

# Dreams for Haiti

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**2020!** As we start off a new year we are filled with gratitude and hopefulness. We are very grateful to all those who donated to the Dreams for Haiti general fund this past year. We are especially grateful to those who stepped up and donated when we had a special need, and we had plenty of those. We had a little boy who needed surgery for his burns. We had a young man who needed a door on his house to keep his family safe. We had a young man who needed a motorbike so he could get to school. A young man who wanted to finish college and someone paid the tuition. We needed to ship a container of mostly food. We saw a horrible food shortage and once again saw friends step up and donate so we could buy food in Haiti.

We saw people come out and play golf in the pouring rain because we had a golf tournament. People came and bought things at a garage sale. Others came and played Texas Hold-em to help us raise funds.

Then there were those that answered the call when we needed things moved. It seems like we did a lot of moving things this year. We are definitely in need of a warehouse to store and ship from so if you know of space available please let us know. We also had great friends that came and packed and loaded boxes when the container came. Heavy, dirty work but lots of laughter and joking and no complaining!

Then there is the giving bench. There is a red bench that sits outside my door. At least several times a week we will go outside or we will come home and find someone has anonymously left items for Haiti on that bench. Not wanting recognition or thanks, but just wanting to help.

In Haiti we are grateful that so many animals have been born and also that people here gave money to purchase an animal so a family could have food and an income.

We are grateful that while most schools in Haiti were shut down ours continued to function and more than half our kids were able to attend. We are grateful that people have chosen to sponsor some of the kids. We are in true need of more sponsors to step forward and help the kids that can't afford to go to school. After The riots, the doubling and tripling of the cost of food and gas, we now are facing the fact that many children can't come because the parents cannot afford to send them. It is \$25 a month to send a child to school and you will receive pictures, a family history and a letter from your child and updates. You may also send a box to your child's family and a letter. You may even want to travel to Haiti and meet your sponsored child and get the best hug you have ever had!

We are grateful for the family that gave money to get our church building started. If you would like to donate so we can add a storage area on the church it would be more than welcome. Our church is an open air pavilion and we need a place to store our pulpit, chairs and other items.

Sometimes the giving and sharing brings a tear to my eye. Recently that happened. A mother let her children read our last newsletter. She asked if they would like to donate to help the starving children. Each gave some of their money they had received for Christmas. She wasn't sure about asking her son that had just graduated from college and was working his first job. He was recently engaged and was working hard to eliminate his student loans before getting married in the spring. He had been eating rice and beans for months to save money. She had not expected him to give but he handed her \$200 for the starving children. I am so impressed with this young man's sacrificial giving and his desire to help. We wish them well as they plan their wedding!

We have many ladies that sew baby blankets, diapers, shirts, dresses and shorts and leave on the giving bench. As we ride around the neighborhood in Haiti we use these boxes to give outfits to children we see in need. These ladies quietly come and leave their handiwork on the bench.

As we look forward to 2020 we are already planning a golf tournament on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us for a fun day without the rain this year. Call Ken at 314-210-7957 and let him know you want to play.

We are planning a Texas hold-em for February 28<sup>th</sup>. We are always looking for raffle / auction items and snacks for these events. Come out and show us your "Poker Face". Call Joe at 636-385-8219 to register.

We are planning on shipping one or two containers this spring and can always use help. Taping skills? Packing skills? Counting skills? We need them all!

We are also planning several trips to Haiti this year. One in the spring and one in the fall. If you are interested in a life changing experience please let us know. You will be put to work, and you will see the real Haiti. You won't just be a tourist. You will make lifelong friends and won't stop talking about your experiences for weeks.

Thank you for making 2019 a great year. Let's work together to make 2020 memorable!