Every day, The Haiti Micah Project and our partner in Mirebalais, Solidarite et Action pour les Enfants de Sion (SAES), meet the basic needs of street and at-risk children. We provide food, education, medical care, clean water and housing. We responded to the immediate calls for help after the January 2010 earthquake but the focus has shifted, now, to longer-term needs. Older children in the feeding program and orphanage, some of whom have been with the program since its beginning, are looking toward their future and job opportunities. Children left with no home or families after the earthquake need to find livelihoods.

Tassy Jeune, a skilled young man from Port-au-Prince, has been training some of the older children in carpentry, furniture making and art projects on a volunteer basis. Tassy is currently training 20 students in the program.

In response to this opportunity, HMP is in the process of creating a formal vocational carpentry program for the older children. Elder Rick Greenlee, studying at the Howard University School of Divinity, discovered the Haiti Micah Project through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). After the 2010 earthquake, he wanted to help Haiti in some way and began giving to Haiti Micah through the CFC. But he wanted to do more.

For Elder Greenlee, the vocational program is about “not just taking care of the children, but helping them take care of themselves.” As part of his field education at Howard, he is organizing efforts to fundraise and buy materials and equipment to enable the program’s lead instructor to begin formal training. “We are attempting to take a great program to another level and teach students to lead purposeful lives.”

The Rev. Joseph Constant, president of the Haiti Micah Board, sees a broad vision of expanding the program into other areas in the future. “Given Haiti’s high unemployment rate, the possibility of providing a young person with the necessary skills to obtain a job will not only benefit that person and their family, but it will benefit all of Haiti in the long-run.”

Both the SAES and HMP board members are determined to expand our visions in ways that will bring revenues to the project as well. This vocational school will take into consideration ways to sell the items built by our young people in the form of a micro-enterprise to contribute to long-term sustainability. If you are interested in supporting the HMP Vocational Training Program, please contact Karen Wires at knwires@msn.com.
Updates from Haiti

Education is the key to the future

This is the time in Haiti when thousand of young people are required to take state exams. These exams are required to measure student’s readiness for the next grade level. For 12\textsuperscript{th} graders (or Philo), a special exam is given which determines if a student will graduate high school. Next year, HMP anticipates that several students from their program will be taking the 12\textsuperscript{th} grade exam. We are working to insure these students are prepared for this milestone event. In the meantime, we have 35 students taking other state exams hoping for successful examinations.

For these exams, students are not expected to wear uniforms. For the majority of students and parents, this is a source of great stress as they are expected to dress well. The HMP insures that our children have the necessary fees, clothes and supplies for these exams.

We wish our students and all students taking their official state exams God’s blessings. It is our prayer that they will be successful and will continue with their education.

Progress in Haiti

As Haiti continues to recover from the devastating earthquake, in our recent trips to Haiti we have seen progress. The removal and clearing of debris have paved the way for new construction throughout the capital. Many of the tent cities are being removed and their inhabitants are being relocated although thousand continue to live in deplorable conditions in other tent cities, like the major one on our way to Mirebalais. The government has inaugurated their free education program and many students have benefited from that program. The government has also put into place a public school transportation system, which is a blessing to many school children who otherwise would have to walk long distance to school. Roads continue to be built.

Mirebalais has a new hospital built by Partners in Health and its Haiti sister organization Zanmi Lasante. The majority of Haitians don’t have access to the most basic health care, which results in untimely deaths to mothers and fathers, young and old. The new hospital in Mirebalais, with more than 300 beds, is a major gift to the local community and all of Haiti.

We continue to pray for those in leadership position in Haiti. It is critical that we insure a better future for the children and people of Haiti.
President’s Report

On May 18, 2012, I traveled to Haiti with a group of students from Virginia Theological Seminary for a course entitled Reading the Epistle of James in Haiti, which I co-taught this spring with our New Testament professor, The Rev. Dr. Katherine Grieb. In the course, we split our time between studying the Epistle of James and studying Haiti’s history, culture and language. At the end of the course, the entire class went to Haiti for an immersion experience. During our time together, we listened closely to what James had to tell us about the current situation in Haiti where so many people continue to live in extreme poverty. James tells us, “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?”

While in Haiti, we spent a considerable amount of time visiting and observing the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Haiti. In Haiti, the Episcopal Church takes seriously its commission to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God by continually increasing its presence through its Churches, schools, clinics and hospitals. The gospel is Good News when a person can worship God in community. The gospel is Good News when a person has access to a decent home, education, health care, food and clean water.

Our Seminarians also spent time visiting and working in the programs supported by the Haiti Micah Project. We visited the water treatment center, which was built by HMP in partnership with Living Waters for the World and other institutions. In the back of the center, the Seminarians planted trees. The group participated in our feeding program for at-risk children in the Mirebalais community at St. Peter’s Church (L’église St. Pierre.) This is a hot meal offered to more than 400 children, and if not for the HMP, these children most likely would not have had access to a meal. The HMP ensures that each child attends school by providing tuition stipends, shoes, uniforms and school supplies. The seminarians also visited the 22 children living in the HMP orphanage. These children, who used to live in the most inhuman conditions, are well cared for 24 hours a day and

James in Haiti group with the 22 children living in the HMP orphanage

James in Haiti Group planting trees

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:14-16 (NIV)
President’s Report, cont.

James in Haiti group member, Rev. Leslie Steffensen serving meals in HMP feeding program

they are thriving. “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead”, says James.

In the most convincing way, James encourages us to use the gifts that God has blessed us with to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than we are. It is not enough to believe in the eternal God. We must be willing to partner with God in the on-going work of creation. In a place like my beloved Haiti, this on-going work of creation has to do with investing in the lives of God’s people, especially children. It has to do with protecting the environment and planting trees and preserving Haiti’s natural resources. It has to do with partnering with the Haitian people and together envisioning a future where every Haitian can live and die in dignity with the assurance of eternal life in the God who says, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:3 (NIV)

The Haitian people will need our support for years to come as they continue to recover from the devastating earthquake. I am grateful that you have chosen the Haiti Micah Project as one of the ways you are putting your faith in action.

Faithfully,
Fr. Joseph Murrenz Constant

Successes and Events

Haiti Micah started off 2012 with a number of exciting events!

Fundraiser in memory of Wil Grant

The Pirates of the Potomac and the Parrotheads of the Old Dominion held their annual Midwinter Meltdown in January 2012. The event raises money for local charities and this year also raised approximately $1,700 for the Haiti Micah Project.

The effort involved the silent auction of various items donated in memory of Wil Grant, a beloved pirate who passed away during the prior year. Wil was an ardent supporter of the Haiti Micah Project and loved the beautiful Haitian children that it supports. Wil will be missed but his spirit was celebrated as his friends helped raise money for HMP!
**Benefit Concert**

On March 18, the Laura Hall Music Academy in Vienna, VA, presented a powerful benefit concert for the Haiti Micah Project. Following introductions and opening remarks, Fr. Constant gave a very well received presentation of the work that Haiti Micah Project has been doing in Haiti. He elaborated on the organization's beginnings, its mission, and its vision.

Mr. Miron Yampolsky, a Russian-born cellist, then followed with brief narratives of the notable musical characteristics of the pieces to be played. After his narration, he proceeded to perform the several deeply emotive movements of the Bach Suite for Unaccompanied Cello #2 and #3. It was an exquisite performance. At the conclusion of the nearly hour long concert, Fr. Constant and Haiti Micah board member, Ossen D’Haiti, presented to Mr. Yampolsky meaningful tokens of appreciation. The concert was then followed by an intimate reception where the audience got a chance to meet Mr. Yampolsky, Rev. Joseph Constant, and each other. The reception was sponsored by two local businesses. Danielle Poux, owner of Danielle's Desserts of Tysons Galleria provided sweets. Mr. Euseekers Williams, President and Founder of Elegua Consulting, sponsored hors d'oeuvres.

The benefit concert exceeded its target goal due to the generosity of some benefactors who donated more than the suggested amount, as well as a few who did not attend the concert but made a financial commitment. The benefit concert raised $820.

The Haiti Micah Project would like to thank Mrs. Maxine D’Haiti, Mr. Miron Yampolsky, sponsors and supporters for a wonderful event.

**St. Mary of the Hills School Walks for Haiti**

*by Thalia Etienne, Jacob Martens and Janelle Saint-Eloi with Karen Wires*

Leadership is an attribute that students at St. Mary of the Hills School (SMOTH) in Milton, Massachusetts put into practice. They don’t just study it; they live it. Upon returning from the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., last summer, 7th-Grader Thalia Etienne and 6th-Graders Jacob Martens and Janelle Saint-Eloi were determined to rally their school community to make an impact on the world around them. Many students were impacted by the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti; a country several of the students used to call home. SMOTH had been involved with Haiti even before the disaster when they sponsored a child from the Haiti Micah Project.

Under the guidance of their teacher, Alexia Etienne and Julie Marotta, the three students began planning a walk event with proceeds going to the Haiti Micah Project to build a bigger orphanage for children who had no home and lived in abject poverty. Students were required to speak before the Milton Town Hall to request the appropriate permits. The Milton Police Department provided two officers on motorcycles to en-
St. Mary of the Hills Walk for Haiti, cont.

sure everyone’s safety. In February students were allowed to dress down from their usual school uniforms for a school day after purchasing a $2.00 donation. This raised $600 to kick off the event. The First Annual Walkathon was held April 29 with T-shirts provided for the first 175 participants. A breakfast was held that morning at the school. Walkers had three routes to choose: a 2 mile, a 3 mile, and 7-mile.

For the students the highlight of the event was probably not even the amazing $4,262 dollars that they raised, but rather seeing their Principal, Lisa Fasano, lead them on the 7.72 mile walk to the finish line. When the three student leaders were asked what they enjoyed most, Thalia thought the best parts were the preparation and going to Town Hall. Both she and Jacob enjoyed coming to school on Saturday to set up. Janelle was excited when more people showed up than anticipated. The students wish to thank their teachers Mrs. Alexia Etienne and Julie Marotta, parents Mrs. Martens and Mrs. Saint Eloi, Mrs. Marotta, Mrs. Vasta, and Principal Ms. Fasano, faculty, and staff. All agreed that by every measure, the Walk for Haiti was a success and will lay the foundation for future, larger events in the name of charity. Perhaps even more importantly, the seeds of community outreach and leadership have been firmly planted in the minds and hearts of the several hundred students and their extremely proud faculty and staff.

Haiti Micah Project would like to thank St. Mary of the Hill’s School for their time, talent, and treasure. Their enthusiasm and resourcefulness is an inspiration for us all.
Episcopal High School Visit to Haiti

During spring break in March 2012, The Rev. Gideon Pollach, Chaplain at Episcopal High School, led a group of staff members and nine students to visit Haiti Micah Project and the Partners in Health Hospital in Cange, Haiti. While at the HMP facilities they planted trees around the newly built water treatment facility, shared toys and played with the children, observed the feeding program, and visited the orphanage. Their trip to Cange included a tour of the facility made famous in the Pulitzer Prize winning book by Tracey Kidder, Mountains Beyond Mountains.

Sponsor a Child Program
By Karen Wires

The Sponsor a Child program continues to prove a great way to support the Haiti Micah Project. Together you support 259 children in Mirebalais, enabling them to go to school, have good food, and most importantly, a chance at a better life. Thank you.

Two churches had very successful spring campaigns: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley, Idaho and Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA. Each church is currently supporting between 70-80 children for the second year in a row. Their commitment and passion for the program is vital and has been unwavering.

In addition, currently 47 children are supported by individuals across the USA. We continue to seek ways to build a support system that will facilitate communication between the children and their sponsors. Sponsors are encouraged to write and send photos to the children.

As updated photos of the children are becoming available, we are mailing them to sponsors. Please contact Karen Wires if you have any questions concerning the sponsorship program. (knwires@msn.com)

Special Thanks!

The boards of both the Haiti Micah Project and Les Enfants de Sion wish to extend special thanks to Rev. James May, of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in King George, VA. Rev. May resigned from the HMP board this spring. He served faithfully as Vice-President for several years and has been a member of the board since 2006. His thoughtful leadership has seen the evolution of HMP from an idea to a thriving project that supports over 400 children in Haiti’s central plateau. He was instrumental in bringing other board members on, including Richard Frazer and Sarah Bushman. He will be missed, but we know he will continue to support HMP through his work in St. Paul’s and the Episcopal Church. Many blessings, Jim!
Thank You to Our Haiti Partners

We are grateful to our sister organization in Haiti Solidarite et Action pour les Enfants de Sion (SAES). This group includes the community leaders of Mirebalais who have taken on the challenge of providing much-needed support to a population of children who desperately needed God’s people to intervene in their lives. We are equally grateful to the staff who work tirelessly to prepare, serve meals and care for the children at the orphanage. We are blessed with a group of volunteers who work day in and day out with the children to ensure that they are fed, clothed, educated and remain healthy. Through their determination and goodwill, these children are able to dream of a better future.

HMP Back to School Shipment to Mirebalais

HMP is gathering items for the orphanage and for the feeding/education program. Altogether, HMP is tending to the basic needs of 400 at-risk and vulnerable children. The shipment will leave Virginia for Haiti on September 1, 2012. Here is a list of what the children need:

(New) Shoes, Sneakers, Sandals (ages 4-18)
School supplies
Art Supplies
(New) Underwaer, undershirts, socks (ages 4-18)
Toiletries (bath soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body lotion)
Hair care (combs, shampoo, brushes, barrettes)

Please deliver or send all items for shipment to Rev. Joseph Constant no later than August 29, 2012.

Send Items to:
The Rev. Joseph Constant
Haiti Micah Project
3706 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304
Tel: 703-328-5808

For those of you sponsoring a child or family, this is also an opportunity to send a care package to your child. Please make sure the package is clearly marked on the outside with the child’s or family’s name.

Contacting HMP

Should you have any questions, please contact Karen Wires, HMP Board Member at knwires@msn.com or the Rev. Joseph Constant, HMP President at jconstant@haitimicah.org.

Upcoming Events

Don’t miss the Haiti Micah Project 5k Fun Run and 1k Walk this fall at Episcopal High School in Alexandria!

Last year the run raised over $3,500 for the new orphanage.
Let’s make it even bigger this year!

Be on the lookout for more information and signup details.
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, 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, Georgia
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, Asheville, 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.