Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti

Celebrating a wonderful year!

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. Please consider Haiti Micah Project in your prayers and holiday giving!


Daniel Roachford, of Spencerville, Maryland, was searching for a partner organization for his Eagle Scout Service project. After talking to other scout leaders, he knew he wanted to do something that would benefit young people abroad, possibly in Haiti. His older brother was working on his Eagle Scout project around the time of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti and Daniel began to think he wanted to help a country that had been through so much.

One day, his father brought home a brochure from a church meeting. It was about the Haiti Micah Project and Daniel felt he had found the right partner. He liked that HMP was “focused on just one country” and that their programs were targeted.

The Eagle Scout Rank is the highest merit award of the Boy Scouts of America. One of the requirements to earn this rank is to conduct a service project that is meant to demonstrate service and the part of the Scout Oath that states, “to help other people at all times.” In addition, Scouts learn and develop leadership skills, management skills and responsibility for a large project.

Daniel’s project idea was to collect school and art supplies and toys for the children in the HMP feeding program and orphanage. He enlisted his fellow scout troop members to put donation boxes in their respective schools. His
President's Report

And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name’” Luke 1:46-49

Blessed Advent Season 2012!

The challenges facing Haiti are daunting. In the best of circumstances, it takes a long time to rebuild from a major storm, like Hurricane Sandy. In my beloved country, it takes even longer given the number of consecutive storms the country has to deal with, the non-existing infrastructure, and the limited resources.

The devastation of the January 2010 earthquake continues to be visible in Haiti. The January 2010 earthquake left more than 250,000 dead and immense infrastructure damage including churches and schools. In less than a year, Haiti was introduced to an outbreak of cholera.

This year, Tropical Isaac poured heavy rain in the Northern part of Haiti and destroyed farms. Hurricane Sandy caused great devastation in the Southern part of Haiti killing more than 54 people. Farmers have lost their crops which often serve as their only hope to provide for themselves and their families.

The result of these disasters is a dramatic shortage of food, resulting in rising food prices. According to the United Nations, hundreds and thousands of Haitians are at risk of hunger and malnutrition. It is predicted that the intense flooding and subsequent infrastructure damage will result in an increase in cholera cases, a disease that has killed more than 7,500 Haitians since 2010.

Through the children we serve in the Haiti Micah Project, we are responding. This past year, we have provided a daily meal to more than 400 children. We have ensured that every child in the program attends school by providing tuition stipends, uniforms, shoes and school supplies. We continue to provide clean water to the children and the surrounding community through our Water Treatment Center. While, these natural disasters continue to take a toll on a nation that has been suffering both physically and mentally, we are making a difference.

Through Mary, God came into the world in the form of Jesus Christ and gave each and everyone of us a chance at life. In her song of praise, Mary acknowledges God’s goodness and kindness in choosing her, amidst her poverty. God is determined to lift up the poor, release the oppressed and restore the suffering to wholeness. In looking at the many challenges facing a country like Haiti, it would be easy to simply give up and throw the towel of defeat. However, God chose to send His son Jesus Christ to bear our burdens and give us the gift of life. With the Holy Spirit guiding us and leading us, God is using you and me to lessen the burdens of a group of children in Mirebalais and give them the gift of life.

In this season of Advent, we prepare our heart and soul to receive the bless-
grandparents put a box in their church, Christ the King Episcopal Church in Willingboro, New Jersey, and Daniel put boxes in his own school, Paint Branch High School and his church, St. George’s Episcopal Church in DC.

One challenge for the high school junior was presenting his project to groups of people. His principal, Mrs. Jeannette Dixon, invited him to present his project at the Back-to-School night and Daniel spoke to individual parents and his Scout Troop about his project. He remembers he was nervous, but excited, too. His friends and family helped monitor the donation boxes and Daniel and his dad collected them and along with his Scout volunteers they sorted the donations before bringing them to HMP.

The biggest challenge was communicating with different friends and school contacts outside of Paint Branch High School. Sometimes his friends did not respond to email, but Daniel found seeking them out in person enabled him to keep them motivated. Being a Boy Scout also helped him make connections with contacts he had never met. An administrator at one of the schools he worked with remembered his own time in the Boy Scouts.

Daniel’s favorite aspect of the project was “watching the donation supplies rise,” and seeing the support of his friends and family. “I’m able to help you guys to do what needed to be done,” he says. He enjoys knowing that children in Mirebalais will receive these supplies and toys and remember someone far away is thinking of them. For Daniel, it’s a good feeling “to help someone in the world who needs help.”

Daniel will officially complete his Eagle Scout project when he presents his work before a board of review. The Haiti Micah Board of Directors congratulates Daniel on his achievement and would like to express their deepest gratitude for his work to benefit the children of Mirebalais, Haiti.

Eagle Scout Service Project (cont.)

Like Mary, God chose you and me to reveal God’s Word and love to a group of children in Mirebalais. When life seemed to offer them no chance at all, you allowed God to use your gifts and talent to show these children that God cares for them. In spite of the many challenges facing Haiti, we remain hopeful.

As you begin your Advent journey, please remember the children of Haiti in your prayers. We depend on your continued support to make God’s dream a reality in their lives.

God’s blessings,
Father Joseph M. Constant
Sundresses for Smiles (Excerpted from the Mount Vernon Gazette, September 2012)

In Summer 2012, Mount Vernon area Girl Scout Troop 874 created a project that would enable them to help other girls far away. “Many of the Girl Scouts had no previous experience with sewing, but they learned to sew and recruited friends and community members to help.” They designed and sewed 82 dresses for girls in the HMP orphanage in Mirebalais. Those girls too young to sew made friendship bracelets to go with the brightly colored dresses. The community pitched in to donate yards of fabric and materials. The 82 dresses were shipped to the orphanage this fall.

HMP Completed Financial Audit

The HMP has completed its 2011 audit, done in accordance with GAAP standards. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of our audited financial statement, please contact Karen Wires at knwires@icloud.com.

Grace Episcopal School, Alexandria Sends Reading Textbooks

Haiti Micah Project wishes to thank Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria for its continued support over the years. When it was time to purchase a new reading series for their elementary aged children this year, the Head of School, Chris Byrnes, again thought of Haiti Micah Project. Rather than tossing the old ones out, 12 boxes of reading texts were donated for use in the HMP English learning program. In addition, parents and children have generously donated school supplies as a beginning of their school year activity and health related items. None was more appreciated by the children than the soccer balls, soccer being a national pastime in Haiti.
Sponsor a Child Program
By Karen Wires

Do you want to make a real difference in a child’s life? One that their life depends on? Become a sponsor in the Sponsor a Child Program. Your sponsorship is a way to best assure Haiti Micah Project of a steady source of income. It is also a way to make a personal connection with a child. Watch them grow and change. Your support can make a lifetime worth of difference.

We are currently developing new ways to make connections with each sponsored child. Each sponsor receives a photo of their child and updates as we learn more information about the child. Sponsors are encouraged to send a photo, a letter, card, and any information you would like to share about yourself, your family, your pets! As shipments and mission trips occur, sponsors are encouraged to send a small gift and holiday remembrances.

Currently 250 children are sponsored. That leaves approximately 150 children needing someone who thinks of them as special. Although all the HMP children are assured of getting their daily needs and education met, children in HMP also need someone interested in them as a person, someone caring enough to develop a special bond with them.

As Christmas comes, please consider a new tradition and bring a new member into your hearts and home. To become a sponsor, please or go to www.haiti-micah.org and click the tab “How You Can Help” and complete the sponsorship application OR mail your application to:
Haiti Micah Project
3706 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

For more information, please contact knwires@icloud.com

REMINDER: Haiti Micah Project encourages SPONSORS to please send a photo of themselves and their families to be put in a display at the project in Mirebalais. If your PARTNER CHURCH or ORGANIZATION has a group photo, please send a copy to us for the display. If you wish, photos can be very personal showing a particular interest you might have, your pet, etc. Please feel free to attach a message that will be put on the back of the photo.

Photos may be emailed to knwires@icloud.com or mailed to:

Haiti Micah Project 3706 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304.
What Can We Do?

Ever thought your church wasn’t big enough to make an impact? Consider partnering with another church in your area to support the Haiti Micah mission. For more ideas, contact us and check out our partner list at www.haiti-micah.org

Contacting HMP

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

Vocational Program Update

Epiphany Church in Seattle, Washington has donated $3,000 towards the purchase of tools for the HMP Vocational Program. These tools will be much appreciated by the students in Haiti and enable them to gain marketable skills.

For more updates and to find out what you can do, please visit www.haiti-micah.org or contact Rev. Joseph Constant, HMP President at jconstant@haiti-micah.org

HMP Shipment to Mirebalais

We are grateful to all who donated so generously to the 2012 Back-to-school shipment to Haiti. This shipment 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.

Contacting HMP

Upcoming Events

Join Ten Thousand Villages in raising funds to help HMP combat hunger and rising food prices. Do your holiday shopping December 13,7:00pm-9:00pm at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. For more information contact: www.haiti-micah.org or Karen Wires, knwires@icloud.com
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, 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.