

# HEARTS AND HANDS OF HEROES

## Newsletter

### A BITTERSWEET FAREWELL

As 2022 has come to a close, we have prayerfully concluded our time on the Hearts and Hands of Heroes Board, as well as operational team. We have served for the better part of the last decade, and have stepped back at this time in order to focus on our young growing family. We may still be involved from time to time, and still fully support the mission of the ministry, but trust that the Lord is going to provide new leadership to take our place.

In this time of transition, you may contact Kayla Smith for any sponsorship questions or needs, fundraising, donations, and any operational concerns. She is graciously serving in these roles to temporarily fill in until a more permanent replacement is found. She is phenomenal, well-equipped and ready to help however needed!

We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you to help bless the kids and families in Haiti and give them a brighter future. It has been a pleasure to work with so many of you and get to know you over the years, with this beautiful cause uniting us as one in the Body of Christ. Thank you for your continued giving and support of this beautiful ministry!

Farewell and many blessings to you all,  
Todd & Briana Abair



## Greetings from the Board

Hello Sponsors! We hope that this newsletter finds you well and joyful after a busy holiday season. We at Hearts and Hands have been busy with holidays, taxes, and unexpected good and shifting news that came in January. We are so excited for what is to come and the continuation of a fruitful ministry existing to love and serve others in need!

This newsletter is filled with lots of information and updates, so please make sure to read through it all when you get the chance. If you have any thoughts, questions, or concerns please reach out to us and we would be happy to address those. As always, we are so grateful that you are here and choose to give through Hearts and Hands of Heroes. Your continued support is impacting the many lives of those we serve and providing a way to an equipped and bright future.

# GOOD NEWS

## NEWLYWEDS

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If you didn't see on Facebook, one of our missionaries, Oriana got married on July 16, 2022 to Robenson Benjamin. They have been cherishing this time as much as possible and are so excited to see what the future holds!



## CHRISTMAS

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To those of you who donated, sponsored, or contributed to Christmas in alternate ways this year, THANK YOU! Despite the many challenges facing the country, we were able to continue the annual traditions of Christmas for FEP and our community families. Families were provided food and basic need items, as well as, presents for the children. FEP was also able to celebrate with stockings, presents, pajamas, and a Christmas Eve party!



## FEP 27 YEARS



27 years ago, God called two amazing women to love the children in front of them. For close to three decades God has showed up and exhibited just how precious these sweet children are to him. Michaelle and Gerta have been a steadfast example of faith in God and his provision.

The countless number of children who have been changed by the love of these two incredible servants of God is a testament to what God can do through a willing heart and a little faith. We are so grateful that God has allowed us to be on this journey for the last decade with FEP and we look forward to what the next 27 years will bring!

## SHARLA

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Sharla is working hard continuing her medical education and we could not be more proud of her! We are so grateful for her sponsors who continue to support her education. Sharla recently was informed that her program is requiring an additional semester of courses before graduation. Please continue to pray for Sharla as she manages her workload and moves toward graduation.

# LATEST NEWS IN HAITI

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The last few years in Haiti have been particularly difficult, and this last year was unfortunately no different. Haiti's government continues to be led by what was supposed to be a transitional leader and has allowed the country to be taken over by gangs. These gangs have cut off much of the nation's supply chain - particularly in regards to the food supply. This has caused food prices to skyrocket to 3x's the normal prices - leaving people hungry and choosing between educating their children, maintaining their business, or putting food on the table. Because of our faithful donors, Hearts and Hands has been able to assist FEP and our community families to make ends meet, but it has not been easy. Certain foods, such as meat, have become a luxury and our families are feeling the strain. Please join us in continuing to pray for the people of Haiti. Pray for peace in the streets and boldness in the government to begin to stand up for their people and make decisions that will provide stability for their citizens.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MISSIONARY

"While things were relatively quiet for the month of December, things are heating up here again in Haiti. This month over 10 police officers were killed in gang violence. The police are frustrated by the lack of support by the government, and their lives being on the line daily. Gangs continue to make ground everyday, with little pushback. Many schools are still closed in the capital, and with the gangs growing everyday, this will be a reality for more and more children each passing day. Universities have stopped, government offices have limited hours and there is no end in sight. The cost of living has increased 3xs what it was. It makes life almost impossible for most. We are constantly living life on the edge, because Haiti is constantly seconds away from shutting down again. For our girls this means constant interrupted education, lack of variety in their diets because some food is just too expensive now, and knowing at any time we may need to shelter in place. We don't know what hope there is for the future generations. We don't know if or when they will continue their education, and even if they do, what jobs will be available when they finish." --- Ashley Wojton

# HUMANITARIAN PAROLE

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Due to the ongoing instability in Haiti, the US has opened up humanitarian parole as a way for Haitians to enter the United States legally and safely for a period of 2 years. To be eligible, Haitians must be over 18 or accompanied by a parent, and have a valid passport. In order for Haitians to be approved for entry to the US, they must also have a sponsor who agrees to financially support the individual and help them access available services, such as school, English classes, medical care, and employment opportunities.






So, what does this mean for Hearts and Hands? There are currently a handful of girls at FEP who are eligible and have the desire to come to the United States. This means that they have the opportunity to move to the United States for the next 2 years, finish their high school education, and begin exploring options moving forward – whether that be career training, college, or seeking employment. We have started the application process for eight of the girls to obtain authorization to travel to the US and hope to see this approved soon! We have a host family who will be providing a place to stay and help them enroll in school. Hearts and Hands would like to continue to support the girls during their stay in the United States, particularly while they are finishing school. At this time, sponsorships are used to provide for proper nutrition and education. Our hope is to be able to continue to support those same goals in the United States. Hearts and Hands will continue to provide for food, basic necessities and educational expenses – like school supplies, school fees, etc. If you feel led to help in additional ways such as travel expenses, long term costs, work authorization fees, medical expenses, counseling, or additional monthly support for any of these girls, please contact us and we can set that up! Most importantly, please join us in praying for each of these young women during their journey and the changes that they will experience. For more information on Humanitarian Parole please visit ,

<https://www.uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/humanitarian-parole>.

"The Biden program is a miracle and an answer to a prayer we never thought we would get. This gives them a chance at an education not interrupted by political instability or gang violence. It gives peace of a stable environment where you can count on basic needs being met, and a future and hope for the rest of their lives. No one wants to leave their home, their family, their culture and everything they know, but the circumstances have made it nearly impossible to stay here. We know unless something changes quickly, it's only a matter of time before the worst seen in the Capital, will become our reality in the South. Helping any refugees coming from Haiti is literally saving their lives, and I mean that with all my heart. With the most limited passport in the world, there is little to no chance to escape when things escalate, so I meant what I said when I said Biden's program is a miracle, and we know that it might not last long." -- Ashley Wojton



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP TODAY

-  **Humanitarian Parole Support for Students and their host families - this can be monthly or a one time donation to help with ongoing expenses, travel expenses, medical care, etc.**
-  **Monthly sponsorships for Leika, a child at FEP. Leika is 17 years old and is finishing her education at Providence Academy. We are in need of two sponsors (or one person willing to cover both sponsorships!) - \$36/monthly for education and \$50/monthly for nutritional sponsorship.**
-  **We are looking for additional sponsors for our missionaries. Sponsorships can be in any amount and can be monthly or a one time donation.**

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## GET INVOLVED

Do you have a passion for outreach and growing the Kingdom of God? Do you have experience in non-profit work? Are you looking for a non-profit ministry to use your particular skills and experience in? Hearts and Hands is eagerly looking for more people to join our board of directors and volunteer team! If you answered yes to any of the questions above, please consider applying to join our team! We are specifically looking for those gifted in finances, grants, communication, social media and fundraising. Those with the heart, skills, and time to volunteer every month are welcome and encouraged to apply. You can email us or follow the link below if interested.

<https://heartshandsheroes.org/contact-us>

