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HIS HANDS FOR HAITI NEWS

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I work as a translator for HHSM when they are in Haiti. Three years ago the team asked me to translate at the school in Danda. With that trip came some opportunities for me, one being that Pastor Elima is the father of one of my great friends from high school. The other is I met a little cutie named Djidjeska Pompilus, hearing her story for the first time including that she has a twin brother. Going back home after that trip I couldn't stop thinking about her. After the HHSM team left Haiti I took a friend on my motorcycle and went back to Danda. Someone in the community was able to find her for me and I talked to her for a while before heading back to Cap Haitien. In October, when the HHSM team came back, I went to Danda with them as their translator again. When we interviewed Djidjeska this trip I listened to her story again, but this time she said if she didn't get help to go to school she would be sent to wherever they could find for her to serve as a restavek (a domestic servant). I could feel and hear God's voice telling me that it was time to act. She was only 9 years old! At that time I was in college and was skipping school to work so that I could take care of some of my own needs. I really didn't know what it cost to sponsor or how I could afford to do so, and so I thought was God really telling me I needed to do this. We went back to the mission house and the desire to sponsor her was so real that I went to Jamie, the coordinator at the time, and asked a few questions then told her I wanted to be Djidjeska's sponsor. All I knew was that God wanted me to do it and I'd obey. God has blessed me by providing a means for me to sponsor her because I obeyed. I trusted Him and He proved Himself to me. It's wonderful to see her now! It's such a blessing that God put me in this place at that time, His timing, and I love it!

By Daniel, translator/team member from Cap Haitien, Haiti



HIS HOUSE, TERRIER ROUGE

We are asking for prayers for His House and more donations to keep these two homes going for these children in need. We are not meeting the needs of making sure these children are able to eat every day or helped medically when needed. We can only do this through donations specifically sent for His House.

Please share about this need to friends and family. You are also welcome to share this newsletter. Thank You!

It is with deep sadness that Haiti has lost a sweet Pastor and HHSM has lost a great partner. His death was so very unexpected, but we know he is in Glory!

Pastor Joseph Saintil was the Pastor of New Jerusalem Ministry Baptist Church, in Cap Haitien, and opened a school there. He so loved the children and just wanted the best for them.

We will continue working with the children alongside Pas Saintil's brother, Léonor Saintil, who is the school's director. He has the same desire of helping the children/people in Cap Haitien.

Please continue to pray for Pas Saintil's family, the children, the school, the church and all of Haiti.



From Unsponsored 2014 Linda 2018 To Sponsored & Loved

It was another blessed morning in Haiti, as our His Hands for Haiti team arrived in the small community of Paulette to interview the children. As soon as we stepped into the church, I peeped along the rows of smiling faces to see where Linda was. Sure enough, she had already identified me and was eagerly waiting at my legs reaching for a hug.

It's hard to believe that this was the little timid girl that I met four years ago. Through sponsoring children with His Hands for Haiti, I have found myself richer in ways that I never even knew existed.

After four years of traveling to Haiti, I have been able to watch this young girl (and many other children) flourish thanks to the His Hands for Haiti sponsorship program. I am so proud to be a part of an all-volunteer organization that focuses on making a long-term lasting impact by educating and empowering the neediest of children, while being centered around the love of Christ. Every child deserves to have access to a basic education. Going to school shouldn't be a luxury or a distant dream for any child, regardless of where they live. Sponsorship opens a door to opportunity, hope, and possibility for children that are struggling with obstacles that we can never even begin to understand. The His Hands for Haiti team works closely with the pastors, educators, and children to listen, learn, and understand the specific strengths and needs of individual schools and communities. I've learned from some of the most inspiring, caring, and resilient Haitian people over the past four years.

by Caitlin, team member from Canada

Going to Haiti for my first time exceeded my expectations. We went to show the love of Christ but in return I got so much out of this trip; the people, the culture, everything about it was such a blessing. The children and the people there have so much love in their hearts to share with all of us.

Despite what the people in Haiti are going through and struggling with you come back with such a bigger understanding of life and love.

by Steph, team member from Maine



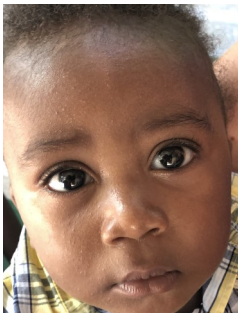
Someone once told me that your first mission trip is where you leave your heart. For me that is definitely true. My first trip to Haiti was in 2004 with October 2018 being my 12th time. There have been some great changes that have occurred over those 12 trips; paved roads instead of mud, electricity instead of a part-time use of a generator, Industrial Park providing some jobs, and a University. The needs of many children have unfortunately not changed. Not everyone has work to provide medicine and food, or schooling, for their children like we can here in the US. Prices are rising even though pay is not, which just means more struggles for these families. It can be so overwhelming and difficult to see their struggles; you just want to fix it all for them and you know you can't. Your focus has to stay on the one or two that you can help. This is where sponsorship comes in, and volunteering to go with a team. To come alongside the Pastors and be a part of the work there as a team, that is what we try to accomplish. It's hard to explain to people why we go and do what we do, but the love you receive and the friendships you make are so unforgettable! I can't even imagine a time when I will be unable to go, the love is that great!

There is a saying, "behind every cloud there is a silver lining" and Pedals for Paulette is definitely one of those silver linings! On this October visit, 31 bikes were delivered to students in Paulette (so far 70+ total) so that their two hour walk time to school in Terrier Rouge could be cut considerably! It couldn't help but make your eyes leak just a little to see the joy on their faces as their names were called to receive their bikes. We're so grateful for donations to this worthy cause!

I got to spend a great deal of time with my beautiful child I have sponsored since she was four years old. I can't believe she is now 20! I pray that I have made a difference in her life as she sure has in mine; to be able to see her and see how well she is doing and listen to her hopes and dreams for the future is such a blessing.

The work it takes to be able to go is minor compared to the blessings I have received by going. To explain it in a way you might understand a little better, it's like you have not been home for two years to see your family and friends and now the day has arrived when you can go. While we put so much value on material things, their value is in people. Love is a universal language and not being able to speak their language is not a problem. Being a part of His Hands for Haiti has given me the privilege of not only being a volunteer and sponsor, but the experience of being God's hands and feet to those I have grown to love so deeply. I shall be forever grateful to be a part of this ministry. Thanks His Hands Support Ministries!

By Lorraine...team member, and Board member, from Maine



Friendship and Love knows no language barriers

With prayer and discussion we have decided to make the difficult decision to slightly raise the sponsorship fees to \$10 a month, starting January 2019. Please note that is under a \$2 monthly increase and will help with the tuition greatly as prices in Haiti have continued to increase. We also think that by making it a monthly fee it will be easier on you, our sponsors, but note that sending in \$60 twice a year, or \$120 once a year is still an option. Please know that 100% of all sponsorship fees collected will continue to be sent directly to Haiti to meet the tuition needs of the Haitian children. We continue to be staffed entirely by volunteers, with no paid staff. We pray for and covet your continued support for the children of Haiti as we strive, as always, to be Christ's hands and feet in a suffering world.

SPONSORSHIP & GIFTS

The yearly sponsorship fee covers tuition and the fabric for one uniform, but does not cover having it sewn. Sending a gift to your child for this is another wonderful way to help, but it is not required. We also try to add any information on the Child's info sheet about any medical issues they may be having. Some are urgent, but the family can not afford to take the child to be seen or to get meds. If you desire to send gift money to your child for medical needs, please be sure to add a note about that with your gift donation. We then send the money along with a note to the Pastor of that church school and he in turn takes it to the family. We don't always know what happens from there till our next visit. All we can do is hope and pray the family takes the child to be seen. We leave it in God's hands.

One awesome thing about taking teams to Haiti is that we get to learn about children who are in urgent need for medical help. There is one such child in TR. His tonsils are so swollen he can barely eat or drink and we know breathing can be difficult at times. He's really in need of surgery, but the family can't afford it or the medicines. I LOVE our teams! They come together when it's needed most, donate what they can, to help a child that's not their own sponsored child. They just know there is a need and that's all that matters. Since returning home we have been able to gather some more funds to send in hopes of him having surgery. We will also pass the info on to his sponsor so if they can and want they can send him gift money to help with medical, food, or even a uniform. What a great Christmas present...to be healthy again! Please pray for Kervens and his family!

A Church in Alabama has come to know and love the children in Cachiman. After much prayer and discussion we have stepped away from this school so that this church can visit and work with the people in Cachiman. Through God's leading not only will all the children here be able to keep attending the school, but they also are fed. And the Alabama church is working with the church in Cachiman to add on to their building. We are so grateful for their dedication and desire to do God's work in this area. Please keep both Cachiman and the Alabama church in your prayers as they grow and work side by side.

We know that there are always changes in our lives, including address changes. Please be sure to let us know when your email and/or mailing address changes. Sometimes packets are returned to us and until we've heard from that sponsor, whose address has changed, all we can do is hold on to your info sheets.

And please, if circumstances change and you can no longer sponsor, let us know so that we can put that child back on the website. If we don't hear all year that you can no longer sponsor then that child is in limbo, not being helped, and not sure if they'll be able to keep attending school.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the children!

We have been training and working on updating our website, our interview and info forms, our spreadsheets, etc. We have also lost our awesome typist to a new job and growing/active children so Karen and I are working on those. Our goal is to have the information sheets to you in January. We have been working hard and are looking forward to some time with our families during the Holidays...with some work in between. Also please note that we will be emailing information sheets from now on to help save on shipping and handling charges as HHSM does not have the extra funds coming in for administrative costs. And for many of the programs, like Haiti, the typists and coordinators have paid for those themselves and with life changes (tuitions, medical, retirements, etc.) are making that harder. Again, thank you for your understanding and prayers!