



March 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

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Gaining perspective – Idahoans Visit Mirebalais Facilities

by Jim Snow



Front: Candy Walton, Joseph Constant, Sandra Willingham. Back: Art Dahl, Jim Snow

A mission team from St. Thomas Church in Ketchum, Idaho, visited Mirebalais last December seeking a better understanding of how the Haiti Micah Project's (HMP) current undertakings were meeting the needs of street children in Mirebalais. St. Thomas Church has been a longstanding supporter of the Project, and their delegation consisted of Art Dahl, Sandra Willingham and Candy Walton. Leading the trip was Fr. Joseph Constant, President of the HMP, accompanied by Jim Snow, HMP Board Member and Treasurer.

The trip was what Fr. Joseph calls a trip of perspective, to give insight into the on-the-ground situation in Haiti and the work being done there by the HMP and other non-governmental organizations.

The timing of the trip was almost exactly three years from the date of the terrible earthquake in January, 2010, and the effects of that tragedy are still in evidence. Port-au-Prince is dotted with tent cities of displaced persons, and the Episcopal cathedral stands in ruins. Although some 50 miles distant from the epicenter of the earthquake, Mirebalais is still dealing with its effects. The population of the city increased dramatically as did the number and needs of street children. Meeting the basic needs of the children for food, shelter, clothing and education is the challenge of our faith and the HMP.

In the midst of the grinding poverty and the daily struggle for survival among the street children, the HMP and other non-governmental organizations provide glimmers of hope that the Holy Spirit is at work among us. Over 400 children are served in the daily feeding program along with provisions for clothing, medical care, and educational assistance. The 22 children in the HMP orphanage are thriving. The cooperative water well project of HMP and Living Waters for the World is providing safe drinking water for a neighborhood recently threatened with cholera.

St. Thomas Church currently sponsors 60 children in HMP programs. The team brought to the orphanage skirts for the girls and brand new Crocs and baseball caps for all the children. The team also cleared land and planted a vegetable garden for the orphanage as an experiment in augmenting the normal diet of rice and beans. Given the expense and logistics of traveling to Haiti, many HMP supporters will not be able to see firsthand the work they make possible. Yet, three persons from Idaho came home rejuvenated in their faith and in the work we do, and will bear witness to others that the HMP is making a difference in the lives of many children in Mirebalais.



Upcoming Events and Activities

March-Next Shipment to Haiti. HMP sends shipments of clothes, shoes, school and medical supplies to Mirebalais to support the children in the HMP program. If you would like to contribute, please contact us.

April 6-Urban Evolution, Alexandria, VA is donating 50% of their profits from a special parkour event they have scheduled for HMP on April 6, 6-8 pm. Participants must be beginners in parkour, ages 21 and up. To register, email: PKHHMP@yahoo.com To learn more about parkour go to their website: www.urbanevo.com

April 13-Get your running shoes on! Fast Trak Racing (<http://www.fasttrakracing.com/>) has made Haiti Micah Project one of their partners. When you sign up for a race, you can designate HMP and a portion of your entry fee goes directly to our programs in Mirebalais. So walk or run in Mt. Vernon Park at 9AM, Saturday April 13. Let's get the word out!

Pulling Books Out of Hats By Karen Wires

What does the Dr. Seuss story The 500 Hundred Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins have in common with the children of Haiti Micah Project? As part of their school's unit celebrating the books and poetry of Dr. Seuss, Grace Episcopal School, Alexandria, Virginia set a goal of donating 500 books to the children of Haiti Micah Project. Just as hats kept appearing in the story, books kept multiplying with students and families bringing new and gently used books. As part of the final day, the fourth and fifth graders masterfully performed the classic story on stage. The school continued the book donations until well over 500 were received to be shared in Mirebalais.



Sponsor a Child

Your support can make a lifetime of difference to a child in Mirebalais. Please consider becoming a sponsor in the Sponsor a Child Program.



To become a sponsor, please go to our website and click on "How You Can Help" or mail the application to: Haiti Micah Project, 3706 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. For more information, contact Karen Wires at knwires@icloud.com

The Haiti Micah Project wishes you and your family a blessed Easter season. Alleluia!

HAITI MICAH PROJECT

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

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