

OUTREACH TO HAITI

ESPWA, our newsletter of HOPE



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

Building a Foundation for a Better Tomorrow

*Christ Roi (Christ the King)
Neighborhood We Serve*

This is one of many underprivileged neighborhoods in Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince. More than 60,000 men, women, and children live in Christ Roi despite the glaring lack of basic needs many of us take for granted. The people living in this neighborhood do not have proper housing, clean drinking water, basic sanitation, adequate food, little to no healthcare, and few, if any public educational opportunities.

This situation has been worsening for the past several decades due to the socio-political instability, personal insecurity in the face of violent crimes, and most recently, the health crisis brought on by Covid-19, causing



Seventeen of 24 staff who work for Outreach to Haiti

many businesses and organizations to partially or totally close leaving many people with no jobs. In addition, the government doesn't have the capacity to help. As a result, families are desperately looking for relief services like those provided by The Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti to survive and hope for a better future.

Our Staff

Outreach to Haiti is blessed to have a well-rounded and talented staff of 24 men and women. Jude Congé, Director of Operations, leads our staff (21) who are Haitian and live in Haiti. They are committed to changing their countrymen's lives for the better, and they have a deep reservoir of hope. Their hope is a shining ray of light as they walk together with the poor who endure socio-political chaos, extreme poverty, and the ongoing challenges of providing for themselves and their loved ones. Through working with Outreach to Haiti, our staff knows they are building a better future for their country.

Our staff brings a diverse range of skills, experiences, and backgrounds to help those who are served through our Medical Clinic, Healthcare Services, Food and Nutritional Supplement Program, Education Sponsorships, and many other programs. These include micro-business opportunities, advancing the dignity of vulnerable women through targeting economic development, and offering specialized workshops for students and staff.

Part of what makes our staff unique is their dedication and motivation. Each day, despite the many challenges facing them, our staff takes pleasure in going the extra mile to accomplish our shared mission. **They are proud to be part of something greater than themselves and experience real joy in witnessing life-sustaining improvements** after helping a malnourished child or expectant mother receive food and nutritional supplements. This joy gives them deep satisfaction and helps them to forge ahead, day in and day out, increasing their faith as they go.

DOUBLE Your Impact!

Outreach to Haiti is thrilled to announce an end of fiscal year giving challenge! The Board of Directors has announced a dollar-for-dollar charitable giving match - every dollar contributed in June will be **DOUBLED** up to \$18,500. This past year has presented challenges and the services we provide in Haiti are more important than ever.

Can we count on you?

Raising a Foundation for Tomorrow's Leaders

Education

While family and church are the foundations for most people's lives, education is the cornerstone that helps today's young people develop into tomorrow's leaders of science, industry, medicine, politics, and religion. Education allows young people the opportunity to discover their strengths and find direction in life. In Haiti only a small percentage of the population attends school; it is a privilege that not everyone can afford.

Outreach to Haiti's Education Sponsorship Program is led by the Director of Education, Mezalus Emil, and a staff of highly motivated individuals who believe education is the most powerful agent of change in a young person's life. About 200 children and young adults attend primary, secondary, and post-secondary (college level) schools. The staff manages scholarships, school materials, tutoring, and medical care for our students.

Many of the children in Christ Roi and the surrounding communities could not attend school without our support. This is most evident in the case of Kervens Hilaire. He was abandoned by his young parents after he was born but was rescued by his grandmother despite her fragile economic situation. Fortunately, Kervens was enrolled in our Education Program and has had the opportunity to attend school.

Although Kervens' education was taken care of, his grandmother faced challenges meeting his other basic needs such as food, clothing, and proper housing. To help change their situation, our staff invited his grandmother to participate in our FAK program, which coaches and trains women to develop their own micro-businesses. Today, Kervens goes to school joyfully as he



Education Staff

knows he will eat something upon returning from school. To him, his grandmother is the hero of his life. She inspires him to believe that hard work can help him achieve a better future. Kervens always does well in school and promises to take good care of his grandmother after graduating.

In addition to sponsoring students, our education staff, administrative staff, friends and supporters throughout the United States make possible many new programs.

Yes, Young Women Can! (Wi Medam Yo Kabap)—Seeks to close the gap in terms of education performance for girls as they have more responsibilities at home, than boys and men in Haitian families. A psychologist leads group meetings, coaching sessions, and building support strategies so girls will stay in school.

English as a Second Language—More and more job offers state that

mastering English is either a plus or compulsory. Our staff has developed a weekly English course for our students that gives them the opportunity to study the English language and practice speaking it by using a variety of youth-related topics. We also offer a similar opportunity to our staff to help with their self-development.

Specialized Workshops—Based on timely topics these workshops provide our students with the personal and professional skills they need to

excel and integrate successfully into the job market. A March session featured Job Skills and a May session focused on Entrepreneurship. Another workshop provides our staff with on-going software training.

The Giving Back Program—Post-Secondary students share their skills with others. Training sessions focus on: Maintaining and Repairing Computers – Michael Bien-Aimé, Dynamic Job Search Techniques for graduates – Jimmy Jean-Felix, Computer Literacy Program for Employees – Jean-Ricardo Jean-Felix, Literacy Program for Employees and the people of Christ Roi – McNil Michel and Ernzo Yann, and Mentoring Girls (Yes Young Women Can)- Sarah Andy. We are so proud of who these graduates have become and their desire to give back to Outreach.



Kervens Hilaire



Graduates taking our English Language Classes

Creating a Life-Sustaining Foundation

Medical Clinic/Healthcare Services/ Food and Nutritional Supplement Program

Many Haitians die because they do not have access to medical and healthcare. Haiti has two doctors for every 10,000 people, and the country has a total of approximately 125 ICU beds. This lack of equipment and human resources and few hospitals, leaves the Haitian healthcare system unable to live up to their mission and goals to provide healthcare and save lives.

Medical care is a privilege for most and the community of Christ Roi is fortunate to have a medical clinic to serve its neighborhood and the ones around it. Our clinic sees hundreds of people on a weekly basis who come for doctor consultations in general medicine, pediatrics, and gynecology/obstetrics, as well as for vaccinations, treatment for severe malnutrition, and pharmaceutical medications.

Our clinic also offers healthcare in the community, educating them on health

issues related to disease prevention, water sanitation, and good hygiene; they visit thousands of families to identify the sick and, if need be, refer them to the clinic.

Our clinic staff (3 doctors, 1 pharmacist, 1 lab technician, 3 healthcare agents, and 1 support person) is led by our Medical Director, Dr. Nadine Jaquet. They serve with integrity and compassion as they provide quality services to fragile and vulnerable people. Jude Cangé, our Director of Operations, shared, *"because we serve people with our heart, there has been a big shift in the life cycle of the clinic. People come from miles away (Canaan, Gressier, Kenskof, Ganthier) to ask for medical services. They say they have travelled that far as they have heard of the way we treat the people we help."*

One of the longest serving clinic employees is Noel Belavoix. He is a father of five children and has been working at our clinic for more than 20 years. Noel is in charge of maintenance for the clinic and takes great pride in



Staff at Sister Ann Weller Medical Clinic

doing what he does. Even on his days off, he goes to the clinic to make sure all equipment is running well and that the power is stable.

Noel is very important to the staff who respect him greatly and recognize that without his contributions the clinic would not run as well as it does. Noel said Outreach to Haiti is a gift to the Christ Roi community and means a lot to him personally. When he was asked how Outreach impacted his life, he shared the following, *"In 2003, I was very ill with a stomach ulcer. Outreach paid for me to have surgery and continued to take care of me for several weeks before I could return home."* Noel said he was amazed that Outreach cares about the health of its employees and believes this is one reason the community makes Outreach their own.



Noel in the maintenance room checks the generator

Administration

Our administrative staff plays a crucial role supporting the organization through management, budgetary oversight, program and project development, and fostering partnerships with organizations. Under the supervision of the Director of Operations Jude Congé the administrative staff plays a key role

in supporting our ministry. We know without a qualified, experienced and dynamic administrative staff, it would be difficult to achieve our goals and transform lives.

We are one family, and we come together to help each other in times of great difficulties. This fits with our mission, based on Scriptural values and principles, **Helping Haitians to help Haitians.**

Our NUTRITION PROGRAM

Dedicated to expectant mothers, babies and children, combats malnutrition which impacts their physical and mental development.

FOOD KITS are distributed to the most needy families and contain rice, beans, corn, oil, salmon, and 250 Haitian Gourdes so families can buy cooking gas.



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Building Strong Foundations of Hope

“Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

We all are made in the image and likeness of God, which is truly part of God’s plan; to unite us and make us brothers and sisters.

Your friendship and support allow us to build strong foundations of hope for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, whether it is saving lives now, developing tomorrow’s leaders, or working with fragile and vulnerable men, women, and children so they will know God loves them and has not forgotten them. We are thankful for all that you do to make this life saving work possible, and if you are able, we hope you will continue to support us.

We also are grateful for the commitment of the parishes in the United States who are part of our Twinning Program and partner with a parish, school, and clinic in the towns and small cities in the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. Many good works are accomplished through the Twins who provide food to the hungry, educate young people, and support churches and clinics.

We are building a literal foundation also. The two buildings we lost in the 2010 earthquake are being rebuilt into one, three-story building in Christ Roi that will house our clinic, lab, pharmacy, chapel, administrative offices, computer lab, and guest rooms for visitors. We anticipate the building will be finished by November of this year. Photographs are available on our website www.outreachtohaiti.org Our next newsletter will feature this building, a physical sign of hope to our Haitian friends that we are with them for the long-haul and a reminder to all that God invites us daily to do good works.

You are very much a part of who we are and what we do. Your gifts make it possible for us to continue walking with our Haitian friends and to provide them with safe passage when they are facing the storms of life, which includes the current surge in COVID-19 cases. If you have questions or would like further information, please feel free to call me directly (860-800-3604).

Thank you and God bless you.

—Susan Wallace



Outreach building in Christ Roi, May 2021