Joy in Haiti Despite a Pandemic

Every year, volunteers from churches and organizations across the U.S. look forward to participating in Hope for Haiti’s Children’s Joy Box Ministry. This program invites individuals and families to pack a small box with toys, treats, and necessities for a specific child in Haiti. When the children receive their gifts, they are filled with immense joy!

While the pandemic forced changes in the method for boxes to be distributed and collected, many churches were creative. Some setup drive-thru pickup and drop-off areas for participants. Others packed boxes outside in their parking lot so that they could stay socially distanced.

In addition, Healing Hands Int’l (HHI) in Nashville, TN, helped by providing a large number of filled “Magi Boxes.” These gifts ensured that every child in all ten Hope for Haiti’s Children schools received a gift box this past December! To HHI and everyone who participated in bringing joy to many children despite a pandemic, thank you!
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Jan. 19, 2021 – Students at the Cazeau Christian School were thrilled to meet for the first time on the rooftop of their newly-expanded school facility for thanksgiving songs, prayers, a flag-raising ceremony, and a celebratory band performance! Thanks to Project Hope 2030 donors, this school has tripled in size – now housing a first-floor auditorium (which is also the meeting place of the Cazeau Eglise du Christ), individual classrooms for each grade, a kitchen facility, a school office, bathrooms with running water, and a rooftop area. This facility is especially a blessing for the teens in the school’s upper grades who had to take a bus each school day to the downtown Delmas Christian School. Now the school plans to hire additional teachers to include all secondary grades. We are grateful for our donors who invested in improving this school. You are making a significant difference in the education of these young people.
Shouts of Joy at the Cazeau Orphanage

This past fall, the children at our Cazeau Christian Orphanage were thrilled to play for the first time on a large playset! Due to unrest in the country, the playset remained in warehouse storage for over a year. After many additional delays due to the pandemic, the Air Force was finally able to deliver the shipment to Haiti. In October of 2020, our Haiti staff recruited a construction crew, including some of the older boys at the orphanage. This team had never assembled a unit like this before, but they successfully worked together to complete the project. Now the children can be heard every day laughing and shouting with joy as they play on the new equipment. What a joyous sight and sound!

School Lunch Programs Fight Child Hunger

Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world. Two-thirds of children under five suffer from anemia and one-fifth suffer from chronic malnutrition, stunting their growth. Due to constant political unrest and nationwide unemployment in Haiti, hunger will be a long-term problem for nearly all children.

Consider participating in this effort through Feeding Tuesday or direct donations to the Food Fund. You are truly helping preserve the lives of the children we serve so they can grow to become everything God has planned for them!

#FEEDINGTUESDAY
Join the Global Day of Giving. Help Feed Over 3,000 Children!
The rise of the coronavirus pandemic last spring left HFHC without the option to send U.S. teams to serve in Haiti. We wondered immediately: “What will we do about Camp Hope?” A lively environment where teens engage in Bible-based teaching, interactive activities, and leadership training, Camp Hope is a sacred space where our students grow in relationships with the Lord and with one another. After fifteen consecutive years of hosting summer camps with Haitian staff as well as volunteers from across the United States, we knew it would greatly disappoint the students if Camp Hope was cancelled.

In response, Johnny Laine and Roolite Religieux quickly agreed to oversee a Haitian team of Christian leaders who would help organize, plan, and execute four sessions of Camp Hope in August 2020 without U.S. volunteers present. Throughout the summer, team members from the U.S. and Haiti collaborated via Zoom to engage in leadership training and to prepare for camp experiences that would be entirely Haitian led for the very first time. The result was phenomenal!

Camp Hope 2020 engaged a total of 177 teens from ten communities with approximately 50 staff members and resulted in 74 teens giving their lives to the Lord in baptism. The spiritual growth of the campers was accompanied by the remarkable leadership growth of our Haiti team. Johnny Laine and Roolite displayed excellence at every turn and effectively guided their team in strategic planning, purposeful collaboration, and servant leadership.

Camp Hope follow-up efforts are currently underway, with Saturday youth rally sessions scheduled in local Haiti communities throughout the spring. Teens who attended camp last summer will enjoy reconnecting with their friends, sharing a meal, laughing and playing together, and engaging in Biblical teaching and worship. Campers who were selected as student leaders at Camp Hope will have the opportunity to join the leadership team to manage each day’s activities and gain experience serving their peers in the spirit of Christ.

We are so grateful for your prayerful support and generosity as we strive to provide Camp Hope experiences that help young people in Haiti find and follow Jesus.
Meaningful Chores Bring Lifelong Lessons

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

(Italian proverb)

At the Thomazeau Christian Orphanage, we are striving to teach our children about God’s creation, animal care, sustainable agriculture, and the value of producing your own food. As the children share the responsibility of caring for the plants and animals, they are learning the importance of agricultural sustainability and how their efforts can impact future generations.

During the past six months, two new projects were launched to help train our orphaned children and supply them with nourishing food:

**Egg-laying Chicken Project**

A large chicken coop was built to house 55 Plymouth Rock Barred laying hens and five roosters. A local agronomist taught the staff and children how to care for the chickens and educated them about the importance of protein in their diets. Since that time, hundreds of eggs have been produced each week, providing the children with protein-rich nutrition for their growing bodies.

**Banana/Plantain Trees & Pidgeon Peas Project**

With 21 acres at the Thomazeau Hope Center, there is ample space for gardening! Thirty banana and plantain trees were planted and will soon bear fruit! Plantains are a staple in Haiti and are usually boiled or fried while they are still green. The ripe fruits are mildly sweet and are often cooked with coconut juice as a flavoring. Fried plantains are definitely a local favorite and enjoyed by many team members! Pidgeon peas are really small beans which are expensive at the market but often used in rice and bean dishes in Haiti.
Have a car you are wanting to sell? **Donate it instead!**

You can donate your car, boat, RV, etc. to HFHC at no cost to you. To learn more, go to [www.hopeforhaitischildren.org](http://www.hopeforhaitischildren.org), and click on “Donate Your Car” on the DONATE page.

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Brian Allinson

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Projects to Consider

Each year we become aware of school and orphanage needs, facility repairs and improvements, needs for nourishment and spiritual outreach, etc. Please prayerfully consider donating funds to provide for one of the needs below:

1. **Solar Electric for Camp**
   - Lighting is needed for the boys’ bathroom at Camp Hope ($1,325)

2. **Fire Pits for Camp**
   - One for boy campers and one for girl campers to use for nighttime devotionals and cookouts at Camp Hope ($600 each)

3. **10th Grade Classroom**
   - Thomazeau Christian School serves students in Pre-K through 9th grade but will expand to include the 10th grade next year ($25,000)

4. **Fans**
   - Schools need sturdy wall fans to provide better air flow inside of hot classrooms ($200 each)

5. **Sponsor a Child**
   - Just $36/month provides a Christian education for a child. 100% of your donation goes to Haiti ($36/month)

Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest evaluator of charities, recently released its 2021 ratings. All of us at Hope for Haiti’s Children were honored to have received our 8th consecutive 4 Star Rating! In addition, HFHC was awarded a 100% perfect score for the 5th consecutive year! Only 1% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator receive this recognition.

We certainly strive to pursue excellence in our financial health and accountability. You can feel confident that your donations are used in the most effective and efficient way possible to meet the needs of at-risk Haitian children.
School Nurses Step Into Frontline Role

Hope for Haiti’s Children (HFHC) school nurses, based in their local community, are taking a leading role in providing education and health care for our sponsored children. With travel for U.S. medical teams now a near impossibility due to the pandemic and political unrest in Haiti, we are blessed to have ten qualified nurses, hired in the Spring of 2020, to monitor our children’s health.

Thanks to generous donors, each nurse was gifted with a well-stocked medical supply kit containing assessment equipment including a thermometer, stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, otoscope, and oximeter, along with first aid supplies and over-the-counter medications. They also received the books *Where There is No Doctor* and *Health Education Program for Developing Communities*. These valuable resources support the nurses as they conduct health and wellness classes in their schools.

With a desire to improve the follow-up on children with important health needs, HFHC hired our first Health Case Manager, Christania Sauveur, in February. Christania is a former HFHC-sponsored child and valedictorian of her nursing school. She serves as a liaison between our school nurses and U.S. team, receiving regular reports of health issues of our sponsored children and updating information for collaboration and decision-making. She utilizes our new web-based Health Case Management System developed by Dina Clyde, HFHC’s IT consultant.

Also this past February, our nurses were trained on a hybrid version of the system – using paper forms and WhatsApp image scanning. It was wonderful to see how engaged our nurses were during the training – asking lots of questions and providing great feedback for future improvements. Today, thanks to the dedication of our nurses and Haiti staff, we can address even more effectively the health needs of our sponsored children.