

JANUARY 2022

HEARTS AND HANDS NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND UPDATES



Board Bulletin

- We are always in need of monthly sponsors, please refer us to friends and family who may be interested in our sponsorship program or supporting a non-profit.
- Are you interested in volunteering? We are looking for new board members to add to our team. Please reach out to us via email if you are interested and we will send you an application.
- Remember to use AmazonSmile as a way to financially give back with every purchase you make on Amazon! You can do this by simply changing your settings. If you need help navigating this, we will gladly help walk you through it!

A Message From The Board Of Directors

Dear Sponsors,

We hope that this newsletter finds you well and safe in the middle of what is still a difficult time in the world! By no means has the past year been easy, but you have continued to faithfully support and uplift the people in Haiti regardless. Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation, we as a board, hold for your generous commitment. While times remain difficult, we are hopeful for a better year ahead, full of God's blessings and awakenings around the world!

We know that many of you are curious and concerned about how the country of Haiti is doing, as well as the personal ministries that are supported by Hearts and Hands. Below you can find some current updates from Ashley Wojton, one of our missionaries in Haiti. If you wish for more detailed information, you may reach out to us and we will do our best to inform you further. Once again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to serving the people of Haiti! You continue to impact and change lives through your generosity.

-Hearts and Hands of Heroes Board

2021 Tax Receipts

If you have not received your receipt by 1/31/22 please reach out and let us know! The reason you haven't received it is likely because your email has not been updated in PayPal. We will gladly update and get your receipt to you as quickly as possible.

A Message From Haiti

Dear FEP Sponsors,
As 2021 closes and we enter into 2022, we want to take this opportunity to appreciate your support throughout the year. Despite the immense challenges of 2021, you've continued to support FEP and we are so extremely grateful! Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support have allowed us to continue to provide shelter, food, education, and a family to the children. We thank God everyday because your support allows us to continue to bless His children! We pray that God will bless you and protect you as we enter 2022, and that this new year will bring you peace and joy! Thank you and God bless!
--Gerta and Mama Michelle



Christmas In Haiti

We were once again able to play a big role in giving the orphanage and local community families a great Christmas! Thank you to those who contributed financially to ensure the children were able to receive presents and a nice Christmas meal! This is always a highlight of the children's year, and with so many obstacles facing the community, it was even more appreciated, needed, and special!

Back To School Fundraiser

A BIG thank you to those who donated school supplies for the children of FEP in the fall! We were told that the children were **so** excited upon the arrival, and they were each able to return to school with all their essential supplies! Your donations were plentiful, and we were also able to send extra supplies for the local community students, as well! Your generosity started their new school year with big smiles, fresh mindsets, and excited hearts! Thank you!



A Message From The Missionaries in Haiti

From Covid-19, protests, the assassination of the President, a 7.2 earthquake, rising inflation, kidnappings, and civil unrest, 2021 was an extremely difficult and devastating year for Haiti. Still, Haiti continues to persevere through the challenges they face and continues to show the world their resilience through life's hardest battles! To provide more insight and clarity on the details of this past year and the current reality of Haiti, here are some first hand updates from one of our missionaries, Ashely Wojton.

The Assassination Of President Jovenel

We have experienced many affects of the assassination of the President in July of 2021. While a Prime Minister has taken over the role of the President, he is not hands on like the previous President was. Currently, the gangs run the country and while they are far away from Les Cayes, it has led to numerous problems in our town. For instance, the gangs control part of the road between the capital and our city in the south. That being said, the gangs then get to decide if and when supplies and gas get through. This causes gas prices to rise to \$25/gallon and the price of food to skyrocket. There are also certain food items only made in the capital that are extremely hard to come by, such as sliced bread for example. There seems to be no intervention by the current administration in power to stop or control the gangs.

Due to the unsafe circumstances, we are also unable to travel to the capital, Port au Prince, via car or bus. Anyone that needs to travel for personal or urgent medical intervention, needs to travel by plane or helicopter from Les Cayes. This complicates the already fragile medical care system. Not only are hospitals here not able to get supplies, gas, oxygen, or staff to properly run the hospital, but they are also unable to send patients to a better hospital for critical treatment.

The Effects Of The Earthquake

Les Cayes was hit by the largest earthquake in modern history on August 14, 2021. While it did not cause the amount of deaths as the January 12, 2010 earthquake, it still killed and estimated 2,248 deaths and left thousands homeless. While the children were scared, the orphanage had minor damage to the building and the school year only had to be delayed six weeks to complete the repairs. Many are still traumatized from the earthquake with aftershocks happening everyday.

Providence Academy Updates

We finally opened the school the first week of October, and missed 6 out of the first 10 days due to political unrest. Thankfully, we were able to complete the first quarter without interruption after these incidents. The staff and students at Providence Academy are doing as best as they can to work hard and focus on education, despite all of the trauma they have endured the past few months.

Kidnappings And Current Concerns

While kidnappings have increased dramatically in Haiti over the past year, it is thankfully not something we see in our town. The US has stated concerns over February 7, 2022. This is the date President Jovenel was supposed to finish his presidential term and many believe that the current Prime Minister should step down at this time. With no election date in sight, it is unlikely that he will and this may cause nationwide protests forcing schools to close yet again. Given the circumstances, we are doing our best to stay positive and we are taking each day and crisis as it comes, one thing at a time. We are remembering what is important and trying to appreciate every moment with each other and every day that we get to go to school.