



Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti  
199 Broadway  
Norwich, CT 06360

*espwa, our newsletter of hope*

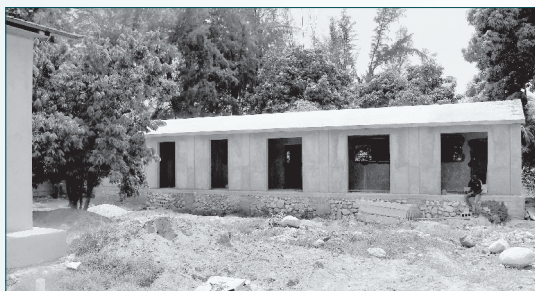
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## A New Home for Paula Thybulle's Girls

**L**e Foyer des Filles de Dieu (The House of the Girls of God, also known as Paula Thybulle's home for girls) should be moving from Port-au-Prince to a spacious 4-acre site in Sito, just northeast of the capital and not far from the metal-artists' village in Croix-des-Bouquets.

Mme. Paula Thybulle, who founded the shelter for girls in 1987 and still runs it today, started developing the new site after the earthquake in January 2010. Her current location provides little recreational space for the girls and the multi-leveled dormitory there was damaged by the quake. While construction at the new site has been slow due to lack of funds, she said, the buildings should be far enough along to make the move within the year.

The Sito site, about 7 miles outside of Port-au-Prince, has three main single-story buildings and expansive grounds with an orchard



*Top, The administration building, freshly painted, is flanked by the girls' dormitory. Above, the main kitchen and dining hall is behind the administration building.*

and garden. Paula expects that, with time, the girls will enlarge the garden and raise animals. During the academic year, the older girls will attend a school nearby and the younger ones will continue to be taught at the shelter.

## LEAVE A LEGACY Helping Haitians for Generations to Come

There are many ways to extend your help and goodwill for those in need. We ask you to consider:

**1** In preparing a will, include a gift for the needy of Haiti through Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti. Your gift will help children and families living in extreme poverty so that they can rise from their great need to have better lives and improve their society.

**2** Donate to Outreach to Haiti a specific amount, or a percentage of your assets, including stocks, bonds, CDs, real estate, vehicles, art, jewelry or other property.

**3** Name Outreach to Haiti as the beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.

**4** Name Outreach to Haiti as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy, or purchase a new policy and name the charity as the beneficiary.

**5** Honor friends and remember loved ones with memorial gifts.

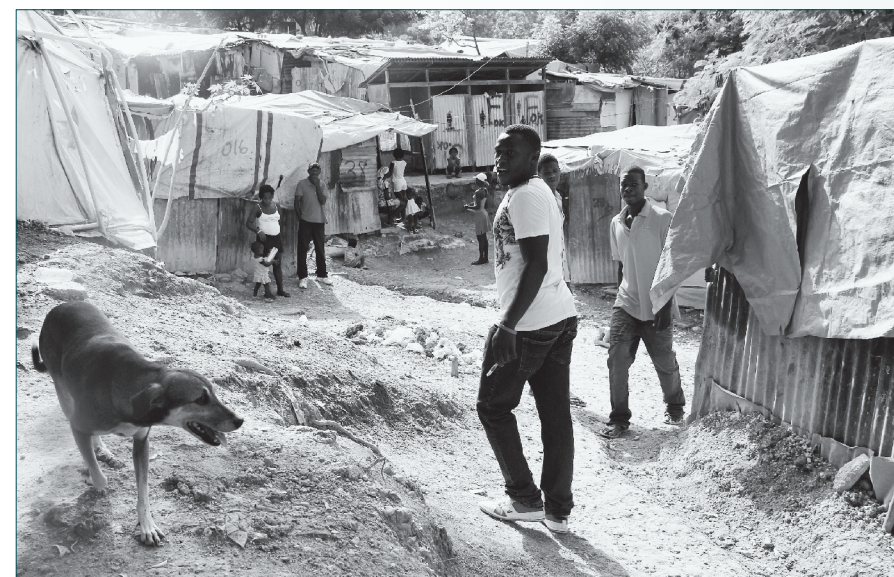
For more information, please contact our office: 860.848.2237 ext. 206, or write: [info@outreachtohaiti.org](mailto:info@outreachtohaiti.org)

# OUTREACH TO HAITI

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H E L P I N G   H A I T I A N S   H E L P   H A I T I A N S



*CANVASSING A NEIGHBORHOOD, Health Agent Telemaque Fequiere looks for people who might need medical care.*

## THROUGH CLINIC'S MEDICAL OUTREACH & CARE

# Making a World of Difference in the First 1,000 Days of Life

By Catherine Foley • Development Director

**I**t is 8 a.m. on a Friday in late July. The city is already abuzz with the noise of street vendors, children's shouts, and the engines of cars and trucks.

The temperature on this Caribbean Island has already reached 90 degrees as three health agents journey to the nearby shanty enclaves, not far from the Outreach to Haiti (OTH) clinic in Port-au-Prince. The hillside dwellings in these communities are pieced together with corrugated sheet metal, plywood, sticks, and old tarps. A few have cement foundations. The majority have dirt floors – a tremendous hardship in the rainy season.

Soon after the agents enter the first enclave, they meet up with one of many success stories. The "miracle baby" – as they call the healthy 23-month-old boy living with his nearly blind grandmother, Mme. Leisia Hilaire – was skin and bones when they first met him at 6 months old.

"After being enrolled in the OTH Nutrition Program, Mme. Hilaire's grandson is now our living miracle," says Beatrice Avril, who is one of three health agents working for Outreach. "She knows what we did for him and is very grateful."

The health agents continue to traverse the steep and rocky dirt pathways, climbing over broken rocks and cement steps, avoiding slip-

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*AS A FAMILY Angy, Junior, and their father Gaetens Auguste at the Outreach to Haiti's Mission House.*

## Ice Cream, Cham-Cham and Other Dreams of a 2nd-Grader

By Kyn Tolson • Programs Administrator

**L**ike most kids, Gaetens Auguste loves ice cream, although he rarely gets it.

The 8-year-old also craves 'cham-cham' – roasted and crushed corn kernels. In fact, just the mention of cham-cham makes Gaetens squirm with delight.

Named after his father and often called Junior, he lives in Port-au-Prince with a sister and his parents. Their life is humble, even by Haitian standards. Living in extreme poverty (defined as having a daily average of \$1.25 or less a person), the family survives on about \$125 a month. Some of that money goes to rent – \$700 a year for their two rooms – and to relatives in Hinche, a town in the central plateau of Haiti. That's where Junior's oldest sister, who is 13, lives with a grandmother.

"We try to make as much money as we can," explains the senior Gaetens, their 44-year-old father.

On this scorching July mid-day, he has accompanied Junior and his youngest daughter, Angy, to the mission house of Outreach to Haiti. For him, the mission, which provides the money to send both Junior and 9-year-old Angy to school, is a godsend.

"Outreach makes it possible that they are educated," he said.

The Education Program of Outreach to Haiti has been operating for more than a dozen years. It enrolls about 250 students – from kindergarten to university – in private schools and institutions in the capital city. Donations from sponsors in the United States pay for their tuitions and textbooks and help to defray expenses for the dental and medical examinations provided free to students annually.

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Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Norwich

Rev. Frank Rouleau  
Twinning Director & Chaplain  
Kyn Tolson, Programs Administrator  
Catherine Foley, Development Director

James Michel, Board Chair

#### START THIS SCHOOL YEAR RIGHT!

Sponsoring a student will make a profound difference in the life of a child, a teenager or a young adult. You can give a gift that no one can take away: education. With knowledge and skills, Haitians living in extreme poverty are better able to find livelihoods that will lift them, their families, their communities, and their society.

Please consider sponsoring a student this year:

- \$425 for a primary school student
- \$500 for a secondary school student
- \$800 for a technical school student
- \$2,000 for a university student

Contact us for more information at: 860.848.2237 ext. 206;  
info@outreachtohaiti.org

## With Tuitions Covered, Students Head Onward and Upward to School

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Private schooling is the mainstay of education for Haitians, because the public system simply isn't big enough to handle the population. Today, only about 60 percent of the country's school-aged children are in school, largely because families don't have the means to pay tuitions.

"It's a hard cycle to break," said Erolde Ezerbe, education director for Outreach. "But education and good health are essentials for improvement to society."

The Education Program tackles fundamental problems head on. It accepts students based on economic need, and they remain in the program based on their academic merit. Outreach requires at least an overall 6.0 grade average - higher than the 5.0 needed to advance to a higher grade.

To ensure that students have the best education that sponsors' donations can provide, Outreach has selected the 14 "sending schools" for all the primary and secondary students based on their institutional performances. Such measurements include: teacher qualifications; percentage of students who graduate;

## Catherine Foley Leads Outreach Development

The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is pleased to announce the appointment of Catherine M. Foley as Director of Development & Education.

Catherine is the former executive director of Covenant Shelter of New London, former director of community development for the New London Development Corporation (working with the most vulnerable children and families in New London), and owner of Meeting-Works, an administrative and conference management firm. She comes to Outreach with an extensive background in nonprofit management and fundraising with a special emphasis on ministry, social justice and service.

Catherine is a resident of New London and the mother of two grown daughters.

Under her leadership, Covenant Shelter - a joint ministry of St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church and St. James Episcopal Church - became known throughout the greater New London region, helping to secure the community's commitment to the ministry of hospitality for the homeless. While director of the Community Development Initiative, Catherine helped to obtain early care and education funding for the greater New London region, initiated the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in New London now run by TVCCA, and administered the Parent Leadership Training Institute - a civic leadership initiative of the CT Commission on Children.

Catherine first learned about the Diocese of Norwich ministry to Haiti while participating in the three-year diocesan spiritual formation program run by Sr. Patricia Cook, RSM. After completing the program in January 1994, she was commissioned as lay minister of the Diocese of Norwich by Bishop Daniel A. Hart. During this time, she and long-time New London Rotary colleague Rick Gipstein collected children's clothing and tuna fish for Haitians from their club members and solicited physicians affiliated with Lawrence & Memorial Hospital for



CATHERINE FOLEY with a child enrolled in Outreach to Haiti's Nutrition Program.

used medical equipment. The donations were sent to the Diocese of Norwich Mission House in Port-au-Prince for distribution to its partners in Haiti.

"Since I first learned about our diocesan ministry to Haiti in the early 1990s, I have always had a deep desire to become involved in the immersion program. I am thrilled to now be a part of the life-saving work of Outreach to Haiti," Catherine said.

"As a spiritual director, I especially like the fact that our ministry is first and foremost based on presence and relationship with the people of Haiti," she said. "The goal is not 'to do.' It is 'to be' and to empower Haitians to help Haitians."

Returning from her first visit in July, Catherine said, "Knowing that all of us, through our partnership in this ministry, are helping living saints in Haiti save and change lives one infant, one child, one family at a time is truly sacred, holy ground."

civil engineer to get jobs and that has not worked out. In the meantime, his wife brings in a bit of money by selling packages of spaghetti noodles and other food on the street. More and more he's getting paid for tutoring other young students. Parents in his neighborhood and at their church have learned he's educated, and they know his children do well in school.

Angy, who ended the fourth grade in June with a 7.6 average, wants to be a doctor, even though her favorite subject is history. (The stories are exciting, she says.)

With an overall average of 8.26 from second grade, Junior is an excellent student. He hasn't yet latched onto an idea for his future. He says he likes mathematics because it's easy.

When it comes to talking about his wishes, Junior is quick to point out that the thing he'd like to have is a car for his family. "But the most important thing to me," he adds, "is God. Because every time I pray, he listens to my voice, and he hears what I ask."

• • •

*There are many bright and eager children like Gaetens Junior and Angy who desire an education. To sponsor a student, please contact us at: 860.848.2237 ext. 206; info@outreachtohaiti.org.*

## Meet Beatrice ... A Woman Dedicated to Saving Lives

By Catherine Foley • Development Director

On any given day you can find 34-year-old Beatrice Avril doing what she loves best, helping to improve the health of the most vulnerable infants and children in the Christ Roi section of Port-au-Prince.

One of four sisters, Beatrice lives with her youngest sister and three cousins in a simple dwelling not far from the main campus of Outreach to Haiti. She is engaged to be married. Through her modest income, Beatrice not only covers living expenses, she also pays for her youngest cousin and sister to attend school and sends money to her mother in Les Cayes, which is on southwest coast of Haiti, 120 miles from Port-au-Prince. Her father is deceased.

Beatrice is one of three community health agents based out of the Outreach medical clinic. Her work is an extension of a life lived with a passion for creating a healthier and better life for others.

"I feel good about my work, because it provides me with the opportunity to use the education I have as a nurse to improve the lives of Haitian people," she said.

Beatrice received her diploma in nursing after completing a post-secondary school program. For the last three years, she has helped pregnant women, infants and children improve their health through vaccina-



BEATRICE AVRIL takes an arm measurement of a child to determine if she needs nutritional treatment.

tions, good nutrition and education on breastfeeding, sanitation and hygiene through Outreach's Maternal and Child Health program.

She and her colleagues work in the heat, humidity and devastating poverty to bring the program to the people. At least four mornings of the work week, they will walk through enclaves of shanty dwellings to identify those suffering from malnutrition or disease and those in need of vaccinations or medical care and refer them to the Outreach clinic.

## First 1,000 Days

*continued from page 1*

pery mud patches, moving between dwellings on narrow lanes, past the children and women balancing 5-gallon buckets of water and baskets of goods atop their heads. The agents are on a mission to refer pregnant women, infants and young children - especially those in the first 1,000 days of life - to the OTH medical clinic and Nutrition Program.

The first 1,000 days, from conception through the age of 2, are critical to an individual's healthy growth and development. Proper health care and nutrition in the first 1,000 days yield "one of the highest-return investments we can make to end poverty and promote shared prosperity," according to Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank Group.

Leading scientists, economists and health experts agree, and evidence shows, that improvement in nutrition during the first 1,000 days can significantly save and change the lives of more than one million people a year. Those improvements can also improve cognitive functioning, educational achievement and earning potential, and reduce the economic and human burden caused by chronic conditions later in life. Furthermore, better nutrition can lead to increasing a country's GDP by at least 2-3% annually and help move people and communities out of poverty, according to The Lancet Maternal and Child Nutrition Series.

On this July morning, the OTH health agents continue to meet pregnant women and mothers with infants along the way, referring each to the OB/GYN and pediatric services at the clinic. Beatrice diligently looks for young children to ensure that they have received age-appropriate vaccinations or to measure the length

and width of their upper left arms to determine if the children are malnourished.

"See the color of this little girl's hair?" Beatrice asks visitors who are accompanying her. "The orange discoloration is one of the tell-tale signs of malnutrition."

Beatrice then carefully measures 1-year-old Saskia's upper arm and refers the mother and child to the OTH clinic for further evaluation and possible enrollment into the Nutrition Program. In the program, mothers receive supplemental foods and learn about nutrition, feeding practices, hygiene, and food preparation. On a monthly basis, the enrolled babies and children are weighed and evaluated by a physician. The family has documented in-dwelling visits by Beatrice and her colleagues to ensure that the children have the nutrition and care needed for healthy growth and development.

On a weekday morning following the agents' foray into the neighborhood, the clinic at OTH's headquarters in the Christ Roi zone of the city abounds with mothers, infants and young children enrolled in the Nutrition Program. The health agents - Beatrice, Fabiola Phon and Telemaque Fequiere - along with Jeanne Rose-Laure Milor, the program's coordinator, are busy weighing and measuring the infants and children.

Although most of the children cry as they are placed into the swing-like seat to be weighed and measured, it is a happy time at the clinic. Most of the mothers and the few fathers in attendance are delighted with the progress of their children. All of the parents say that their greatest hope for their children is good health. The gratitude for the services at the clinic, the love and care of the health agents, pediatrician and OB/GYN doctor and nutrition educator is palpable.

During the past year, in addition to OB/GYN, pediatric and primary medical care, the services of the

"Sometimes I get exhausted," said Beatrice. "It is frustrating when there are people who won't change their way of life."

Her work, however, has its rewards. "I especially like to vaccinate the children," she said, "because I know it helps save their lives. I feel privileged to do the work I was trained to do."

When asked, what is the one thing that she would like to share with others, Beatrice replied, "Please keep helping the Haitian people to make a difference in health."

Make It A Date: April 5, 2014

For The  
LOVE  
of a  
CHILD  
Gala

Saturday, April 5th  
6 PM - 10 PM  
Saint Clements Castle  
Portland, CT

Cocktails • Hors d'oeuvres  
Conversation • Dinner  
Entertainment • Live & Silent Auctions

Sponsorships and Auction Donations  
are gratefully welcomed

For more information, contact  
Catherine Foley  
development@outreachtohaiti.org



AT THE CLINIC, the Outreach doctor weighs a little girl in the Nutrition Program as her mother assists.

OTH's Sr. Ann Weller Medical Clinic have resulted in:

- 37,000 vaccinations to children and women of childbearing age to prevent prevalent infectious diseases;
- 10,000 community members learning safe preparation of water for their infants and children to prevent water-borne diseases;
- 296 women attending education sessions and receiving pre-natal care to decrease the likelihood of infant and maternal morbidity and mortality;
- 1,196 school-aged children and more than 10,000 additional community members receiving education on disease prevention and water sanitation;
- 17,790 dwellings visited by health agents, who reached out to families with ill or malnourished children with no other access to health care.

Like the parents and children, the medical clinic doctors, staff and agents - all Haitians - express gratitude. They feel good about making a significant difference in the health of their community. All are also grateful for your partnership and generous support, which save and change lives - especially during the first 1,000 days - one infant, one child and one family at a time.