The Effects of Grace

By Mary Ann Ryan

Thanks to the generosity of the Grace Episcopal Church Alexandria parishioners and friends, our third annual Haiti Micah Sponsorship Event was a huge success! We are thrilled to report that all 70 of the Haiti Micah children sponsored by Grace Church in 2012 will remain in our church family for another year, and it looks like we will be able to bring a few more children into the fold. Our Church’s commitment to the Haiti Micah children remains incredibly strong. In 2012 and again in 2013 Grace Church collected funds during child sponsorship events, and we sent additional funding each year from the Outreach Committee to support the ten children our committee sponsors.

Grace Church listens to Fr. Constant when he identifies critical needs for the children. In both 2011 and 2013 Grace Church submitted a Mustard Seed Grant proposal to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia to support important new resources for the Haiti Micah children. We were very grateful that both years, the Diocese granted our full request to help build a water treatment center to provide clean water for the children (2011) and to help build the vocational training center (2013). In addition, through the generosity of the Grace Church vestry, our Mustard Seed grants were matched one-to-one.

We thank Fr. Constant and those who work with the children for providing food, clean water, clothing, education, and basic medical care for 500 of the poorest of the poor children in Mirebalais. We know that for each child our Church sponsors, Haiti Micah is able to use existing funds to support another child. We are also very clear that every child sponsored, is a child who has the opportunity for a future that includes work, family and God’s grace.
Be Part of the Solution—Sponsor a Child

The Sponsor a Child program provides a child who lives in abject poverty the opportunity for food, water, clothing, and education. Many of our children come from the Azile, a government facility where people are all but forgotten. Without your support and commitment, many of the 500 children currently participating in the HMP program are at risk of not getting their basic daily needs met. The Sponsorship program is a personal commitment that offers safety, security, and hope for each child’s future. At this time of year when families are struggling to provide the basic necessities for an education, the needs are even greater. Families in Mirebalais, look to HMP for hope. We need you to help us provide for a better future. Please join the other 250 sponsors who support our efforts and are the backbone of our work. Please go to our website, www.haiti-micah.org and click “How You Can Help.”

A Bittersweet Send-off

Eleanor Braun, member of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Vienna, VA, is leaving her position on the HMP Board to begin a much anticipated restful retirement in Cape Cod. Eleanor has brought invaluable insight to the board the past five years, first as a member of the advisory committee, then as a board member. Eleanor has been instrumental in moving the HMP communication strategy forward and helping us help the children of Haiti. We will miss Eleanor, but know she is never too far away!

Next Shipment

The next shipment to Haiti will be in November. We ask to receive all boxed donations by Friday, November 8. We deeply appreciate donations of new items with a priority for the following items:

- New shoes and sneakers
- Soap, Deodorant, Body Lotion, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Please bring your donations to: Immanuel Church-on-the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. You may drop off your donations Monday-Thursday (9:00 am - 4:30 pm) and Friday (9:00 am -1:00 pm).