



The
Haiti Micah
Project

Highlights

Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti

November 2013

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
William J. Taczak, Jr
Vice President
Dr. Ruth I. Quartey
Secretary
James Snow
Treasurer

Directors:

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The Rev. Rudolph Stewart III
Karen Wires

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Pierre Shostal

Newsletter:

Sarah Bushman, Editor

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In our short eight-year history, the Haiti Micah Project (HMP) has made great strides in giving hope and material assistance to the street children in Mirebalais, Haiti. Our orphanage, meal program, educational assistance, medical clinic, and water purification facilities are making a real difference in the lives of these children. Indeed, in many cases, we are literally saving lives. The Holy Spirit is at work among us, and we are succeeding because of the generosity of churches, organizations and individuals. This is truly gratifying, and we thank you.

I want to announce a wonderful offer of a challenge grant of \$25,000 from **The Charles W. Engelhard Foundation** for our vocational school project, and we need your help. We have long recognized the challenges presented us in Haiti. Our children need not only food and clothing, but also a future. Training and education are the only way out of a cycle of poverty. We want our children to grow up to be self-sustaining and contributing members of their community. Toward that goal, we have started a vocational school to provide training in carpentry, computers, sewing, decorative arts, and similar skills. Through dedicated HMP volunteers, the school has already begun to operate, but it is still in its infancy.

We are off to a good start, but we need permanent facilities. We have received a donation of land and a partially constructed building which will suit our purposes very well. Once renovated and made earthquake resistant, the building will provide workspace for the vocational school including room for work tables, tool and equipment storage, and instructional areas. A portion of the building will be devoted to a reception area where the students' artwork and other products might be sold to the public. The building will be large enough to allow for multiple training sessions in a day.

The initial costs of the building, tools and teachers for the vocational school will be approximately \$75,000, and we have already raised one-third of that amount through the generosity of several churches. The Charles W. Engelhard Foundation is now offering to match donations for the vocational school up to \$25,000. To fully avail ourselves of this wonderful gift, we need to raise another \$25,000 **before December 31, 2013**.

We need your support to meet this matching grant. Please consider making a special gift to help raise the funds we need by December 31st. *This vocational school will have a long-lasting impact in the lives of our young people in Haiti and in Haiti's future.*

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant, President

Please send your special contributions to the Haiti Micah Project, c/o Rev. Joseph M. Constant, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Please note "vocational school" on your check.

The five new residents in the SAES Home

By Mrs. Marie Therese Charite

“Please help me save these children...”

On Sunday, September 22 at 8:30 in the evening, the Mayor of Mirebalais, Max Millien, came to my house and asked me if we (Haiti Micah Project) could take three young children who used to reside in a shelter for homeless children that had been closed. One child is 4 years old and the others are 5 and 6 years of age. We took them in and after nine days we were able to locate the parent of one of the children.

In the meantime, on Thursday, October 3, the director of the department of social services came to see us with three young people who are 13, 14 and 15 years old. At first we refused to take them in, as space in our facility is becoming an issue, but then the director said, “please help me save these children.” When he told us their story, we felt we had to receive these children. The 13 year old lived in Hinche with his mother and father. The relationship was abusive for years. At one point the father said to his son not to call him father, because he is not his father. And the father’s physical abuse was evident.

The second one, the 14 year-old, doesn’t know his mother or father. Apparently, his godmother raised him; but she left Haiti for Canada without him. A friend of his godmother took him, but sent him to live in Hinche with her mother. However, that woman started mistreating him, physically abusing him, and his suffering continued.

The third young man is 15 years old. Even though he has a mother and father, the father does not want him to stay at home. His father physically abused him constantly. He described his physical abused as constant beatings, verbal abuse and his father sometimes would beat his mother as well; especially when the mother objected to the way he treated her son. These young men lived not far from each other and they would get together and share their problems and misery.

And so, one day the boys decided to leave their homes in Hinche together, got a free ride to Port-au-Prince without knowing where they would end up; and as they walked and walked, they saw a church. They entered the church and found the priest with whom they shared their stories. The priest, who is from Brazil, took the boys in. After a short while, the priest was transferred and at that point the priest took the boys to the department of social services. After social services investigated their cases and visited their former homes, they realized it was not safe for the boys to return. Social services kept them for a period of time, and decided to contact the Haiti Micah Project in Mirebalais.

We have provided shelter to all five children and young people. They are going to school and adjusting well.

Mrs. Marie Therese Charite, Fr. Constant’s mother, is a Board member and volunteer at the program in Haiti. The HMP is registered with the Haitian government under Solidarite et Action pour les Enfants de Sion (SAES). Along with Mrs. Charite, the SAES Board members include key leaders from the community of Mirebalais.



Mrs. Charite with one of the HMP girls



Be Part of the Solution—Sponsor a Child



Emmanuel

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. On a recent visit to the SAES home, we met Emmanuel. He has lived in the SAES Home (the housing aspect of the Haiti Micah Project) since its inception. We heard him calling out to the mission team, “Do you know Oregon?” “Do you know Oregon?” The significance of his repeated question- Emmanuel knew where his sponsor lived.

Emmanuel says he is in ninth grade and wants to be a doctor. He is confident. His English is perfect. He is trilingual. Then he pulls out his school workbook and announces that he wants to read to the visitor. What does he choose? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream Speech.” It turns out he is very interested in the civil rights leader.

Yes, the Haiti Micah Project and the Sponsorship Program do provide food, clothing, and shelter to a number of children. But for Emmanuel, it is far more than that. The HMP provides hope for the future, the love of caring adults, and the educational opportunities on which Haiti depends. Emmanuel knows that someone in Oregon cares about him, sends him photos, sends him cards, and remembers him during the holidays.

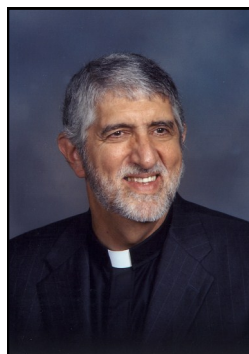
Won’t you be part of the solution? We are asking you to contribute \$300 a year to help offset the full cost of supporting a child. You too can become a sponsor who brings hope and confidence to a young child. Give a gift to yourself by giving a gift to a child who now walks the streets of Mirebalais. It will change their life. And it will change yours.

Haiti’s National Day for the Abolition of the Restavek System

November 17, 2013 was Haiti’s National Day for the Abolition of the Restavek System. *Restavek* is the Creole word for “staying with.” A family who cannot take care of all their children might give a child away to live with a family they deem better off. This child often ends up living as a domestic worker in virtual slavery--responsible for household chores and running errands. We pray that laws will be put into place to abolish this system of child slavery once and for all. Every child deserves to be loved and cared for. Pray for the children of Haiti.

The Rev. John Wires—Forty Years of Grace

HMP was the recent recipient of a gift of over \$1,400 from Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Virginia, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. John Wires on August 25, 2013. An open plate collection was made in honor of John and, at his request, the Church Vestry designated that the funds go to the HMP. “We thank John and Grace Episcopal Church for their generosity” said Joseph Constant, President of HMP. “John, and his wife Karen, along with the entire parish at Grace Episcopal, have been steadfast participants in the work of the Haiti Micah Project and are a true blessing for the children of Mirebalais.”



Rev. Wires

HAITI MICAH PROJECT

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS!
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

<http://www.haiti-micah.org>

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