



The
Haiti Micah
Project

Newsletter

Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti

Organization:

Haiti Micah Project
501(c)(3) organization
established in 2005

Project:

Haiti Micah Project
A Residential Home for Street
Children

Location:

Mirebalais, Haiti

Officers:

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant
President
The Rev. James B. May, Jr.
Vice President
Dr. Ruth I. Quartey
Treasurer

Directors:

Michelle Baptiste
Valeska Daley
Richard Frazer
Olivine Pilling
Bryan J. Schaaf
The Rev. Rudolph Stewart III
William J. Taczak, Jr.
Jean Michel Voltaire

Volunteers:

Sarah Bushman
LaNita De' Vore
Tyler Hetzer
Andreanna Truelove

Legal Consultant:

Laura Fraedrich, Esq.
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

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CHILDREN MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN



Pictured: The many talented necklace makers, Butterfly House children at Virginia Theological Seminary!

SUPPLIES ON THE WAY!

Over the last two months, children and youth of all ages have been working to support the Haiti Micah Project. The children of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Episcopal School in Alexandria, Virginia, have intentionally kept Haiti in their corporate prayers since the earthquake.

On March 20, 2010, a group from Episcopal High School joined members of the Haiti Micah Project Board of Directors and HMP supporters to prepare shipments bound for Mirebalais, Haiti. Everyone sorted and packed clothes, toiletries, medical and school supplies, along with items from sponsors in the Sponsor-A-Child Program into twelve large barrels and a few dozen boxes. The barrels and boxes were then sent to the Solidarity and Action pour les Enfants de Sion home in Mirebalais.

We thank the high school students of EHS, the Chaplains Rev. Gideon Pollach and Rev. Heather Gortner, and everyone who joined us in the Virginia Theological Seminary gymnasium for this undertaking.

If you would like to send school supplies, clothes, or other items to Mirebalais with our next shipment, or if you sponsor a child and would like to send gifts, cards or letters to that child, please send it to us at 3706 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304.

President's Report

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:21-24 (NIV)



THE MICAH RESPONSE

On behalf of the children of Haiti, we want to thank you for your response to the earthquake relief effort. Your generosity has made it possible for the HMP to increase the number of children we serve in both programs.

Education/Feeding Program: With the assistance of the Haiti Board members, the HMP was able to double the enrollment in the education/feeding program. We are currently serving 300 children daily. Once a child is admitted into this program, this child has access to the most basic needs: food, education, clothing and medical care.

The Solidarity and Action pour les Enfants de Sion (SAES): Since April 2009, the HMP has been providing 24-hour per day care to 10 children. After the earthquake last February, the number grew to 17 children. The home that the HMP is currently renting has space for 24 children.

The children we serve have practically nothing. In most cases, these children don't have a roof over their heads. With the donations we receive, we can sustain this operation and ensure that these children have a chance at life.

WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

We have a waiting list of more than 100 children who want to enter the program. For every \$45,000 we raise, we can serve an additional 150 children for a year. We continue to solicit funds for aid to be able to both sustain the program and expand at the same time. The HMP hopes to be able to serve an additional 150 children, with a focus on those who have been orphaned or devastated by the earthquake. For \$25 a month, we can provide food, clothes and tuition for a child.

We can increase the number of children in the SAES home to full capacity. To do this, we need to raise an additional \$10,000 per year.

100% of the donations we receive go directly to provide for the needs of the children. All administrative support is provided by volunteers.

Thank for your continued prayers and support of the Haitian people in this time of need. We are making a difference. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we pray for the resurrection of Haiti.

Faithfully,

Father Joseph M. Constant

THE IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKE ON THE CHILDREN OF HAITI

The January 12 earthquake has left many children orphaned, homeless and even more vulnerable than they were before. As a result of the devastating earthquake, many children have lost a mother or father or even both parents. Many children have lost the relative who was providing support. How is it possible they could lose so much when they did not have much in the first place?

Both 6-year-old Jezumene and her mother Alice survived the earthquake. On Saturday, January 9, Jezumene's parents sent her to spend a couple of days with her aunt. On Tuesday, January 12, after washing a load of clothes, Alice decided it was time to pick up Jezumene from her sister's house. After spending some time with her sister, Alice was on her way home with her daughter. As they reached Ave John Brown or Lalue, a major road in Port-au-Prince, the earth started shaking beneath them and cars began to slide and houses crumbled around them. Alice took Jezumene by the hand and sat down to await their fate.

Somehow, they survived the devastation and began making their way home through debris and dead bodies. Once they reached home, there was nothing left of their home. Jezumene's entire family, including her father and aunts and several other relatives, were buried under the rubble.

Jezumene and her mother Alice made their way to Mirebalais. They don't have any friends or relatives in Mirebalais, but they knew it was still standing. Jezumene is one of the new children participating in the Haiti Micah Project. She is trauma-

tized by the earthquake experience, often screaming for her father and then passing out or fainting because she is so overwhelmed. Her young mind is struggling to process the cruelty of her situation. What does the future hold for her?

Jezumene is one of thousands in a similar situation. The long-term reconstruction effort must look closely at the needs of people like Jezumene and her mother Alice. We can make a difference in Jezumene's life; we can give her a chance for life.

Thank you for your willingness to walk this long journey with Jezumene and her mother Alice. Working with our partners in Haiti, we will continue to do our best to meet the basic needs of the children God has placed on our path.

God bless the children of Haiti.



UPDATE ON THE SPONSOR-A-CHILD PROGRAM

The HMP Sponsor A Child Program now has more than 60 sponsorships!

Special thanks to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina, which has recently agreed to sponsor 20 HMP children. For \$300 per year, you, too, can provide a child's basic needs. For information, go to www.haiti-micah.org.

THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE AT VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RAISES DOUGH FOR THE HAITI MICAH PROJECT



The children of the Butterfly House, the preschool located on the grounds of the Virginia Theological Seminary, recently held a bake sale and a beaded necklace sale to raise funds for the Haiti Micah Project. The kids raised almost \$120! They made necklaces during the school day that were sold, along with home-baked goodies, at the Virginia Theological Seminary campus.

Five-year-old Christiana Constant presented the check to Father Joseph Constant.

We thank the children; Anne Lowry, the preschool's director; and all the teachers and parents for their support.

THE GEORGETOWN LEARNING CENTER PLAYS GAMES FOR HAITI MICAH PROJECT

During March 2010, the tutorial staff at the Georgetown Learning Centers ("GLC"), located in McLean and Great Falls, Virginia, held a friendly competition among themselves to determine who could collect the greatest number of school supplies for the HMP. This fun and instructive "grudge match" resulted in the collection of lots of school supplies, including backpacks, calculators, pens, and paper. The owners of GLC also got into the act by donating a printer that, along with the school supplies, was sent to the SAES house in Mirebalais in the March 20 shipment.

We thank all of the tutors and the owners of the Georgetown Learning Centers for their generosity!

THE BADEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ZOE FOUNDATION HAITIAN RELIEF PROJECT

The children at Baden Elementary School in Brandywine, Maryland, in partnership with the Zoe Foundation, collected pencils, crayons, folders, manual pencil sharpeners, markers and other basic school supplies as part of their Haitian Relief project.

We thank the students, parents, guardians and Principal Danielle L. Goddard for their support.



Pictured: The Etienne Family of the Zoe Foundation

A CHILD' LETTER



Dear Father Constant,

I heard about your program, The Haiti Micah Project. I've decided to donate 100 Dollars to the project.

I am going to tell you a little bit about me.

My name is Kara.

I am 9 years old.

I live in California, America

I go to Lincoln Elementary.

I am very tall (5 ft. 2 ½ inches)

I pray to God to keep Haiti Safe.

Sincerely, Kara M. Pauley



Dear Kara,

Thank you for your support! On behalf of the children of the Haiti Micah Project, we are grateful for your and your sister's donation and your prayers.

Blessings,

Haiti Micah Project Board

MEET THE HAITI MICAH PROJECT BOARD: BILL TACZAK



Meet Bill Taczak. Bill is HMP's business administration guru and one of its biggest cheerleaders.

Bill jokes that the "HMP is the only topic that I unabashedly bring up to any and all family members, friends, colleagues, and people within listening distance."

Bill lives in King George, Virginia, with his wife of 43 years, Jan. Bill and Jan are the parents of a son and daughter, and four grandchildren.

Bill's business acuity comes from years of experience. Currently, he is the president of Applied Technology, Inc., a defense contractor. He says, "I have experience in business and I work to ensure that the HMP board does not overextend itself so that we can sustain our basic ongoing projects. I also meet with interested civic and church groups to present HMP to them."

Bill and the board have done an excellent job of achieving his goal of making the HMP a viable, productive organization that can sustain a feeding program that feeds over 300 children and houses 17. Bill explains, "We know the children. We have an infrastructure in Mirebalais to ensure the execution of the program. We have no administrative costs so all the available funds go directly to the children."

Moved by Father Joseph Constant's entreaties on behalf of the children of Mirebalais and by what he sees as his "mission on Earth" to help those in need, Bill joined the board of the HMP to do what he could "to help some of the most impoverished children in the world." Bill's reasons for supporting the HMP are simple: "God has blessed my family and we have always believed that one of our primary missions on earth is to help those in need."

Bill's dedication to ensuring that all donations to the HMP are exclusively for the use of the children in the orphanage and feeding program is legendary. When asked whether he has ever traveled to Haiti, he said, "I have not traveled to Haiti, but plan to do so during this next year." True to his nature, however, Bill believes that the \$1,000 spent for his week-long trip to Haiti could feed many more children currently not in the program for a month.

Bill enjoys serving on the HMP board, which he describes as fast-paced and proactive and which is "making a significant difference in the lives of these impoverished children. It is something that all the board members can take satisfaction in."

While Bill's life is not all work and HMP, his dedication to his family and community never waivers. He enjoys spending time with his family, church, charity activities, and remaining physically and intellectually vigorous: "I work out regularly, read a lot (currently reading the history of Haiti, sad story), and enjoy most sports as best as I can at my age."

Bill's wish for HMP is to "help as many homeless children in Mirebalais as possible by providing food, clothing, educational opportunities, medical attention, job skill training, business training, and spiritual growth. Given the funding levels, we wish to either be given land or purchase land for developing a multi-functional facility (housing, schooling, chapel, library, recreational areas, job training area, etc.) for maybe 200 needy children. The end goal is to motivate these children to grow into educated productive adults who can in turn help their community improve its standard of living."

THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THE HAITI MICAH PROJECT

During the last few months, the Haiti Micah Project has received a tremendous amount of support from local businesses. We would like to thank all of our supporters:

Our Partners in Alexandria, Virginia

Café Pizzaiolo, in partnership with girls' soccer teams from the Alexandria Soccer Association and girls' lacrosse teams from the Alexandria Lacrosse Club, raised over \$1,300 for Haiti Micah Project during a three-day fundraiser. Thank you Larry and Christine Ponzi, the proprietors (www.cafepizzaiolo.com).

After hearing about the Haiti Micah Project through the Pizzaiolo fundraiser, Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota contributed \$300 to Haiti Micah Project (<http://www.alexandriatoyota.com>).

The children of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Episcopal School in Alexandria raised \$1,000 and drew pictures with words of encouragement. Thank you to the Rev. Rosemary Beales and all who supported this effort.

Our Corporate Donors

The Kirkland & Ellis LLP law firm provided matching donations in excess of \$4,000 and has provided pro bono legal and administrative services to the Haiti Micah Project.

Joe's Crab Shack hosted fundraisers in their Fredericksburg and Fair Oaks, Virginia, locations, raising over \$600 for the Haiti Micah Project (www.joescrabshack.com).

The Zoe Foundation in Washington, D.C., engaged in fundraising and collected supplies for the Haiti Micah Project.

The Schwab Charitable Fund donated a gift of \$500 to support Haiti Micah Project.

The Edwin W. Pauley Foundation donated a gift of \$5,000 to support the ministry of the Haiti Micah Project.

Supporting Churches and Church Groups

Ascension Episcopal Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Southern Pines, North Carolina

Epiphany Parish of Seattle, Seattle, Washington

First Rock Baptist Church, Washington, DC

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, Virginia

St. Agnes Guild of St. Dunstan Church, Seattle, Washington

St. James Church, Bowie, Maryland

St. Paul's ECW, King George, Virginia

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ashville, North Carolina

St. Peter's Church, Peekskill, New York

Churchwoman of St. Stephen's, Seattle, Washington

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley, Idaho

Trinity Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia

Wellesley Congregational Church, Wellesley, Massachusetts

HAITI MICAH PROJECT'S PARTNER CHURCHES

Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), Vienna, Virginia

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia

Living Word Church in Washington, D.C.

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington

St. James' Episcopal Church, Indian Head, Maryland

St. James' Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, King George, Virginia

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Taunton, Massachusetts

Sankofa International Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Haiti Micah Project

3706 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-328-5808
jconstant@haiti-micah.org

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

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