

# Dreams for Haiti / ACH

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Hello friends of Haiti,

**Celebrations** We hope you had a great holiday season! Haiti celebrates Christmas by going to Church, then New years day which is also their independence day. In 1804 Haiti became the first free black country, something they are very proud of, as they should be. Many of the other slave holding countries refused to do business with them and they have been struggling ever since. But it is a day that is celebrated by eating pumpkin soup and other great food that they might not often be able to eat. Happy New Year and Independence Day, Haiti!

**Babies** We are excited that our original group of goats have now produced 4 more babies to be given to families. The two that we gave away in Nov are now pregnant and ready to give birth. And we have purchased another goat with donations. In February there will be a big celebration and animal distribution again! I asked Pastor Charles how the chickens were doing. His answer, "Oh, Mom Jackie, there are many, many chickens!" They will also be distributed in Feb. The people now want rabbits and doves to raise.

**A different kind of baby** Congratulations to board member, Jenny Nalagan and her husband, Bryant on the adoption of their beautiful baby boy, Asher. Proud grandparents are John and Jackie Settle and Dr. Marcos and Elena Nalagan.

**Sponsorship** We are so happy to have added a few more sponsors to the school program. Often times people ask us to assign them the most needy child. This is so difficult as so many of the children are living in abject poverty. Dirt floors, roofs that leak, no electricity, no running water, a bucket for a bathroom, and never enough to eat. As we interview the families I sit and listen to unbelievable stories and hope the shock and horror doesn't show on my face. Death is a common theme ( the average life expectancy for a Haitian life is around 60 yrs old, up from 40 yrs old in 1960 ) And yet, on Sunday mornings when we attend church those same families are down on their knees praising God for all they have. Very humbling.

**Fundraising** We are very excited about an opportunity we have to raise funds. Some people tell me they would love to help but their budget won't allow it. Well, now is your opportunity! We are able to work a food booth at Busch Stadium for the Cardinals games this season. We worked the Winter Classics and had a lot of fun and made money doing it. Everyone has to take a training class, then you are ready to wrap hotdogs, work a cash register, cook pretzels, etc. We could sure use some more help and you will get to make new friends and get to know others better. Let us know if you are interested. [info@dreamsforhaiti.org](mailto:info@dreamsforhaiti.org)

**Trips** Interested in going on a trip to Haiti? Now is your chance. No definite date set but most likely in April. Cost? \$1600 which includes airfare, food and lodging, and transportation while there. Another wonderful opportunity to see our programs for yourself and help others and make new friends, learn new skills and use the talents you have to make the world a better place.

If you gave a monetary gift during 2016 we have enclosed a yearend tax receipt. Please contact us immediately if you notice something wrong on yours. Sorry, there was a computer crash and we are hopeful that everything was restored correctly. Thank you again to everyone that offered help to the poor and needy of Haiti.

*Jackie Settle*