

"Two-for-the-price-of-one" Edition



You *are* making a difference!

News Items

Haiti has been in the news once more this past year. Sadly, it is bad news yet again. Read on for details of problems facing our Haitian family.

Gustav Pummels Haiti

Hurricane Gustav slammed into the southern peninsula of Haiti on August 26. Up to 60 people have been killed with many more missing or injured in the poor nation. Heavy flooding was reported in Port-au-Prince where hundreds have fled their homes seeking high ground to avoid the rising water. About 40% of the coastal city of Jacmel has reportedly been destroyed. After passing over the mountains of Haiti, Gustav was downgraded to a tropical storm.

Gustav's torrential rains were predicted to drop up to 25 inches of precipitation. This kind of rainfall wreaks havoc with Haiti's deforested mountains, bringing mudslides that can devastate villages in their path. The deaths were attributed to the mudslides and people being swept away by flood waters.

As we go to press, the storm is expected to be upgraded back to a hurricane as it passes over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and heads for the U.S. mainland.

So far, there are no reports of any Servants for Haiti work being affected. Watch our web site for updates.

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Fundraising is Life Saving

Fund raising certainly has a bad reputation these days. Between people and organizations calling your home at dinner time or filling your inbox with annoying spam, it's hard to know who to support and who to avoid. There are many great causes out there seeking your hard earned money. Servants for Haiti is not ashamed to be counted among them,

We aren't in the fundraising business, though. We are in the life saving business. (One child at a time, in case you hadn't noticed!) The problem is, doing the important work we do takes money and plenty of it. So raising funds becomes a necessary part of our work.

However, we figure that, if we have to raise money, why not make the best of it? Here are some creative ways our supporters have

used to raise funds to help the children of Haiti.

Westford, MA pre-school and kindergarten classes held a unique fundraiser to benefit children in Haiti. The Westford children did extra chores to raise money to buy flip-flops for the kindergarten class at the SFH supported school, College Jean Rigaud Antoine (CJRA). Encouraged by SFH president Laurae Richards, who serves as an art teacher, Louise Marinelli and Paula Kinnunen, the kindergarten teachers at the preschool, thought it would be a great idea to get the children involved in helping others who are not as fortunate. The fundraiser was a great success. The children brought in enough flip-flops to give to multiple classes in Haiti.

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Children receive flip flops donated by Westford schoolchildren.

Haiti News

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Food Shortages Rock Haiti

Food shortages have been affecting developing nations all across the globe this year. Haiti has been especially hard hit. Prices of staples such as flour, beans and rice doubled in just a matter of a few months. This has occurred in spite of record harvests in rice producing nations.

At least six people died in riots that broke out across the country as people demanded help in the face of a drastically increased cost of living. The riots caused a shakeup in the government as well. The prime minister was fired in response to the crisis.

There is little good news to report in this situation. However, we are grateful that the operations of Servants for Haiti were not adversely affected. The CJRA school remained open as usual as did the Kingdom Kids orphanage. SFH sent additional money to make sure the children we serve did not suffer as a result. Because things have calmed considerably since the initial crisis earlier this year, we don't expect upcoming SFH trips to Haiti to be affected in any way.

If you would like to keep track of current events in Haiti, the SFH web site provides links to several news services where you can read the latest news for yourself. To keep current, go to www.servantsforhaiti.org and click on the "Haiti News" link on the top banner. Hopefully, there is good news in store for the future.



When it comes to passing buckets, everyone gets into the act.

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Contacting Servants for Haiti

Email:
info@servantsforhaiti.org

U.S. Mail:

P.O. Box 1214

Westford, MA 01886

Phone: (978) 692-2294

Fundraising

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Andrew Stewart has traveled to Haiti with SFH a couple of times. When the Londonderry (NH) National Honor Society, of which he is a part, was looking for an organization to support for their annual fundraising event, he recommended Servants for Haiti. The society agreed and held a dodge ball tournament that lasted four days with 32 teams participating.

Nearly 1000 people showed up for the final round between two teams called "The Neighborhood" and "The Terror". In the end, "The Terror" prevailed, but the real winners were the children of Haiti, as the tournament raised \$3000.

How about using chocolate to help Haiti? The 6th graders at the Wang School in Lowell, MA held a chocolate fundraiser and raised \$472.15.

Finally, the women's group of Central Congregational Church of Chelmsford, MA donated money to purchase Bibles and song books for the eight oldest children of Kingdom Kids orphanage.

Got any ideas you've tried? A race? Concert? Lemonade stand? Share them with us and we'll publish them.

Fundraising Flash!!

Use goodsearch.com as your search engine and they will donate money to SFH. Just specify "Servants for Haiti" as your charity of choice. For complete up-to-date details see our web site. Meanwhile, search and give!

Trip Reports - June 2008

Our latest team to travel to Haiti was there from June 23 through July 1. They came back with memories to last a lifetime. They performed construction, played with the children in the orphanage and either made new or renewed old friendships.

In this issue, we present two trip reports

Lucy's View

I was prepared somewhat for the poverty and sewage I saw in Haiti. I was even prepared to meet hurt and hopeless people. But I was completely taken away by the myriad of wonderful, hopeful, and beautiful people I found. I spent only a week in Port-au-Prince, passing buckets and playing with the orphans at Pastor Rigaud's, yet I left as a member of that family.

The relationships I made during this trip were a complete answer to prayer for me. Since my junior year, I have wanted to study French in college. This past year, faced with applications, interviews, and essays, my foundations were rocked, and no longer was I completely dead-certain that God was calling me to anything in particular, really. I went on a two-week exchange to France, which confirmed the fact that my passion lies in languages, but my time in Haiti has done more. The language was a key to building relationships with people who needed encouragement. Simply speaking French made so many of the workers happy. I was constantly being told that it made them smile to hear me speak French "like that". The funniest times were when they would not believe I was American at all.

At any rate, I learned that learning another language is not just good for talking, but for building relationships. Love can transcend language, but for me, language is a way to love.

from very different perspectives. The first one is from Lucy, a first time visitor to Haiti. She is a student who will enter college in the fall. The second is from Natalie, a long time veteran of our Haiti trips. She first traveled there in summer of 2000 and has gone several times since.

Natalie's View

Going to Haiti had become a routine mission trip that I would participate in just about every summer since my freshman year in high school. In June, I returned for my eighth time to Haiti. However, on this trip, I took on a new role as one of the chaperones for the Grace Community Church teens. And what an incredible experience this was! It was certainly different from simply being a team member – new challenges, new outlook, and a new role in general.

There was, of course, still the joy of seeing familiar faces from previous trips, seeing the progress that has been made on Pastor Rigaud's school building. And there were the challenges that come with having authority. But God was incredibly faithful.

As a leader, it was so rewarding to see a team bond together and build relationships, to see teens fall more deeply in love with the country and its people, to see individuals pray who had never even opened the Bible before, and to see team members broken as we left the impoverished country of Haiti.

In previous trips, I enjoyed going to Haiti both to see how I could help the people there and because of the impact that the country had on me. Being able to speak into the lives of the teens on this trip and see the impact that this mission trip had on them brought a whole new perspective.

I was incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of this team.



"Passing the Buck[ets]"

Passing buckets of sand, rocks and cement is a "favorite" pastime of most teams. Although it may not seem like much fun, the lines are great for building team camaraderie, not to mention strong arms. It's also a great way to meet and get to know the local workers and students who work alongside.

Be part of the excitement! Contact us today about joining a future team. See our web site for up-to-date trip information. You won't regret it and you'll never forget it!

Beyond Cash



We've talked a lot about fundraising in this issue of the newsletter. While funding our programs is important - critical, in fact - there are other ways to help that cost little or no money. Here's an example that one enterprising group came up with...

A 4th grade class at Abbot School in Westford, MA decided to reach out to 4th graders at the CJRA school. The whole class sent pictures

and personal notes to their peers in Haiti. In response, the Haitian students sent notes and a picture of their class (above).

If your school or other group would like to connect with children in Haiti, contact Servants for Haiti today. We can help make their world real to your group. Let's make it personal!

Oh, we also still accept cash. ☺

New Employee at Orphanage

Many years ago when Milo was a young boy living on the streets of Port-au-Prince, the Antoine's took him in to help around the house. They also sent him to school where he learned to read and write. Since then, he has been a constant helpful presence, assisting with whatever tasks were

needed, from making market runs to helping with visiting work teams. He is a dedicated hard worker who has already proven his value. Recently, in recognition of his worth, SFH added him to the staff as an assistant at Kingdom Kids orphanage.

He also makes excellent kites! →
Welcome, Milo!



Milo with some of his handiwork.
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!

More Homes for Orphans!!

Two more children from Kingdom Kids orphanage have been joined with an adoptive family in the U.S. Rejoice with us for these two little girls and their new family.

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!