

# 2006



*Servants for Haiti*  
serving one child at a time

## The Year in Review

### Goal #1

#### Achieve 501(c)(3) Status

One of the watershed events of 2006 was our being granted official status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the rules of the IRS. This status was granted three months before it was expected!

### Goal #2

#### Establish Sponsorship program for Kingdom Kids Orphanage

Today there are 23 children in the orphanage and six caregivers. We started from nothing and by the end of the 2006, 16 of those children were sponsored for the feeding program and seven are sponsored for medical care. Three of the caregivers are also sponsored. These are great numbers, but as you can see, there is a need for more sponsors. Contact us if you want to help. (At one point, as many as 21 children had been sponsored, but some of the sponsors could not maintain the financial commitment.) Three children in the orphanage either have been or are in the process of being adopted.

### Goal #3

#### Grant a Scholarship for Higher Education

We granted a full scholarship for George Dorilien, a former student at College Jean Rigaud Antoine (CJRA), to attend medical school.

### Have You Heard??

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!



### It Began With Broken Hearts... and a Dream

In July of 2000, a group of students and adults traveled to Haiti. What we saw broke our hearts. Five years and several trips later, Howard and Laura Richards had a dream to do something tangible to make a difference in the lives of children in Haiti. They called on the help and support of a few friends with the same burden. That fall, Servants for Haiti was born.

In 2006, SFH began its first full year of existence. It was an incredibly exciting and rewarding year for all of us as we saw real benefits for the children of Haiti. In this edition of the newsletter, you will read about some of the goals we set at the start of the year. Because of your support and generosity, they were nearly all exceeded. Read on for all the details...

### Goal #4

#### Raise Funds to Make Improvements in the Orphanage

Much needed improvements to the orphanage were funded by a series of donations. Because of the generosity of many, the following items have been purchased:

- Several new appliances including a stove, a sink, a refrigerator and a freezer
- New mattresses for the children's beds
- Batteries for the inverter so the orphanage would have power during outages

There has also been money available to host a Christmas dinner for the children as well as purchase extra food and supplies.

## More Highlights from 2006

One of the goals that SFH exceeded was the total amount of money we wanted to raise in our first year. When the year began, we dreamed of raising as much as \$30,000 for the year. By the end of 2006, you had donated over twice that much, \$67,627! Above and beyond the initial goals we set, the following exciting developments marked the last year:

### Student Sponsorship Program

Because of financial problems, College Jean Rigaud Antoine (CJRA) was forced to reduce its enrollment. SFH jumped in and

began a sponsorship program for the children of the school so that they could afford to attend. As 2007 began, 64 children were sponsored for tuition and the school feeding program.

### Two Employees Hired in Haiti

Rovert has been hired by SFH to oversee the school sponsorship program at SFH. He makes sure that the children who are sponsored are attending school.

Ketlose is our nurse at the orphanage, helping Ed Amos to administer the medical program for the kids. (See the article in

the summer 2006 edition of our newsletter to learn more about "Dr." Ed.)

### English Lessons

We hired a school teacher to provide English lessons to the children of Kingdom Kids. The teacher came to the orphanage for two months during the summer of 2006, three times a week for two hours. We also helped an employee of CJRA pay for English lessons so that she could more effectively help us administer the student sponsorship program.



Beyond the major accomplishments described previously, many smaller achievements were attained in 2006. This newsletter, for example, was initiated in the summer of 2006. And this issue features a new layout courtesy of new publishing software. (Freeware, of course!) We hope you find it helpful and informative. Let us know what you think.

### Special Thanks

The SFH logo, shown at the top of each newsletter and on our brochure, was designed for us last year by Adam Questad. Adam is a sophomore at Northeastern University in Boston and has served in Haiti on three occasions. Thanks, Adam!!

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2006 was indeed a great beginning for Servants for Haiti, not because of our growth or our programs' successes, but because we saw children's lives changed for the better. More education, more food and better living conditions were provided through the generosity of our supporters. We look forward to continuing and even expanding these efforts in the new year, already underway.

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Here are some of the goals we've set for SFH for 2007. It's a pretty ambitious list, but with the help of you and all our supporters, we will make a difference, one child at a time.

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1. Fund 100% of the orphanage programs: food, medical and caregivers.

2. Build the play area for the orphanage. Funds

have already been provided for this project!

3. Hook up the new stove.

4. Expand the school sponsorship program to allow more kids to be fed and educated.

5. Send our first work team. As you may recall, our first planned trip in November was canceled due to unsafe conditions.

6. Find new financial resources to grow all our programs and support new opportunities to assist the children of Kingdom Kids orphanage.

7. New, improved web site

# News from Haiti

## More Children at Risk

The situation in Haiti continues to be very difficult. The constant threat of kidnapping persists with no end in site. In a tragic twist to the ongoing problem, the latest wave of abductions has found the kidnapers targeting children.

In some areas, children have been afraid to attend school for fear of being kidnapped. In December, a school bus carrying seven children to their school in a suburb of Port-au-Prince, was hijacked. Fortunately, we have had no reports of problems with the children at Kingdom Kids

orphanage or at the CJRA school in Village Solidarité.



## Preval Declared Cancer-Free

Rene Préval, the recently elected president of Haiti, has been diagnosed as free of cancer. Doctors feared that Préval was

suffering a recurrence of the prostate cancer he was treated for in 2001, the final year of his first presidential term. Tests showed, however, that the health of his prostate is "under control".

Préval was inaugurated last May for the second time as President of Haiti, following his victory in the Presidential Election in February 2006. "The Constitution says that if a president is not in good health, he can't continue with his functions but that doesn't apply to me because I'm in good health," declared Préval upon returning to Haiti after his tests.

## Servants for Haiti: A Good Charitable Investment

Whenever you give to a charitable organization, it's important to know where the money is going. For example, being aware of how much of your giving goes to administrative overhead costs (postage, paper, etc.) and fundraising expenses tells you a lot about how efficient an organization is. Servants for Haiti is committed to keeping all our non-program expenses under 10%. That is an extraordinarily low amount of overhead. We can be this efficient because, as a small group, our entire staff are volunteers and we don't pay for facilities or fundraising.

According to Charity Navigator - a group that "works to guide

intelligent giving" by dispensing information about charities - many (30%) of these groups spend more than 25% of funds on such overhead expenses. The median for administrative expenses alone is 10.1% for all charitable organizations.

Organization	Admin	Fundraising
Compassion International	7.7	9.1
World Vision	5.1	8.4
Partners with Haiti	7.6	2.2

For comparison's sake, we have included above a list of some organizations providing similar services as those of SFH. (Figures taken from the Charity

Navigator web site, [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)).

One group doing work in Haiti spends more than 37% of its funds on these two categories.

Rest assured that Servants for Haiti will always keep its expenses low to ensure we maximize the help we deliver to our friends in Haiti. After all, the people on the board (see page 4) know and love the children and adults we serve!

*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!*



## Creole lesson of the day

Haitian Creole is derived from a combination of languages. French is the most recognizable source, but several West African tongues were also significant influences. Haitian Creole is distinct from other creole languages. For a useful discussion of Haitian and other creoles, look at Wikipedia under the term:

*Haitian\_Creole\_language*

In this issue, we have a few questions for you. Not for you to answer, but for you to ask a Haitian friend! When you meet someone in the US, you might greet them with a friendly "How are you?" In Creole, this phrase is:

**"Koman ou ye?"**

Translated word for word, this is "How you are". It's pronounced: "kommoh oo yay". Just like in English, there is often more than one way to say the same thing. In this case, the same question can be phrased as:

**"Kijan ou ye?"**

pronounced: "keyjan oo yay". Note that the "j" is not quite a hard "J" sound and the "N" is also barely pronounced. (OK, some of the subtleties are lost in writing.)

Another good question to know is, "What is your name?" There are a couple of ways to say this as well:

**"Koman yo rele ou?"  
"Ki non ou?"**

### A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
To turn their pain into joy.

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.*

Amen

## Contacting Servants for Haiti

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## 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

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*This month, one of our charter board members, Carl Sylvester, resigned from the board. Having moved away recently, Carl felt he could not adequately perform his duties from his remote location. The board would like to express its deepest gratitude for Carl's contributions to Servants for Haiti. His wisdom, experience and passion for world missions will be missed.*

## Trip Report

*This past December, Howard Richards, vice president of Servants for Haiti, traveled to Haiti. Below, in his own words, is a remembrance of his experiences and impressions of that visit.*

*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after widows and orphans in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27*

There are certain moments in life when I have experienced what I call a “sudden realization”. I think the fancy word for this moment is called an epiphany. I prefer “sudden realization”. To a simple mind like mine, it makes more sense. A “sudden realization” is a moment in time when you discover a deep truth pertaining to something that you may have been struggling with for many years. A misunderstood concept or an incomplete understanding of something in the back of your mind suddenly becomes crystal clear. When the “sudden realization” pertains to the Word of God, it is indeed a special moment. Several weeks ago I experienced one such moment and I believe its significance defines why “Servants for Haiti” exists. This moment has also personally challenged me, and I hope it will challenge you.



*Howard Richards and Maudline*

At the beginning of December I went to Haiti. The plan was to travel on a Friday, spend a long weekend there, and then travel home on Tuesday. The first and foremost goal was to visit with my two Haitian daughters. I was also looking forward to spending time with all of the other children in the orphanage. My list of tasks for SFH was also

quite lengthy. Between meetings, meals, times of prayer and bible study, preaching on Sunday, multiple hair-dos from the girls, and playing with the kids, God blessed this trip. One of His ultimate blessings, and what led to a “sudden realization”, came on Monday night.

Monday night, after dinner, the people of the house gathered downstairs for a time of prayer. A few minutes into this, the power went out. This is not uncommon for Haiti, but for this trip it actually was. The darkness seemed to bring calm to the air. As we went to our knees in prayer I felt Maudline leaning next to me. Maudline is one of the little girls in the orphanage. Earlier in the day I could tell she was feeling sad. With my handy Creole/English book brought along for translation, I said to her, “*tris?*” (sad), and she said “*Wi*” (yes). So during the prayer time, with her leaning on me, I lifted her and the others in the house up to God. It was all I could do.

After the time of prayer ended, we all dispersed. With no electricity and school in the morning, the children got ready for bed. For me, it was time to pack. My room was on the second floor, and the area outside my door was the common place to hang out with the kids and play. I lingered before going in my room to

*Continued on page 6...*

see if anyone would collect there. No one did, so I went into my room and began to pack. Just before getting ready for a shower, I realized that I had no drinking water. I went out to the empty hall, down the stairs and filled my bottle. When I came back up stairs, there were three girls hanging out, outside my door. Maudline sat at the threshold, Mariana and Mirlande tried to hide behind a desk and the stairs to the roof. There were sounds of crying from all of them. When I shined my flashlight on Mariana, she began to laugh. When I shined it on Mirlande, she laughed. When I shined it on Maudline, she did not laugh. Her head was tucked in her arm, and she was sniffing. I realized in this moment that the two other girls were picking on her for showing emotion. It's a common event with the kids in Haiti. You have to be tough to survive. I guess emotions show weakness.

It is hard to capture in words what took place over the next hour. I dragged one of the plastic chairs that was nearby and placed it next to Maudline. I sat down and pulled her onto my lap. As she lay across my lap, with her head nestled in my arm, she covered her face with her left arm. Her sniffles turned to crying, her crying turned to sobbing. The sobs were deep. This tough little 12 year old's heart was broken. Her sobs expressed her God given need for a father. As I held her and rocked her, I knew that in these moments, she knew what this love felt like. I believe the girls that were picking on her also came to understand this love. After Maudline entered my arms, their spirits changed. It was hot and buggy. One of them began to fan Maudline and I, while the other swatted the mosquitoes that kept biting my legs. This was their acknowledgment of an understanding of the moment. One of them even said to me, "we love you".

After an hour of Maudline in my lap, with her sound

asleep, I struggled to my feet and carried her to her room. I gently set her in her bed and she continued to sleep. I went back to my room and I began to sob. In the darkness, I prayed that Maudline would understand that the love she felt was the love of Jesus. I prayed that her tiny heart would not be broken, but filled with His love.

So what was the "sudden realization"? During that Monday night I suddenly realized what it really meant to "care for an orphan in her distress", and in that moment God blessed me.

When I left Haiti the next day, I was sad that I left my two daughters behind. In reality though, this sadness is not as deep as what I feel for Maudline. Someday, my daughters will be home, but Maudline will not. Someday my daughters will be able to crawl into the lap of their daddy as often as they want to, but Maudline will not. The sadness I feel in leaving Maudline behind is a pain, an ache, a gut wrenching feeling that lingers with me every day. It is also my motivation to participate in the efforts of Servants for Haiti. The need in Haiti is truly overwhelming, but if we can help Maudline or one or two others like her, isn't it worth it?

Those of you that are reading this are most likely already contributing to SFH. I hope in some way that this encourages you to keep contributing, it is worth it. I also hope that you can share this letter with others that have never heard of SFH. Perhaps it will motivate them to help. Finally, if you know of any opportunities in which I can speak on behalf of Servants for Haiti, please contact me.

James 1:27 has a whole second half. In the weeks following my trip I gained a greater appreciation for that part of the verse too, but that will have to wait for another newsletter.