

Children of Hope Haiti

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December 7, 2015

Summary Report Haiti Trip - November 2015

The domestic currency in Haiti is devalued and the already impoverished nation is deeply in debt. Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in growing and violent protests over the Oct. 25 presidential results amid allegations that the vote was plagued by “massive” fraud. Whoever is elected will face a litany of challenges.

A team of 9 volunteers travelled down to Saintard, Haiti from November 17th - 24th. We were able to carry down French early readers for grades 1-3, school supplies, Medical Family Packs and Crocs for 3 different schools; the school for the Deaf in Leveque, ASCHA handicap orphanage and school in PAP, and Dauphine school up in the mountains. We also travelled to Gonaives and Pont Sonde providing laptops and basic computer training. We were excited to introduce our new program called *Jeff Compas Scholarship Fund* for post secondary students looking to further their education in college or university in Haiti. Thanks to SLG Commercial Group for printing 250 pkgs.

We arrived at the **Deaf school** in Leveque (formerly known as the tent city) mid morning. The children sang a song and we taught them a new song and read a bible story with the help of a sign language interpreter. It was a blessing to provide several (40 plus) hearing aids and batteries from the Canadian Hearing Society for the deaf community along with the school supplies and French books.



At noon, we found ourselves at **ASCHA**, providing a light lunch (sandwich, juice and dried apples) for the 60 students, teachers and workers. Each year we visit ASCHA and it's pleasing to see some familiar faces and how they have grown. Additional computer training was provided to the teachers who received laptops the year before. \$1200 for half the rent for 2016 was given to the director of the home/school along with 5 bags of rice. After lunch at the home of ASCHA (24 children) we played games with the kids, sang together and introduced the new colourful parachute. When the parachute mushroomed up the kids loved to wheel themselves under it. Many smiling faces.



The following day we travelled up to **Dauphine**. The bus could only travel so far up this mountain road where we then had to go on foot for approx 45 mins to the school. The scenery along this mountain trail with the **Artibonite River** travelling alongside the path, is breathtaking. It was not uncommon for us to see a motorcycle with 4-6 people on it. Once again the community was all there as we all crowded into the school/church. The children sang some songs and we introduced a couple of new songs as well. Here 60 Medical Family Packs, rice and

Crocs were given out to 60 families within the church. We had provided \$800 to this school for 4 blackboards, table and 4 chairs and 10 writing benches for the school. It was nice to see that these gifts were there for us to see. The school supplies and books were very much appreciated by all three schools.

Next day, we travelled up to **Gonaives** approx 3 hours north of Saintard where laptops, USB sticks and basic computer training were given. Rice and some sponsorship funds were distributed at that time as well. The children were waiting for us when we arrived and the youth grades 9 and up were waiting inside for the computer training to start. A program of singing and bible stories was provided for the children along with the famous parachute. A light lunch was provided (sandwich, juice and rice crispy squares) for all the children. Pastor Gerald's wife and family treated the team to a lovely home cooked meal.





Arriving at the mission station the children enjoyed some tasty dried apples (thanks to Longo's for the apples and Dana for dehydrating them) and rice crispy squares for their evening meal. The next day the children were treated to Angie's "Sheppard's pie". It's their favourite. The children always know that when we come they will receive ice cream. Unfortunately, this time we went to several locations looking for the large gallons of ice cream with no success. Popsicles were our second choice of a cold treat. Six juicy watermelons were also purchased and enjoyed by all. Abi organized a fun project of Tie Dye t-shirts for all the children and team members. The kids felt proud to wear their creative t-shirt and of course we had to take a group picture. Games and singing were a regular occurrence when we were with the children. The older girls were shown how to clean and keep their nails clean with a mini spa session. Being part of the devotions with the children each night was a genuine blessing.

Our last day, found us travelling north of St. Marc to **Pont Sonde** approx 2-1/2 hrs from Saintard. Here laptops, USB sticks and training were provided to high school students. A computer room has been set up and provided for the school. The Director of the school and the students were thankful for laptops and the training. I am always amazed how keen the students are when they are put in front of a laptop. They want to make a difference in their lives and this is an avenue that can help them to do it.

We were pleased also to provide laptops, USB sticks and training for the high school at the home in **Saintard**. We have 3 very dependable young men that are responsible for opening up the laptop room on a daily basis and monitoring how they are being used. So thankful for each one of them.



Additional Activities

- 5 Goats were purchased for the COHH Goat project.
- Additional medications and hospital supplies were given to the Hospital in Saintard.
- \$3,000 was provided for the school tuition fees for 2015-16 for the children at the orphanage in Saintard.
- Erickson received funds for his first semester of 2016 for his fourth year of medical school.
- \$500 for families to send their children to school in Saintard.
- \$500 to La Limye a new girls orphanage opening up Feb 2016 in Guiton
- The monthly sponsorship program for the last quarter of 2015 was provided as well as the education funds for our 6 students. Happy to report 2 of these students have graduated from High School.
- 25 used laptops were donated by TD Canada Trust.
- Around 300 pairs of Crocs were donated. Children at the home also received Crocs along with Aunt Millennium (an older orphaned lady).
- Children's vitamins were donated from Finch-Leslie Pharmacy along with many other items found in our very successful Medical Family Pack.
- Rice was distributed to the communities of Cabaret, Tomas, Guiton, Gonaives and Saintard
- Manna Relief donated Ambrotose to help build and support the immune system in the children.
- Dr. Hem Jain a dermatologist donated items for our Family Medical Packs and the hospital.
- School supplies from many donors thanks to Mary Anne Williams.

Our team is very thankful that we were able to accomplish everything we set out to do on this trip. It is heartening and humbling - a reminder that our collective efforts, can bring hope, joy and comfort, and reduce the suffering of people in desperate circumstances.

With Since Thanks and Blessings,

Karen Goodyear
COHH Canadian Coordinator