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United States Foundation for the Children of Haiti (501c3)

Fall 2018

# on USFCH

## Walking By Faith

### Message from USFCH Board Presidents

Dear Friends,

This USFCH newsletter is packed with examples of the truth of Gladys Thomas's comment: Where there is no way, God makes a way. This has been the experience of FEH/USFCH for more than thirty years, and it is trust in this truth that gives the Foundation courage and strength to meet each challenge.

Sometimes God's will is an unanticipated revelation; other times it is having a need met by the effort of people who are called upon by God to take action on behalf of the work of the Foundation in Haiti. In all cases, we give great thanks and invite you to share our experience of God's miracles.

In early July a team of 13 traveled to Haiti from California, Massachusetts, and Missouri. First timers and returnees alike went to be the hands, feet and

heart of God. They were eager to share encouragement, hope, and joy with Gladys, the children, and the staff. Despite the heat, humidity, noise, and grit, they knew God's love would be returned in even greater measure.

**"Where there is no way, God makes a way."**

**- Gladys Thomas**

**(a riff on Isaiah 43:19b)**

They also knew that every trip to Haiti holds surprises and blessings for those who see how God makes a way where there is none.

We are happy to share our experiences and observations with you and hope that you, too, will have opportunity to see God make a way where there is none.

With faith and appreciation,

Karla Albert, Co-President  
Rebecca Hackworth, Co-President  
United States Foundation for the Children of Haiti

## Beach Day!

### Where there is no way

Travel in Haiti is never easy. Crowded streets (understatement), poor roads, hard-worn vehicles with no AC, you get the picture. This year add civil unrest in the form of barricades and restless crowds. Clearly God had to be in charge of the Beach Day expedition if the team was to take about forty severely disabled children, all from Hope Home, and twenty chaperones for a day's outing to the beach. A beach reservation was made for the large group, but as we traveled north it became clear that piles of tires and assorted debris in the road were going to keep us from our destination.

What to do? Turn the bus around and head south. Trust God, and pray for a way when none is known. Also, realize as one team member said, "Those children were just so joyful and excited to be in the bus and on a trip, being held on a lap, that if we never found a beach to go to they would have been happy."

Where there is no way, God makes a way; and that is exactly what happened. A beach was found that welcomed the shrieks, glee, and organized chaos. Such absolute joy each child experienced as he/she had a turn in the water. And, we got back home to the Village before road problems became worse...another huge miracle. Praise to God!



# Mussotte Musings

## Post Hurricane Matthew Blessings

In prior newsletters we reported about the devastation done by Hurricane Matthew almost two years ago. This was the most powerful hurricane to make landfall in Haiti since 1964, and it delivered the most damage to the southern peninsula where Mussotte is located. Subsequently, we told about FEH/USFCH being the first outside organization to reach the area and the supplies we provided. Now we celebrate the final step of recovery for seven families that were left homeless by the storm.

The day Summer Team 2018 visited Mussotte they joined representatives from seven local families gathered at C-Tech. All were in their best attire as it was a time of great importance. Final contracts were signed by each head of the family, and each in turn gave a little speech of heartfelt appreciation. It was very touching and emotional with several ending with the words, "Thank you Mdm. Thomas, and may you live forever." When hand shaking and good wishes ended, the team proceeded to go on a five-mile hike up, down, and around the mountainside on narrow goat trails to visit the new homes and

be present as Gladys gave the keys to each family. The new homeowners were proud and happy to show their new two-room, cement-block homes. Their former patchwork, one-room, dirt-floored shacks had been blown away; and they had worked hard to build these new, safe and sturdy homes with materials and loans from FEH.



## Trip Home from Mussotte

### There is a way but...

As the day in Mussotte wound down for Summer Team 2018, reports of widespread barricades and rioting in various Haitian cities came via cell phone. Gladys informed the group that they should plan to stay in Mussotte for the night. That was no hardship as they were safe, the company was good, and the Haitian food was delicious. But, truth to tell, it was unnerving to know the road home was rapidly becoming less safe.

Early Sunday morning Gladys got word that the roads were open to Port-au-Prince so the group packed quickly and headed out. They made it to LeoGane, about halfway to PAP, where they met a large mob focused on rebuilding one of the barricades blocking the roadway to the capital. Trying to get through was not a good idea.

Gladys had prepared for this possibility and had made plans for the team to stop at an Episcopal University nursing school guest house in the area. Again, they were completely safe and comfortable. They all took hot showers and used the wifi to contact worried families. Gladys continued to monitor the situation on her phone with her many contacts. At 7pm she told the team they needed to leave immediately as she had word that the roads were clear. They quickly packed and jumped in the two waiting vehicles for the dark drive into PAP. At this point they were all a bit nervous but trusting the Lord to lead them through. In God's great mercy, they quickly fell behind a police convoy heading back into PAP. With emergency flashers on, they were able to slowly proceed into the city, feeling somewhat safe and very grateful for the police ahead of them. The sights were disturbing as it looked like a war zone with so much destruction. But, fortunately, the streets were quiet by that time. There were surprisingly few people and few vehicles. The team was back to the Foundation guest house by 10pm, and again they gave thanks and thought of the words: "Where there is no way, God makes a way!"

Going Online >>>



We're going paperless!

In the spirit of getting maximum benefit directly to those we serve in Haiti, we are moving the USFCH newsletter from printed format to online delivery. Please be sure we have your current email address so you do not miss out on updates and reports.

Click the button on the homepage at [www.usfch.org](http://www.usfch.org) to confirm we have your email address.

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