice President
Dr. Ruth I. Quartey
Treasurer

Directors:

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The Water of Life: The Living Waters for the World Project

by Sarah Bushman

HMP partnered with First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia, and Living Waters for the World to provide a source of clean water for HMP. Through generous contributions from Grace Episcopal Church and Immanuel Church on the Hill, Alexandria, Virginia, the HMP installed a Water Well that provided raw water that could be used for cooking, bathing and laundry.



Then we built a structure to accommodate the Living Waters for the World water purification system. This system provides clean drinking water for HMP, St. Peter's Episcopal School/Clinic and the surrounding community. Board member Sarah Bushman travelled to Haiti for the opening of the water system and shares her experience here.

Midmorning on a sunny, September Sunday in Mirebalais, Haiti, I found myself marching down the dusty streets of the town singing "Debout sainte cohorte," the French version of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." I wasn't alone. Nearly the entire congregation of St. Pierre (St. Peter's) was marching double-file with me. We wound from the church, down the street and around a bend past the home of Madame Marie-Therese Charite, a Solidarité et Action pour Les Enfants de Sion (SAES) board member and Father Joseph Constant's mother. Our destination was a small cinderblock building next to St. Pierre's clinic (where Dr. Paul Farmer began working in Haiti in the early 1980s).

The building had been painted the day before with colorful logos of The Haiti Micah Project, our partner Living Waters for the World, and the local partner of Living Waters, Solar Under the Sun, who provided the installation and training on the new solar panels and electrical connections. Pere Jean Jeannot Joseph, of St. Pierre's, and Father Constant led the dedication ceremony: first on the front steps; then blessing the apparatus inside; and finally, lifting cups of the purified water to bless them and give attendees the chance to try the product of the new system.

The dedication was the culmination of months of planning. The need for clean water sources became much greater after the cholera outbreak following the January 2010 earthquake. For a time, Mirebalais, located in Haiti's central plateau region, was protected by distance, but the problems in Port-au-Prince would not stay away

President's Report

BLESSED ADVENT SEASON 2011!

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:16-17



On behalf of the children of Haiti, the Haiti Micah Project wishes to express our profound appreciation to you, your congregation, your school, your family, friends and co-workers for your tireless support. By God's grace and through your steadfastness, we have had an incredible year – including providing over 124,800 meals to hungry children, insuring 400 children are enrolled in school and insuring water is available to program participants and residents of Mirebalais through the new water well and purification system! Your financial support, your donation of supplies, your gifts and letters to the children have made it possible for us to impact the lives of these children in an incredible way. We have seen a major transformation in the children we serve.

Several times a year, the Haiti Micah Project sends a shipment of supplies to Haiti. The contents of these shipments usually come from church organization, schools and individuals. In May, I had the wonderful opportunity to be part of a distribution from one of these shipments. The distribution of shoes, shirts, pants, backpacks and school supplies can last several days. One day was devoted to giving the children the teddy bears donated by Holy Cross Episcopal School in Montgomery, Alabama. Each teddy contained a message in Creole to the children, "Bondye ap kenbe'w nan men li, l'ap pwoteje'w e toujou renmen'w." (God will hold you in His arms and He will protect and always love you.)

Each child received their teddy bears as if it was an unexpected gift from God. There is a particular appreciation to receiving something that is unexpected. We don't take it for granted and we deeply value its unexpectedness. We all need tenderness in our lives and there is no tenderness for a child who sleeps on the street, with no food to eat, no clothes to wear, and no school to attend. Such is your challenge and my challenge.



In this Advent season, we are encouraged to stop, breathe deeply and intentionally reflect on the presence of the incarnate Christ in our lives.

Our lives are so overly crowded that sometimes we miss the fact that Christ continues to be born anew in our individual and communal lives. It is God's will that every child comes to know the deep love of God through Christ. The Kingdom of God, which Jesus came to establish is that special place where every child comes to know and experience the deep and abiding love of God. It is indeed that special place where everyone of us, every child in every place can feel God's arms holding us, protecting us and loving us.

This Advent season consider supporting Haiti Micah Project and letting a child feel the love of Christ in their lives.

God's blessings to you,

Father Joseph M. Constant

*The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

Mark 1:3

The Water of Life *(cont'd)*

for long. When cholera was first detected in Mirebalais, the Haiti Micah Board knew we needed to look at alternative water sources for the feeding program and house. A well would save time searching for water and save money by cutting out the need for transportation to and from potable water sources.

The well was dug and the pump installed in May 2011. This was already a boon to the SAES program and immediate neighbors. But the water needed to be clean.

A friend of the board mentioned Living Waters for the World to HMP. We liked the idea of a partner, and the way Living Waters structured their support meant we were not out there alone. They tracked with us through the entire process, testing well water, giving specifications for the pump, and providing a curriculum for teaching about clean water.

I had traveled to Haiti the week before the dedication with the Living Waters team from First Presbyterian, Richmond. They welcomed me in to their group and work. Steve Sigel and Corell Moore were technical experts, Martha Morrill and Hilary Long were educators, and Cindy Mabry and Laura Wright were the team leaders. They all had been to trainings at the Living Waters University and were prepared for anything!

Because of my background in education and French ability, Martha and Hilary made me part of their education team. We gave trainings on the importance of clean water and how and when to use it. We talked about how the new purification system and bottling center would work. Even though Martha and I spoke French, we relied on our guide and driver, Ancy Fils Aime (a beautiful name that means "son of love") to translate key ideas and themes into Kreyol.

The most compelling moments for me, though, were the visits to the orphanage and feeding program. I have worked with HMP in some capacity since 2006 (with a two-year break for Peace Corps) and had planned and worked for these programs sight-unseen. Then I was there, in the midst of them, able to see the results and fully understand, for the first time, the real scope of their impact. Madame



Charite told me, as she ladled out the beans and rice that were making me drool, that they were feeding more than 400 children each day of the program. The children had learned to come in shifts. As the first 100 came in and sat down at wooden benches, another hundred lined up to wait outside. A number of those that came carried small covered pots. When they received their portion, they dumped it into the pot and sat patiently waiting while others finished their meals. They were taking the meals home, maybe to a sick sibling, but more likely to help feed their family.

Mirebalais is a conundrum to me. It is a 90-minute drive from Port-au-Prince, but it feels like a different world with cleaner, broader streets, electricity. It's quiet and people seem happier. I am told there are a number of prominent Haitians who have ties to the city, so it can get attention from the government when something is wrong. That may be true for part of the population; but others, like the families of the children in the feeding program, rely on a single plate of rice and beans every day. The program is also a place where the forgotten can find help. One elderly woman, who was obviously destitute, joined the children and was given food and a bottle of juice. Her own relatives may be gone, but she is not friendless and this charity was offered to her — she did not have to beg.

My favorite moments were with the children in the home maintained by SAES. There are now 21 children ranging in age from about 5 to 15. Hilary, Martha and I tried to teach songs, games and lessons on clean water, but I think our greatest impact came



The Water of Life *(cont'd)*

from simply being there. The moment I walked through the gate, I was swarmed by bright smiles and eager hugs. There is no better welcome! In that way, they are better Christians than all of us. They accepted me and loved me, even though they didn't know who I was or whether I would stay. It was enough that I was there for them in that moment.

Leaving the home the afternoon after the dedication ceremony was very difficult. But I have already resolved to go back.

Earlier that morning, the dedication ceremony ended with the French hymn, "La fontaine de l'eau vive," the fountain of living water. What we installed in Mirebalais is not just a fountain of pota-

ble water, but a means to better health. Through selling some of the bottled water, a job is created for a system operator. People will also be able to see the possibilities for themselves and their families. Access to clean water is an issue for communities worldwide, even sometimes here in the United States. Now, through small and large contributions, we have created a clean water source in the heart of Mirebalais.

2011 Highlights

With your help and support, we have accomplished a great deal in 2011.

We Launched A New Website

As we live in an age of technology, an informative website is critical in sharing information. The Haiti Micah Project wishes to thank Borys Senyk for donating his time and talents to provide HMP with a new website.

HMP Received Two Vehicles from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

Through a generous donation from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, HMP is in possession of two vehicles.

In 2011, we received a 2005 Toyota 4 Runner SUV and a 2007 Nissan Xterra. These vehicles are used to transport the children to school and church and for general use of the program.

Thank you to the Diocese of Virginia for this amazing gift!



HMP Completed Financial Audit

The HMP has completed its 2009 and 2010 audit, done in accordance with GAAP standards.

HMP Shipment

We are grateful to all who donated so generously to the 2011 shipments to Haiti. In September 2011, the Back-to-School Drive was conducted to support the orphanage and the children in the feeding/education program.

Several times a year, HMP sends shipments of clothes, shoes, school and medical supplies and other items to Haiti to support the children in the HMP program. We are grateful to all of you for your donations.



Children of HMP with soccer balls donated by Grace Episcopal School.

The HMP Children Participated in Vacation Bible School

This year, L'Eglise Indigene de Bienfaisance in Mirebalais welcomed the HMP children in their Vacation Bible School program. The children had the opportunity to do bible study, learn new songs, art and crafts, take field trips, and participate in a joyful closing celebration.

HMP 5K Run

On Sunday, October 30, a 5K Run, hosted by Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, took place on the grounds of Episcopal High School to raise much needed funds toward building the new HMP orphanage in Haiti.

A 5K run, a 1K Costumed Fun Run/Walk, and festivities that included great food and many family activities marked the day. Sponsors included area businesses and churches. It was a great festival day for young and old alike. Many of the students at Episcopal ran in the race or served as race marshals.

The HMP wishes to thank Rev. Gideon Pollach, EHS Chaplain, and Mrs. Karen Wires, Grace Episcopal Church, for their tireless efforts in making this day possible. Over \$3,500 was raised for the new orphanage!



The HMP Children

Jessica Doris Loudior's Story

Jessica never knew her father. Her mother, Maculeuse, spent her life begging for food and money. In the Haitian context, Maculeuse would be called a *pòv*, from the French word *pauvrete* or poverty in English. A *pòv* in Haiti is someone who lives in the worst kind of poverty. In Mirebalais, a *pòv*, could be found sleeping at night in the dirty, muddy open air market place. During the day, they begged for food and sometimes performed menial tasks for pennies. For a while, Jessica, her sister and mother lived in the open air market place in Mirebalais.



Open air market in Mirebalais.

But the Azile Communale de Mirebalais became Jessica's home. The Azile is a place that was built in the 1990s to provide housing for some of the *pòv* of



Jessica Doris Loudior

Mirebalais, especially the elderly. However the Azile becomes a shelter for people of all ages seeking a better alternative to the open air market.

At the SAES home, Jessica and the other children are now provided with a safe and stable environment where they will have an opportunity to live out their potential in life. After three years of attending St. Peter's Episcopal School, Jessica receives the highest grades in her class and is now at the top of her class. Jessica continues to build confidence that she is both the present and future of Haiti.

Youth Corner

SYC Storm White Supports Haiti Micah Project

by Claire Constant

I love playing soccer, and so do many kids in Haiti. We have that in common. But here, I don't have to worry about food or where I go to sleep at night.

My dad talked to my soccer team about what the Haiti Micah Project does to help out Haiti. My soccer team, SYC Storm White, thought that since we are blessed with so much great stuff here, like soccer equipment, maybe we could give something back to Haiti. So through the Haiti Micah Project's Sponsor A Child program, we recently started sponsoring a child. We raised over three hundred dollars through a great yard sale and a very successful bake sale.

We all think the project is very inspiring. A girl on my soccer team talked to her older sister about the kid that we were sponsoring, and her sister's team — SYC Stampede — thought that the Sponsor A Child program was cool. So they decided to sponsor a child, too. They raised a lot of money as well. Now two children in Haiti get food each day, education and a chance for a better life. I love helping out the Haiti Micah Project. And so does SYC Storm White!



SYC Storm White. Photo by Nancy Morrissey.

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA

By Mary Ann Ryan

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia, completed its first big Haiti Micah Project Child Sponsorship event with exciting results. By providing sponsorship options for parishioners (and friends), 44 additional Haiti Micah children were added to the 16 children already sponsored by Grace! Grace Church and community now collectively sponsor 60 Haiti Micah children!

The interest in the Haiti Micah Project has been growing at Grace since the Church was introduced to Father Joseph Constant approximately 2 years ago. Recurring articles in our newsletter and bulletins, opportunities for donating needed items to the children, and adult forums with Father Constant as the guest speaker prepared our community for the big sponsorship event.

Conversations with our clergy and parishioners revealed a strong desire to sponsor HMP children and the hope that anyone who wanted to sponsor a child could. Our goal was to create a sponsorship event that was compelling, uncomplicated and would include all parishioners.

The HMP sponsorship event ran for three weeks in

May 2011. The Haiti Micah mission team created a display that provided all the information parishioners would need to sponsor a child. Pictures of 10 Haiti Micah children gave parishioners an opportunity to choose a child to sponsor; others had a child assigned in the traditional way.



Our process provided for two sponsorship options: In Option 1, parishioners could make a donation in any amount to the Grace Church HMP sponsorship fund, or in Option 2, parishioners could choose the traditional individual/group sponsorship. Within Option 2, individuals, families or groups could sponsor a child, and the Haiti Micah options for spreading payments over a defined pe-

riod of time were made available.

At the conclusion of the sponsorship event, our combined parishioner donations to Option 1 resulted in Grace Church sponsoring an additional 21 children! Our Option 2 donations resulted in 23 more children being sponsored by individuals or groups, which include a grandmother and granddaughter team, a six-member Bible study group, and families, who pooled their resources to sponsor a child!

Service to Serve Haiti

By Karen Wires

The Haiti Micah Project participated in two events this year sponsored by Service to Serve Haiti, a newly formed volunteer organization in Washington, D.C. The first event was held on January 16, 2011 at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill. The event, "A Time of Remembrance and Action for Haiti and Martin Luther King National Day of Service," included an inter-faith gathering to remember the January 12, 2010 earthquake and displays from local non-profits who are partnering with Hai-

tian organizations actively reconstructing community services such as schools, clinics, and small businesses. The Haiti Micah Project was one of 15 organizations who displayed their project's work and sought volunteers to raise material and financial support. Refreshments included Haitian food and Haitian coffee. An ecumenical service, developed by Father Joseph Constant and the Reverend Andy Walton, First Presbyterian Church, Capitol Hill, featured music with Mr. Jean-Luc Princivil, a well-known Haitian Counter

Service to Serve Haiti *(cont'd)*

Tenor, and Bill Nathan, a Haitian Drummer. Speakers included The Reverend Roger Desir, a Haitian priest, known for translating the Bible into Creole, and Ms. Leigh Carter, from Fonkoze. After the decimation of his house during the earthquake, Father Desir and his wife temporarily relocated to Alexandria, Virginia. Ms. Carter spoke of her terrifying experiences during the earthquake and her miraculous rescue.

The second event sponsored by Service to Serve Haiti was held March 18 at the E Street Theater in Washington DC. Father Constant spoke on behalf of HMP. The documentary, "Lift Up," was shown and the audience had the opportunity to meet the

producers. The movie tells the heartwarming story of two brothers who return after the earthquake to their native Haiti to pay tribute to their beloved grandfather who has died. Unable to keep a promise to him concerning his death and burial, the brothers decide to build a kite in his honor. With the help of Haitian family members and members of the community, the kite is built and returned to the United States. With a universal message and appeal, they fly their kite at the Smithsonian Kite Festival, ultimately paying tribute not only to their grandfather, but to all who died in the earthquake. Benefits from the showing were donated to Haiti Micah Project, Fonkoze, and St. Vincent's School for the Handicapped.

Contacting HMP

Should you have any questions, please contact Karen Wires, volunteer administrative assistant at knwires@msn.com or the Rev. Joseph Constant, HMP President at jconstant@haiti-micah.org.



The Haiti Micah Project and our sister organization,
Solidarité et Action pour Les Enfants de Sion, wish you and your loved ones a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

List of supporting parishes, schools and organizations

HAITI MICAH PROJECT'S SUPPORTING DIOCESES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Frederick, Maryland
 Antioch Baptist Church, Orange County, California
 Beauvoir School, Washington, D.C.
 Brooks Episcopal School, North Andover, Massachusetts
 Burke and Herbert Bank, Alexandria, Virginia
 Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), Vienna, Virginia
 Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria, Virginia
 Churchwomen of St. Stephen's, Seattle, Washington
 DBA Mwalagho Productions, Alexandria, Virginia
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Southern Pines, North Carolina
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia
 Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg, Maryland
 Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, Milton, Massachusetts
 Episcopal Diocese of New York, NY/Church of the Heavenly Rest
 Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Washington, D.C.
 Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Virginia
 Epiphany Parish of Seattle, Seattle, Washington
 First Rock Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
 Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Sammamish, WA
 Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia
 Grace Episcopal Church, The Plains, Virginia
 Hard Times Cafe
 Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia
 The Key School, Annapolis, Maryland
 Living Word Church in Washington, D.C.
 Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, Virginia
 National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians, Silver Spring, Maryland
 Order of the Daughters of the King, Woodstock, Georgia
 Professional and Scientific Associates, Reston, Virginia
 Sankofa International Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
 St. Agnes Guild of St. Dunstan Church, Seattle, Washington
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia
 St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia
 St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington
 St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Oakwood, California
 St. George's Episcopal Church, Valley Lee, Maryland
 St. James' Episcopal Church, Indian Head, Maryland
 St. James' Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia
 St. James Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Ashville, North Carolina
 St. John's Episcopal Church, King George, Virginia
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Orchard Park, New York
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia
 St. Mary of the Hills School, Milton, Massachusetts
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Georgia
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, King George, Virginia
 St. Paul's ECW, King George, Virginia
 St. Peter's Church, Peekskill, New York
 St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Alexandria, Virginia
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington
 St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Taunton, Massachusetts
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley, Idaho
 SYC Stampede, Fairfax Station, Virginia
 SYC Storm White, Fairfax Station, Virginia
 The Opp Shop, King George, Virginia
 Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee, Landover, Maryland
 Trinity Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia
 Wellesley Congregational Church, Wellesley, Massachusetts
 Westwood Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia
 Woman's Club of Essex County, Tappahannock, Virginia
 WorldPlay, Inc., Forest Hills, New York
 Zoe Group Foundation, Washington, D.C.

HAITI MICAH PROJECT

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