

Board Member Joanne Carpenter reads to children at HHC



# United States Foundation for the Children of Haiti



## MESSAGE FROM USFCH BOARD PRESIDENT REBECCA HACKWORTH



Dear Friends of USFCH,

It is my honor to work alongside several other dedicated board members to serve USFCH. We have been watching this amazing vision unfold for 31 years now and we've seen God do some amazing things!

I know each of you have your own stories of how the Foundation for the Children of Haiti came into your life! We're actually working on a 30 year anniversary issue and would love to hear from some of you!

Many of you have been to Haiti and met Gladys Thomas in person, or perhaps you met her when she was in the United States for a short trip to visit your church. And some of you have simply taken our word for it, that the work is going forward, changing lives, helping people survive and have opportunities that you and I often take for granted.

I know some of you have seen this quote, but it is one I like even though it keeps me uncomfortable! "Sometimes I want to ask God why He allows poverty, famine and injustice in the world when He could do something about it, but I'm afraid He might just ask me the same question!" I do believe the work of the Foundation for the Children of Haiti has done something about it with His help and continues to do so. I know that because of your support for this great organization through your prayer, your gifts and for many of you your service to the children at our facilities or patients in our hospital at some point in person, you have done something about it as well.

If you haven't been to Haiti before, words simply cannot communicate seeing it all in person. Karla Albert, one of our board members takes a group every summer for the annual birthday party and festival in late July/early August as well as the end of November/beginning of December each year. I take a group of adoptive families (although others have often joined us as well) through my work at Dillon that also still has an active adoption program in Haiti. I hope you'll consider making one of these journeys if you haven't done so yet. It's truly a life changing experience!

May the Lord continue to bless and keep you!

**Rebecca Hackworth**

**USFCH Board President**



A big warm welcome to our newest board member Jeff Collins (pictured above). Jeff, an expert French speaker and financial guru, visited Gladys and FEH in February 2012 and well, fell in love with FEH's mission, cause, people and heart for children. He didn't hesitate to join our board and we're grateful to have him. Welcome Jeff!

## A Message from Gladys and FEH



We have passed more than 2 years since the earthquake and I am pleased to say that we started 2012 with remembrance but also with celebration as the activities of all of FEH (Fondation Pour Les Enfants D'Haiti) projects are moving forward.

### Haiti Home for Children (HHC)

HHC is doing very well. Fifty-eight children live there ranging in from age six months to 22-years-old.

Two of our older children were reintegrated back to their families and one was returned to welfare for behavioral problems.

Eight of the young people there are beyond the age to live in an orphanage; however these are children with whom we have come a long way. They are in regular school as well as vocational school. In compliance with the welfare rules, we set up a separate apartment on campus for them where they live away from the other children. A housemother is there for them.

The other four apartments are divided among boys and girls ranging from 10 to 15 children per apartment. Each apartment has a housemother.

Not only does HHC have its own church which was started by the young people, they also attend a Christian church in the community.

### Rainbow of Love (ROL) and Hope Home (HH)

Village Espoir (Hope Village) is home to the children of Rainbow of Love and Hope Home. Many of the children from ROL can be adopted, and those in Hope Home are severely disabled and abandoned children.

Sixty-five children live at ROL and twenty-six at Hope Home. A staff of twenty-eight people cares for the children there at the village. The children at ROL and Hope Home benefit from groups coming in to do Bible stories and some of the older ones go to church. Prayer is a big part of the daily activities.

### Education Now and Future

FEH operates three different schools: 2 in Port-au-Prince and one in the mountains. A total of 380 children attend our schools. Except for the mountain school, whose students occasionally receive dried food; all other children eat a hot meal at school every day. Recently, I was blessed with an opportunity to create a nursing school. Our partner Humedica, who has helped us since the earthquake, has offered a building site to realize our dream of the St. Marc School of Nursing and Clinic. Please pray for its progress and that it comes to fruition.

### Hope Hospital Loses Staff Member

It is with a heavy heart that I report that Marie Myrlande Bazile, an assistant pharmacist at Hope Hospital was killed



on June 15, 2012 in Port-au-Prince. A wife and mother with a seven-year-old son, Myrlande was shot while she was in town at the market. She was also pregnant. When we launched our

employee of the month program Myrlande was the first one chosen. She was a reliable employee, a loving wife and mother and will forever remain etched in our memories. Please pray for her family and our Hope staff.

### Praise and Prayers

There are many ongoing needs: repairs of buildings and equipment, utilities, the village school and dormitory construction. A website and brochure in French are also in our plans.

*Words of praise and thanks for all the support received from friends and partners. We acknowledge a wonderful gift of a vehicle received thanks to our Haiti board member, Jean Rene Marcellus who intervened and helped FEH to receive a donated vehicle from the Renault Company. Please pray for favor from customs, qualified personnel, and securing of material and equipment, difficulties in Haiti.*

*Thank You to the Almighty Father and thank you to friends and partners both in Haiti and abroad for helping FEH be what it is today, giving us the power to continue the vision of being in Haiti and an organization that understands, that loves, that feels and that moves in the direction of development for the benefit of a challenging country!*

## A New Way to Help Hope Home

### Dora Nemere, HH Volunteer from Hungary

So much has happened recently at the Hope Village! We just had a visit by Global Occupational Therapy for Orphans who did an amazing job! We now have a therapy table, parallel bars, a swing system for disabled children, climbing wall, shelves with lots of art supplies and what not. We have so many supplies but what we need is more staff. I would like to hire therapists and teachers for Hope Home.

I did a small fundraiser through my network of friends and was able to buy some supplies for HH such as a washing machine, ceiling fans, and a water cooler. But recently I came across a new opportunity to help the children at our village.

I visited a school recently called Institution Educatif Special where they teach children with mental disorders. I was very impressed by the place and the principal of the facility and fell in love with the school. It is amazing how much potential these kids have. Students who graduated from there were able to find jobs and are working!!! There are 70



*Alanda, below, enjoys art and having fun.*

students there. We would love to put some of our kids into that school.



*Alta, above, is one of the children we'd like to send to school which specializes in teaching children with disabilities.*

We think many of our children at Hope Village, including Ismael, Alta, and Alanda, would be perfect to attend this special school. A school focused on educating children with special needs would be PERFECT many of our children.

At the special school, there are a lot of kids with Down syndrome and I was amazed by the pieces of their art I saw. Unfortunately the school is quite expensive, but what is more expensive is the transportation, since the school is downtown. The annual cost for school is 900 USD, excluding food and transportation. I am working on the transportation, normally it would be 125 USD a month, but I'm trying to get the same price for two kids.

School is from 8a.m.-1 p.m. every day.

Special Olympics also works there with the kids, and they have already taken some of them to compete abroad (they provide the passport and visa).

I know this is very expensive, but I don't want to give up on it. Now I have enough funds to pay the beginning of the year fees and the costs of school and transportation for September and October for two kids.

We also want to hire a teacher who will come to Hope Home, but I don't think it can be compared to going to school every day. These kids need to be among others who are similar to them.

### [YOU CAN HELP Alanda and other Hope Village children!](#)

If you'd like to help send young children from Hope Village to the Institution Educatif Special please donate at [www.usfch.org](http://www.usfch.org). You can send a check to USFCH with "Hope Home School Fees," written in the memo line or give via Paypal at our website. Remember to designate the gift for "Hope Home School Fees."

**For more information  
check out our  
website at  
[www.usfch.org](http://www.usfch.org)**

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Tulsa, OK 74152

## TWO CHANCES TO VISIT HAITI!!!!

### USFCH FRIEND AND SPONSOR TOUR

Join United States Foundation for the Children of Haiti Friend and Sponsor Tour

**When:** November 24-Dec 1, 2012

**Contact:** Karla Albert, USFCH Friend and Sponsor Tour Coordinator  
[k.shelley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.shelley@sbcglobal.net)

*Friend and sponsor tours are open to all USFCH donors, sponsors, and supporters.*

### HAITI FAMILY TOUR

Join Dillon International for a Haiti Family Tour

**When:** November 17-24, 2012

**Contact:** April Whalen, Tour Coordinator

*(918) 749-4600 or at [tours@dillonadopt.com](mailto:tours@dillonadopt.com)*

**Join us for the trip of a lifetime!**

*Tours are open to all adoptees and families regardless of your placing agency.*

## Postcard from Haiti Summer Camp 2012

Recently we began sponsoring summer trips to Haiti to host a Vacation Bible School and help supporters, donors and those who are friends of USFCH to meet the children that they help all year long. Here's a recent post card from Karla Albert, our tour director, about the Haiti Summer Camp of 2012. Enjoy!



Thank you so much to all of our dear supporters who helped make this trip happen. We wish there was a way to give you a fuller glimpse of what each day was like, as the energy and joy that surges out of those precious Haitian children, is really something to experience. We called it controlled chaos, but one thing for sure...everyone was having a great time! From crafts to games to our attempts at Bible stories acted out and translated...(trusting the Holy Spirit to get the message through!)...it was non-stop fun.

Many elements of our stay could have made it difficult...the heat, the mosquitoes, the tarantula, (eek!!!) and the constant state of sweat and thirst, the sheer exhaustion of going long and hard each day...but

somehow, those things didn't seem to matter much. As we debriefed each evening, most sharing was about special moments of connecting with the children. Amazing how in spite of the language barrier, so much that is important gets communicated: "You are special. You are loved. You are precious to me and God."

For some the highlights were quiet still moments with a child on your lap, sitting perfectly still, clinging to you, content to rest and soak up the affection and

attention of an adult. A rare moment for most of the children.



Our team of 15 bonded beautifully and worked together well. Besides the nine team members we had from Chico, Calif., we had two adoptees returning for the first time, two members of the Hingham Congregational Church in Mass., and one young woman who is a producer from Los Angeles. Our time was marked with lots of laughter and sometimes tears.

Lots of good emotions well up in Haiti. It never ceases to amaze us how much our lives are touched and impacted by the love and generosity of our Haitian friends. They are humble, serving without expectation, joyful in their lives that lack so much of what we consider necessities...consistent electricity, hot and cold running water, a car to drive, new clothes.

Trusting God with a faith that puts us to shame. We learn so much and are inspired by how they live out their faith.





Gladys thanked us for coming and assured us the difference it makes for her and the children to have this to look forward to each year: Celebrating their birthdays, providing a week of fun and excitement, sharing the love and encouragement that we bring from our church family, friends and ultimately the Lord Jesus



with the people of Haiti.



We often feel this trip is such a small thing in the grand scheme of life and needs in Haiti. One short week of fun. One short week of effort... supplying vitamins, diapers, formula, clothes, shoes, birthday gifts, a touch, a smile, holding a hand, holding a child, dancing and being silly.

Yet we see how God takes it and multiplies it and uses these simple things for so much good...more than we could ever imagine or dream up ourselves. We always come back changed. We trust that the children are better off for our being there. Everyone



benefits when Jesus is involved, leading us, loving us all, working in our hearts to make us more like Him. We are all grateful to God for allowing us this opportunity to bring some joy and share His love. We received far more than we could ever give. **If you would like to join us on one of our trips, please contact: Karla Albert [k.shelley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.shelley@sbcglobal.net)**

