



# United States Foundation for the Children of Haiti



*Making a difference, one child at a time  
since 1982.*

Supporting the work of Fondation Pour les Enfants d’Haiti (FEH)...orphanages, schools, hospital, faith.

## Letter from Gladys Thomas

Dear Friends of FEH,

The earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010 killed thousands and shook not only the buildings but also the thinking at Fondation Pour les Enfants d’Haiti (FEH). After three decades of caring for Haitian children, it was time to take a hard look at where we were and where we are going. As a Haitian organization, we know and feel the weight of poverty; and we also understand that poverty will always be in the world. We came to question if, by continuing to respond to the symptoms of poverty, we were doing enough to treat the root of poverty head on. Our thinking brought us to a new slogan to direct our work: CHANGING MINDS...CHANGING HEARTS...CHANGING LIVES!

But what is the root of poverty let alone how to change it? We believe experience and expectation are strong forces in defining future success. If we are to change the thinking of our children and their families, we must show them what “better” looks like and then treat them in a manner that indicates respect for their ability to improve their condition...to live into the future that is the result of

changed minds and hearts. Children and families must believe that they are capable of accomplishing success and that, with work and commitment; they can change their lives for the better.

A first step is to change our vocabulary to reflect a more positive connotation. The word “orphanage”, for example, brings to mind poor children with no parents, no families, no homes, living with little hope for the future. By comparison, Family Child Care Facility conveys both that our children live in family groups and, also, that when possible, the birth families have a role in their lives. We believe these words carry a less stagnant and more dynamic sense of life and future for all involved. It is about empowering parents and students.

Family Child Care can cover a much wider field. In 2015 FEH provided a residence and loving care for 128 children. The majority of these children have at least one parent or extended family. For many years we have kept children connected to their families by sending them home for the summer. We now make it known to desperate families that they must improve their conditions so that their child can be reunited with them after completing the sixth grade. By working with families, providing funding

### How you can help!

*Donate at [www.usfch.org](http://www.usfch.org).  
Spread the word about the need.  
Pray for God to provide the needed funds.*

Mailing address:  
PO Box 521171  
Tulsa, OK 74152-1171

-or-

Donate online at  
[www.usfch.org](http://www.usfch.org)





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## Letter from Gladys Thomas (cont.)

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for schooling, and monitoring the progress and well being of “our” children, we will be strengthening families whether their child lives with us or in their own home. We will be transforming lives of parents and children...

The initial results of our empowerment program have been positive. We are seeing parents understanding that their responsibilities to their children are inevitable. Poverty is not accepted as reason to abandon their child. They comprehend that until their child can rejoin the family they have a responsibility to visit and to help provide basics such as a pair of shoes, some underwear, and a few school supplies. Through this involvement we are seeing new pride and dignity in the parents. We see the same increased sense of self-worth in our staff who care for these children as well as the true orphans entrusted to us.

Changing minds...Changing hearts...Changing lives!” This applies to children born with disabilities as well. As our capacity expands at Hope Village, we envision space for a day care program to augment our present resident facility. All these children will have a much richer daily experience, and parents will be able to seek employment.

FEH has always believed that education is the strongest tool to break the chain of poverty. More and better education are what we are called to provide. Basic literacy is not enough; we need to offer more. We are focused on Excellence in Education so that Haitian children can discover their life’s full potential.

The fall newsletter for FEH/USFCH will have pictures and details about what is being done now to establish Excellence in Education...new programs, new buildings, new hope, and lots of excitement. It is ambitious, but the same God who brought FEH through the challenges of the last 35 years will continue to guide our future. Our faith is sustained by the proof that changes can occur. With that faith, ambition for a better future for Haiti, and vision given by our Lord, we believe in the importance of Changing Minds...Changing Hearts...Changing Lives!

Thank you for praying for God’s guidance, provision, and strength for all of us at FEH, especially the children, staff, and administrators who share today’s work for tomorrow’s better day.

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## The Emergence of the Zika

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By Mario Saint-Laurent, M.D. FAAP  
Board Member

The population is too dense, drainage is poor, garbage disposal is ineffective, and the rainy season is around the corner. That kind of environment, unfortunately, is a great recipe for mosquito larvae to multiply in abundance.

The threat of the mosquito born diseases, such as Zika, denque, chikungunya, and West Nile, is not limited to Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Globalization and global warming are real and are major contributors to spreading disease.

Zika virus is described as being like a mild dengue fever. In 80% of cases it is asymptomatic. That’s where the danger lies. It can be transmitted sexually. Many pregnant women run the risk of spontaneous abortion. And of those babies that survive many suffer central nervous system anomalies including microcephaly (small head). Adults on the other hand may suffer a diminution in their IQ.

We do not anticipate global warming to vanish any time soon. And many more unfamiliar viruses are bound to emerge by mutation. This task is too huge for any third world government to challenge. Hopefully, OAS, WHO, USAID and others will soon work in partnership with the local governments to provide guidance on sanitation, drainage, and to supply adequate repellent pending on effective vaccine.



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## A Mission of Love

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By David Wiedenhaupt  
Sponsor and recent mission trip participant

My wife and I have had the pleasure of taking two missions trips to Haiti with our daughter, Lisa Leung. Each time we returned home, we were very different people than when we left. The children, house moms, caregivers and staff showed us the love of Christ and gave us a wonderful example of people who really “live by faith”. The children are happy, friendly and tender. They enjoyed holding our hands, sitting on our laps, running their fingers through our funny straight gray hair, and playing with our I phones. They are really smart and could take pictures and videos in no time! They would smile such a big smile and look deep into me with those beautiful brown eyes. I saw the nature and the love of Jesus in those eyes.

We cleaned out a storage room, put up shelves, fixed wheelchairs, fed the Hope Home children and dozens of other fixes that needed doing. I have never felt so useful in my entire life. The children and staff were so appreciative of each little thing that we did. If what I gave and what I received were to be measured on a scale, what I received would be the far greater amount. I pray that I have left Haiti with a far better understanding of what is really important to Jesus. Thank you children and people of Haiti.

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By Tina Wiedenhaupt  
Sponsor and recent mission trip participant

I have always thought God was calling me to go on a mission trip, but I always found what I thought was a good reason why I could not go. When I saw the love that my daughter Lisa had for the children of Haiti, it inspired me that this was something I needed to do. My husband and I were so blessed by the experience and as he said, it was life changing. What Gladys does for these children is truly a labor of love.

The first trip we took two years ago, we went with all three of our grown children. It was a family affair and that was special to be able to share this life changing experience together. This last November when we went back it was great to see some of the children that we met the first trip and to see changes that are being made especially the building of the new school. It is great to be a part of something that is really making a difference in people lives and to be able to go there and see this first hand was amazing. However as my husband said, what we received I believe was more than we gave.

One of the best experiences of the two trips was to see the child we sponsor. Anaiika is a beautiful young woman. When we met her two years ago she was excited to meet us, but was very shy. This time she ran out to meet us and couldn't hug us tight enough. She didn't want to let go when we had to leave. She wanted us to meet her friends and to share her world with us. I can't put into words how wonderful that was and to know that we have a part in this young person's life. I want to thank my daughter, Lisa for helping us to get out of our comfort zone and venture out beyond our little world. The love of Jesus shines bright in these children.

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## Sponsor a Child

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Would you sponsor a child? There are children at Haiti Home who need a sponsor, someone in the big world beyond Haiti Home who is praying and caring for him or her.

In addition to the importance of the personal connection for each child, donations from sponsors are a significant source of income that enables FEH to provide food, shelter, clothing, health care, staff, and education as well as Christmas and birthday gifts for each child.

Some sponsors meet their child when they travel to Haiti on a mission team. Some have never had the opportunity. Either way, each child knows the name of their sponsor, and they pray for them each day. They know they are prayed for and loved by a caring adult. It costs just \$45 per month to make a difference in the life of a child.

Contact Karla Albert at [contact@usfch.org](mailto:contact@usfch.org) for more information about sponsoring a child





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## Making a Difference - Changing Lives by Changing Minds

by Steven Smith, USFCH Board of Directors

Breaking the cycle of poverty is complex no matter where it is found. A critical component to accomplish this is to change the way people think about the future, to help people believe that things can be different.

FEH/USFCH work to show that poverty is not inevitable. There is another way, a way that says, "We will not be satisfied with substandard conditions simply because that's the way it has always been." We are committed to showing our children and those around us what it is like to have efficient operations, built and staffed by well-trained Haitians, delivering high-quality care and education from attractive, well-designed and well-maintained buildings.

In this way, everything FEH/USFCH does demonstrates that Haitians can provide services that communicate the worth and dignity of the people they serve while showing our children what is possible for them to achieve.

For over 35 years the Foundation has shown that its philosophy of excellence does not necessarily cost much more than an approach that says "anything is better than nothing." It takes vision, creativity, determination, dedication, strength, resilience, and faith. Great things happen when working from this base.

Speaking for the members of the Board of Directors for USFCH, I say "thank you!" to all who have faithfully supported this organization, who believe in a better future for Haiti, and who join us in saying, "With God's help, we can do this!"

Steve and his wife Kate, live in Connecticut where they are raising four children including two sons adopted from Haiti.

### Suggested ways to help fundraise for the USFCH

#### **Run a Marathon for a Cause**

Are you a runner? For your next marathon, ask people to support you as a runner and the children in Haiti.

#### **Craft for the Good**

If crafting is your gift, sell your hobby items to help impact lives in Haiti.

#### **Party with a Purpose**

Just like Kate's gift, you can also host a party that has a large impact.

#### **Contact Your Church to Partner with the USFCH**

Most churches have non-profits they partner with. Let your church missions director know about your passion for the Children of Haiti. We would be happy to give you a list of ways your church can partner with us.

Over the years our donors have found so many creative ways to help make a difference in the lives of Haitians. We encourage you to brainstorm with your friends and family to find a way to use your creativity to raise funds. We need the help of every donor to make sure we are able to continue our work in Haiti. Every penny counts!

If you would like to hold a fundraising event, let us help you!  
Contact us at [contact@usfch.org](mailto:contact@usfch.org).