

USFCH

United States Foundation for the Children of Haiti

News



541

Number of Students
Enrolled in our Schools in
2017

33,716

Number of patients served
at Hopital Espoir in 2016

52,445

Number of Labs & XRay's
taken in 2016



Moving Mountains

UPDATES FROM HAITI
BY JOANNE CARPENTER
USFCH BOARD MEMBER

ABOVE : Picture from the
second floor of The New Academy
of Excellence at Children's Village.

Education:

A goal was set in 2015 to refocus the work of Fondation pour les Enfants d'Haiti (FEH) with the intention to continue "Making a difference, one child at a time" while at the same time broadening our mission to "Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives." The first step to accomplish this broader intention was to focus on increasing and improving educational opportunities for the children in our care and for others.

The first quarter of 2016 was spent planning the curriculum with other Haitian educators and exploring how to best make our schools places of excellence. As a consequence of this work, a name for our new school became apparent: The New Academy of Excellence (NAE). The name inspires and motivates the faculty, the students, and their families. By the end of 2016, The New Academy of Excellence at Children's Village was educating sixty students.

School of the Good Sower #1 at Haiti Home for Children (Port-au-Prince) served 150 students, and School of the Good Sower #2 (Musotte) had 253 students. The Special Needs Division of NAE had 15 students who learned in special classrooms and also integrated with the general population of the school.

After much planning and transitional steps, the resident children at Haiti
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RULE NUMBER ONE

"It's a God thing"

We thank God for His faithfulness
& His love for FEH/USFCH

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Moving Mountains cont.

Home were moved to Children's Village during the summer. At the end of the year there were 104 children living at either Rainbow of Love or Hope Home, the two residences at Children's Village.

With God's grace, Christian Institute for Technical Studies (C-Tech) was also ready for the first sixty students in the fall of 2016. Construction of dormitories and a cafeteria are well under way.

Classes offered include electronics, computer science, nursing, electricity, and plumbing. Additionally, the curriculum includes math, language, social studies, and Christian education.

At the end of the year the headmaster was assisted by an assistant, a secretary, and thirteen professors.



ABOVE : USFCH board members with C-Tech leadership staff.

Health:

Hopital Espoir (Hope Hospital) is graded as one of the best in Haiti. In the spirit of our overarching motto, at the hospital we are "Making a difference one patient at a time, offering quality care without discrimination." Almost 90,000 people received care during 2016 in the various departments. Outpatient clinics were run for ear/nose/throat, ophthalmology, dermatology, urology, orthopedics, general and internal medicine, pediatrics, and Ob/Gyn.

Patients were admitted for internal medicine, pediatric, neo-natal infant care, intensive care, surgeries, and obstetrics.

Great support was received from the LEAP Foundation which provided the hospital with a new and greatly expanded Outpatient Clinic. This wonderful addition was created in what previously had been a warehouse space below the hospital. As use of space was rethought, the Emergency Department was able to grow from three beds to seven; and a fourth operating room was created.

In response to a great need for kidney dialysis, and in partnership with The Kidney Center of Florida, a dialysis center was all but completed in 2016. Not only will this serve Haitians experiencing kidney failure, it will also allow those on dialysis to visit Haiti.

Employment:

In 2016 FEH employed 236 people.

Hurricane Matthew Relief:

Hurricane Matthew tore through the southern part of Haiti in the fall of 2016 creating devastation of life and property for the residents in Musotte where our schools are located. FEH was first on the scene and assessed fifty homes of our students. Thirty-five were heavily damaged, and nineteen need total replacement.

By the end of 2016 one house was completed and five

were under construction thanks to FEH. The cost for building materials for each house is about \$4000. The community of Musotte will provide the labor. To be accepted into the program the family must own their land and assist with the construction. They will incur a loan that will be paid over five years with a portion of the loan going into an emergency fund for possible future disasters. The fund will be managed by a community coalition. FEH also provided immediate food supplies and crop replacement supplies.

Goals and Needs for 2017:

- Replace as many poorly running vehicles as possible to reduce repair costs and increase reliability.
- Explore and implement sustainable energy at all FEH locations.
- Upgrade teaching standards by offering continuing education seminars to all teachers.
- Partner with Little Light House, Tulsa, OK, to provide additional training for special education students.
- Begin sports complex at Children's Village with funds provided by Bidwell Presbyterian Church, Chico, CA.
- Finish apartment for volunteers at Children's Village.
- Construct additional school building and sanitary block at Musotte school.
- Enable construction of twelve houses in Musotte.
- Open dormitories and cafeteria at C-Tech.
- Build nursing program building at C-Tech.
- Establish hospital partnerships with foreign-country institutions.
- Replace x-ray equipment.
- Add equipment for colonoscopy and mammography.

The list is long, and the goals are high. We will brainstorm and look for God's direction as we seek funding and select among the many options. May our highest goal always be to work with the Lord to do His will.



ABOVE : Gladys Thomas, CEO of Fondation pour les Enfants d'Haiti (FEH), with a community member in Musotte.

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Changing Generations, One Child at a Time

CEDEN STORY

BY LISA WIEDENHAUPT
USFCH BOARD MEMBER

ABOVE : Ceden Poteau and
Gladys Thomas.

When Ceden Poteau was eighteen months old his mother was dead. He was a very sick baby, and his extended family could not care for him. Luckily Ceden was brought to Fondation pour les Enfants d'Haiti where he received the necessary medical treatments. With little Ceden's strong will to survive, his health improved and he thrived at Rainbow of Love Nursery. That was more than twenty-five years ago.

Over the years Ceden's intelligence and optimism served him well, and he excelled in school and at Haiti Home for Children. "I had a great childhood. God always helped me, and I was never discouraged or let anything drag me down," recalled Ceden. One of his favorite memories is of his sponsor, the gifts they sent to him and their ongoing encouragement. He recalled that when he was a teenager and attending public school in Port-au-Prince, he was able to buy a basic cell phone with money provided by his sponsor. He knew his sponsor was praying for him, and the safety of having that phone in his pocket was a reminder to him or their care.

Ceden helped wherever he could, and the Director of Haiti Home for Children always knew she could depend on him. After high school Ceden got certified to be a heavy machinery operator. His heart, however, was calling him to a different vocation. He went on to obtain certification in physical therapy and now enjoys working with the special needs children at Hope Home. He is also an after-school tutor for the other children who live at the Village. Ceden continues to improve the skills he brings to his work by studying at the Powerful Institute. Education, soccer, music, and most of all, the children at Hope Village fill his days and life. Ceden told us: "Therapy is something I have always enjoyed. Working with children with special needs is awesome. You get blessed from doing this work."

Ceden is one of the many children cared for by FEH/USFCH who have grown into remarkable adults. Those who have watched him grow up, as well as those he now serves, are blessed. He reminds us that "Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives" will always be about "Making a difference, one child at a time."

**"Therapy is something
I have always enjoyed.
Working with children
with special needs is
awesome. You get blessed
from doing this work."**

- Ceden Poteau

Sponsor a Child

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 for more
information about sponsoring a
child



ABOVE : Karla Albert, Sponsorship Coordinator, and her sponsored girl.

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Hope and Rebuilding

AN ADULT ADOPTEE'S JOURNEY

BY SUZY SCHAIRER

"After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, I became convinced that any hope for finding my biological family was destroyed along with the lives and buildings that fell that day. With this belief came depression and a new low. There was nobody I felt I could talk with about this, and anger and resentment grew towards everybody around me. As much as I wanted to find my birth mother, I was angry that she had given me up. I was angry at my adoptive mother for taking me in, and angry with myself for surviving the life of poverty and deprivation that was the experience of my Haitian family. With the destruction of the hurricane, the guilt became almost unbearable.

Instead, however, of slipping into a darker depression, I reached out to my old orphanage, Rainbow of Love Nursery, and expressed my need and willingness to help. I learned that the nursery had not been badly damaged and that the Foundation for the Children of Haiti was making immediate and long-term plans to help some of the families in Musotte where much had been lost.

Megan, a good friend, and I put together a plan to produce a concert to raise money for building new homes. As an artist, it was possible for me to reach out to some fellow artists who were willing to volunteer their talents to be part of the show. We exceeded our goal of raising \$1000, and a new connection has been established for me with the country of my birth, Haiti. "

This experience was shared with USFCH by Suzy Schairer, one of "our" children from Haiti. Her effort and generosity to raise money following the earthquake is a wonderful story in itself. However, her openness in sharing her emotional vulnerability, confusion, and anger are also of great importance as it is not at all unusual for adopted children to carry these feelings through life. We hope that this message will be shared by as many of our adoptees as possible and that we will be able to support them with our love as they connect and strengthen each other.



ABOVE : Construction on a new home being built in Musotte after the hurricane.



Miracles and Blessings

SPONSORS STORY
BY PATTI SHOEMAKER
USFCH SPONSOR

ABOVE : Patti's sponsored boy Kendy in his High School uniform.

Patti Shoemaker has been a supporter of Fondation pour les Enfants d'Haiti for over twenty-five years. When asked recently what has kept her involved for almost three decades, her answer focused on miracles and blessings. She explained that there is a sign in her home that reads, "Every day holds the possibility of a miracle." She went on to say how over the years she has seen and experienced miracles through her connection with FEH/USFCH.

Patti wrote us: "My connection with FEH/USFCH began just over twenty-five years ago when I stepped into Rainbow of Love Nursery to gaze into my precious baby daughter's eyes and to cradle her in my arms for the very first time. I remember feeling my heart exploding with sheer joy and love. God's hands were busy at work then presenting me the gift of motherhood and the family I had always dreamed of having. For me, it was a miracle."

Patti continued: "Traveling to Haiti a second time, I saw and felt the boundless love, care, and work the dedicated staff provides each day for the children as well as the families touched by their grace. It is truly a beautiful ministry of love. It is clear that the influence of these people touches and multiplies through the hearts, minds, and bodies of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Again I felt I was seeing miracles before me.

"Mother Teresa's words have taken root deep within my spirit: 'The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved.' Over the years I've so wanted each child I've sponsored to know that he or she is loved by God and me. Sponsorship money is used for essentials I take for granted: food, clothing, education, health care, a sense of purpose, and faith. These necessities change lives. Hearts are changed because each child knows the gifts and necessities come with love and prayers. The bonus blessing is that my life and heart are changed as well. Sponsorship spreads love!

"Since we are unable to have a face-to-face relationship with our sponsored child, I've come to understand that prayer is my way to build one. I stay connected through the USFCH newsletter, website, and Facebook. It is a blessing to be part of 'changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives' whether as a sponsor or as a donor for work being done at the orphanages, schools, and hospital.

I am keenly aware of God's presence in my life and relish the words: 'Always keep praying for God's people.' (Ephesians 6:18) I believe God will provide for all that is needed. God has and will make a difference in Haiti, '...one child at a time.' For the children, and for me, this is both miracle and blessing.