The Haiti Micah Project Newsletter

Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti

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Organization:
Haiti Micah Project
501(c)(3) organization established in 2005

Project:
Haiti Micah Project
A Residential Home for Street Children

Location:
Mirebalais, Haiti

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The Haiti Micah Project has Official Home in Mirebalais, Haiti

Last July, members of the Haiti Micah Project Board of Directors traveled to Mirebalais, Haiti, and spent a week with the children now resident in HMP's new house, operated by the Solidarité et Action pour les Enfants de Sion (SAES). Currently, six girls and four boys, ranging in age from four to ten, live in the house, along with four dedicated staff members.

The house opened with a spirited celebration on April 18, 2009. During the intervening months, the residents have adjusted well to their new, comforting environment. During our visit, the children enjoyed interacting with us and learning a few English phrases. They proudly wore their T-shirts with HMP's newly designed logo. We must thank graphic designer Stephanie Cahill for the logo!

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President's Column

Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me." Then they will answer and say, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?" He will answer them, "Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."
Matthew 25:42-43

It goes without saying that the street and vulnerable children of Haiti fall under the category of "one of these least ones" that Jesus refers to in this passage from Matthew's gospel. The children we serve live in extreme poverty, which means if not for a project like Haiti Micah Project (HMP), these children would have no access to food, shelter, education and religious education. In Mirebalais, for example, a walk through the local market reveals the extent of the need in much of Haiti: One sees baskets filled with dried mud cakes, which are sold to those persons who cannot afford to purchase fruit or vegetables and who have no other means to fill their stomachs. These mud cakes have become ubiquitous artifacts of the country's poverty.

Through your continual support, HMP is determined to bring relief to God's children in Haiti. We continue to provide a daily meal for over 150 children. We have provided tuition stipends for over 70 children to ensure that every child registered in the program attends school. We have hired an instructor to provide after school tutorial support to these children who have no adult supervision.

The most significant step that HMP took this year was to sign a lease agreement for rental property that allows us to begin providing shelter for up to 24 children. The good news is that we are sustaining and enhancing the life of these children. Indeed, the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news when God's children are loved, fed, clothed, and cared for. It is with great humility that I offer words of thanks to you and your family for your continued prayers and support for the children of Haiti.

Faithfully,
Father Joseph M. Constant

New Home for Haiti Micah Project in Mirebalais *(cont'd.)*

We have recently received many generous donations to facilitate the everyday productivity of the house. At the opening ceremonies, members of St. James's Episcopal Church of Richmond, Virginia, were able to distribute directly their contributions of various household and school supplies. With a generous donation from the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria, Virginia, and a grant from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Seattle, Washington, we

were able to purchase furniture to make this new house into a home for the children to enjoy.

Thanks to Holy Comforter Episcopal Church of Falls Church, Virginia, we now have a new computer, printer and fax machine that will allow regular communication between SAES and HMP. Also, we are happy to report that the feeding program is still in great demand and is thriving, feeding over 150 street children one hot meal a day. Moveover, we continue to provide educa-

Meet The Children

tion stipends and afterschool adult supervision to the children in HMP's program.

Meet two siblings who are now residing in HMP's new facility. The two children, Kervents (age 5) and Roselaine (age 8), were abandoned by their mother and father who were unable to provide properly for them. Their father suffered from depression and despair, and the two young children were at risk and needed a safer place to reside. Their grandmother attempted to care for them but was physically and financially unable to care for the children. The grandmother turned to HMP for help, and now Kervents and Roselaine are

Kervents, Age 5

HMP's Future Plans

both in school and under full care in their new home.

HMP is excited about its future plans for the existing house, which will accommodate potentially 14 more children. Additionally, HMP is optimistic about its plans for the construction of a new orphanage in Mirebalais. The current plan is to build a facility that will house 120 at risk-street children in a 15,000-square-foot building.

Roselaine, Age 8

Sponsor-A-Child Program

HMP has established the Sponsor-A-Child Program for the children in the orphanage (http://www.haiti-micah.org). The program invites interested donors to sponsor a child, paying for both food and tuition for a child for a year. We are asking sponsors to provide a minimum one-year commitment at a cost of $300. We also welcome monthly donations of $25 per month per child, for a minimum commitment of one year. The initial response has been very positive. To date, the Sponsor-A-Child program has received commitments for the sponsorship of eight children, as well as a commitment to sponsor a family who is in great need of support. The Sponsor-A-Child Program will facilitate and encourage regular communications between the sponsors and their respective children or families.

Recent Donations to HMP and Thanks

Our recent fundraising drives to support HMP have met with much success.

We would like to thank Michelle Baptiste, an HMP board member, who organized the collection of 150 Christmas packages for all of our children in Mirebalais last Christmas. The packages were delivered and distributed to the children, who were extremely thrilled.

We thank Madeleine Gleave, a high school student, who conducted a fundraising drive at her school for the children of Haiti. They shipped over 25 boxes of school supplies and shoes to the children of HMP.

We also thank The Pirates of the Old Dominion who donated the proceeds from their holiday fundraiser to the Haiti Micah Project.

We would also like to express a continued thank you to the Essex County Federated Women's Club for their support of HMP.

We thank the Rev. David Marshall and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Seattle, Washington, for their contribution as part of the Rev. Marshall's installation as the new Rector.

We thank St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., for their contribution as part of the installation service of their new Rector.

We thank St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Seattle, WA for their grant to help with furnishing the house for the children.

We thank Immanuel Church on-the-Hill in Alexandria, Virginia, for their grant to help with furnishing the house for the children.

We thank Mariah Pollard and her daughter for their donation of supplies.

Finally, many thanks to the volunteers at the Opp Shop at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, who donate their proceeds to HMP each quarter.

Thank you to all of the generous donors and supporters of our mission.

Our partner churches that provide regular support include:

Church of the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Vienna, Virginia

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia

Living Word Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington

St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, King George, Virginia

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Taunton, Massachusetts

Sankofa International Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

The Haiti Micah Project continues to bring relief to God's Children in Haiti. We ask that you keep these children and their caretakers in your prayers, as well as the entire population of Haiti during this hurricane season.

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