

## The "Better Late Than Never" Edition



## We're Back and Still Serving!

### *What Took So Long?*

Wondering what happened to the Spring and Summer newsletters? It wasn't for lack of news that they were never created. If anything, it was just the opposite. There has been so much going on that there wasn't time to write about it all! Catch up on the news in this long-awaited edition.

You'll find news on trips, fund-raising, our new web site, and more. Read on and join in!



*Landing at Toussaint L'Ouverture Airport in Port-au-Prince*

### **Did You Know??**

Servants for Haiti is an officially recognized 501(3)(c) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code. You or your group can deduct donations to SFH at tax time!

Take a look inside the newsletter for ideas you can use to help raise funds for the children of Haiti.

*You can help us lower our costs even more by sending us your email address so that we can keep you posted with the latest updates from SFH without paying postage!*

### **Contacting Servants for Haiti**

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### **News Flash!**

Servants for Haiti is making headlines! Visit our web site for a reprint of an article from the Lowell (MA) Sun featuring our work in Haiti.

## Servants for Haiti is in Sending Mode!

After some delays, Servants for Haiti has begun sending teams to Haiti. Our first team traveled in June. See the trip report inside this issue. The next team leaves on November 5th. Inside, you'll also find a report from the Richards on their family trip this past spring.

Sending teams is a significant milestone in our work. We don't think it's enough to write checks and send the money off. We want to bring people together. We want people to see first hand the difference they are making. Your financial support is your gift to the children of Haiti. Giving you the chance to participate in this work first hand is our gift to you. That's what brought about Servants for Haiti in the first place. We traveled there and simply couldn't forget about it.

Have you ever considered

joining one of our teams? Chances are that if you receive this newsletter, you are interested enough in the plight of Haitian children that the thought has at least crossed your mind. Read the stories in this edition and talk to those who have gone. You will sense the passion coming from anyone who has visited Haiti. It has changed all our lives and we are richer because of it.

Our teams are led by people who have traveled to Haiti nearly a combined one hundred times. We recognize that safety is a primary concern for most people, but we have never had any problems in the many years our team members have gone.

So get out of your comfort zone. Our next trip after November will be June 2008. Contact us today for more information.

# New Web Site is Online!

If you haven't visited [www.servantsforhaiti.org](http://www.servantsforhaiti.org) for a while, you're in for a big surprise. Our old "placeholder" web site has been replaced by a new and highly improved version. While we are still working on keeping the content of the site up to date, we think you'll love the look and feel.

In keeping with our desire to keep our overhead costs at a bare minimum, the new site cost SFH nothing. The entire site was

created by Sara Cannon Design ( [www.sara-cannon.com](http://www.sara-cannon.com) ) as a gift to Servants for Haiti. Sara is a former visitor to Haiti herself, as part of a team in June 2000.

The color scheme is the familiar orange that matches the uniforms of the students at College Jean Rigaud Antoine. The site is easily navigable, with links to such topics as SFH Programs, Teams, News and Events, even Haiti News to keep you informed of the latest

happenings there.

Over time, we hope to enhance it with more helpful information and services. Do you have a suggestion for ways the site can help you help Haiti? Drop us a line! You can do just that on the "Contact Us" page.

Drop by the site often. Explore the different links and send us your feedback. We're excited about how this site will help us keep in touch with you and be more effective servants for Haiti.

## Trip Reports

*On June 10-19 2007, SFH sent its first work team to Haiti. This is team member Kevin Ashley's account of that trip.*

Hello All! My team returned early Wednesday morning from Haiti. I have lost count of how many times I have tried to write this. Expressing the spectrum of experience and emotion my trip to Haiti has produced I am finding near impossible. From the rankness of burning trash and diesel fumes to seeing the elation of a child's first time on a swing, from the helplessness knowing so many I walked past may not have eaten for days to the amazing speed a suspicious stare changes to a brilliant smile with a simple 'Bonjou'. It may take months to really come to grips with all that happened.

Spending the majority of the week with the kids from the orphanage was incredibly rewarding. Whether playing cards or tossing them in the air, the way they are able to take so much joy out of simple interaction was a lesson on what is really valuable. It's hard to believe how fast they work their way into your heart. The inability to really talk to them was frustrating, but through a few basic Creole phrases they taught me, a little bit of college French and a lot of charades we got a long way.

Working at the feeding program, started and run by Michel and Louise Charbonneau since 1996, was sobering. Nearly 1500 kids come twice a week to sing songs, fellowship and receive a meal of rice and beans. Some were obviously undernourished. All were happy to have food. We also helped my new friend Ed Amos, who has been using his medical expertise to serve Haiti for many years, run a basic medical clinic after the meals had been served. We cleaned and bandaged cuts and scrapes, while Ed handled the more serious cases.

My team also spent time building benches, fixing picnic tables, ripping out doors and frames which had suffered termite damage, and screening windows in the orphanage to keep the bugs out.

It was definitely an experience I look forward to sharing with you all in more detail, and one I will never forget.

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*This report is from Laurae Richards, SFH president, on her family trip to Haiti April 10-17*

We left home at 3:00 am for Logan Airport. We were excited to be going back to a place we have grown to love so much. Howard and I were filled with excitement, yet were a little concerned. The last year in Haiti had been filled yet again with unrest in the Port-au-Prince area. We were not sure how we would actually find things when we got there. We were prepared to spend the whole time inside the orphanage if we needed to lay low. Staying inside the orphanage would still allow us to fulfill our three purposes for going: spending time with the children in the orphanage, having meetings for Servant for Haiti business and seeing our two girls that we are in the process of adopting.

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When we arrived in Haiti, we were very happy to find that things were really quiet. We were told that it would be fine for us to go to church and even go visit our dear friend Madanm Milio who had just broken her foot and was flat on her back at home. Madanm Milio runs the feeding program at the school and I needed a meeting with her. Now it would be held at her home with her in a horizontal position.

We had a lot of fun with the children in the orphanage. This time we had received donations of Hot Wheels track and cars for everyone. There were multiple games of Twister (they never seemed to understand you can't pick your other hand or foot up when there was a new move, but they laughed a lot anyway) and crafts. I also brought down all the ingredients to make a taco dip and apple muffins, but the biggest hit was the English muffin pizzas. Everyone loved them and said I should do that every time I come.

We also did work around the house, painting a room and fixing screens. After painting the sitting room, we decided to create a family tree with the hand prints of everyone that lives in the house, as well as those that help at the house. Everyone seemed to have fun doing this as no one had ever done anything like it before. *[See the picture below.]*

Even though it was a short trip, we were able to accomplish so much and were very sad when the time ended and we had to go home. We look forward to returning, hopefully soon to bring our girls home.

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## Fundraising News

Fundraising is a huge part of what we do at Servants for Haiti. We are constantly seeking new sources of funding. We are not shy about asking anyone and everyone for gifts to help the children of Haiti. The stakes are too high.

Here are a few examples of creative ways that we have recently used to raise money and awareness.

### Donations from Local Organizations

Two local Rotary International clubs recently expressed their support for the children of Haiti through these generous donations:

- Londonderry Rotary Club: \$300.00
- Tyngsboro-Dunstable Rotary Club: \$500.00

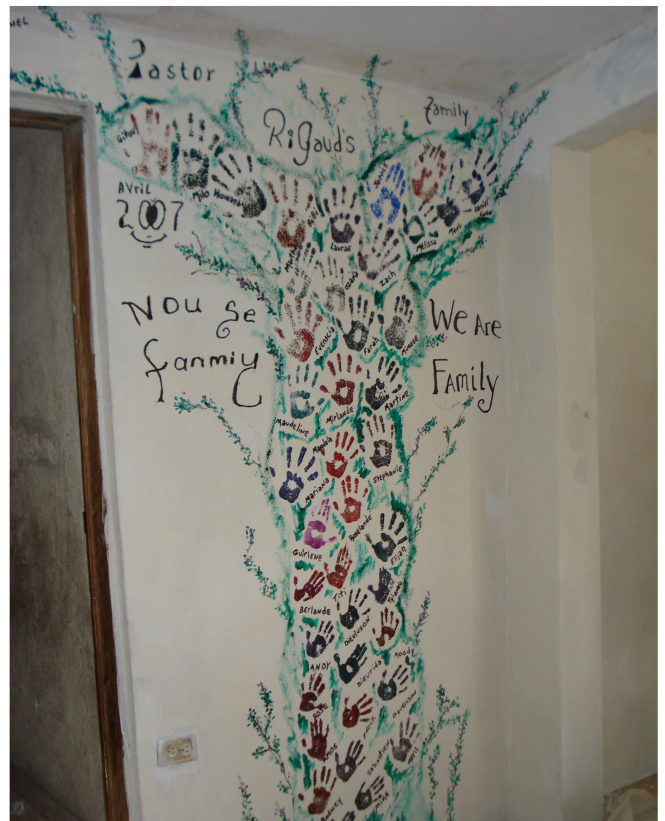
We want to extend our deepest gratitude to these groups for making a difference, one child at a time.

### Corporate Giving

A member of our board works at the IBM corporation. As part of their philanthropic program, they award grants to organizations for which employees volunteer a minimum amount of time.

They recently awarded a grant of \$1000 to Servants for Haiti to help defray some of our overhead costs. That allows us to be even more efficient with the funds we receive from individuals and other organizations. We thank IBM for their generous contribution and recognition of SFH's important work.

Check with your employer to see if they offer any kind of donations program.



*Children's handprints decorate the orphanage walls*

## Individual Giving

Here's how one couple remembered SFH on their special day. Instead of giving gifts to their attendants on their wedding day, Chris and Erin donated \$300 to SFH.

Why not follow their example? For your next birthday, anniversary or even Christmas, give a gift to those who need it most! It's one sure way of giving a gift that is both needed and appreciated.

## Important Message to Sponsors

If you would like to send a payment for each child. We'll Christmas gift bag to the child put together fun gift bags for (or children) you sponsor, the children so they know send SFH \$10 above and they are not being forgotten beyond your regular monthly at Christmas.

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### Abbreviated Creole Lesson of the Day

Because of the plethora of backed up news in this edition, there's not much room for a lesson. Here are a few good phrases to learn:

Yes : wi (wee), No : non (noh), Hello : bonjou (bohnjoo - literally "good day" used before noon), Please : souple (sooplay), Thank you : mesi (mehsee), Thank you very much : mesi anpil (mehsee awnpeel), You're welcome : pas de quoi (pah da kwah), I'm sorry : mwen regrèt sa (mweh rehgreht sa), Excuse me : eskize mwen (eskeez mweh)

*The staff of SFH news takes no responsibility for spelling errors. After all, Creole is not really a written language!*

Pastor Rigaud Antoine, founder of Kingdom Kids orphanage and the CJRA school where SFH sponsors students, recently spoke at West Brattleboro (VT) Baptist Church. As a result of his talk, six more children were sponsored.

If you would like to have Pastor Rigaud speak to your group next time he visits, contact us and we'll try to arrange it.

## Servants for Haiti Board of Directors

SFH is staffed by a volunteer board of directors.

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Laurae Richards

*Vice President*

Howard Richards

*Program Director*

Judy Evans

*Treasurer*

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*General*

Ruthellen Davidson

**SATURDAY**

**NIGHTHOPE**

**SATURDAY**

**NIGHTHOPE**

**SATURDAY**

**NIGHTHOPE**

This past June, Servants for Haiti held its first home-grown fund raising function. The event, called "Saturday Night Hope" was an evening of entertainment based on the Saturday Night Live format: music, sketches and videos entertained and educated the attendees. During breaks in the show, visitors went shopping for silent auction items.

While the turnout was less than hoped, enthusiasm was high as people got into bidding wars over the most desirable items. By the end of the night, nearly \$3000 was raised. Additionally, six new children were sponsored!

A lot of work and generous giving went into "SNH for SFH". We want to express our appreciation to the following, without whom the evening would not have been nearly as successful:

**Grace Community Church** in Chelmsford, MA ( [grace-community.org](http://grace-community.org) ) for the use of their facility and also for the many church members who pitched in with countless hours of work.

**Dark Glass** ( [dark-glass.com](http://dark-glass.com) ) for sketches and short films.

The music of **Donnie Gibbs, Rich Axtell and Murray Marcano**. You guys rock! Literally!

Finally, a very special thank you to the following companies who generously donated auction items:

Walden Media, Krazy Karry's Backyard Grill, Applebee's, Tastefully Simple, Rainbow Art and Framing, Yankee Magazine, Hannaford, Starbuck's, Mary Kay, The Teapot Tea Room, Bath and Body Works, Southern Living, Lui Lui, Not Your Average Joe's, Chili's, The Common Man, The Java Room, Westford Grille, and others.

Please patronize these establishments and tell them you appreciate what they are doing for some of the least fortunate in our world.