

The "New Year, New Hope" Edition



You *are* making a
difference!

Travel to Haiti with SFH

Servants for Haiti sent two teams to Haiti in 2007, one in June and one in November. We had a trip report from the June team in the Fall 2007 edition of the newsletter. Look inside this edition for a report from the November team.

After reading these articles, think about whether you'd like to join us on one of our 2008 trips. The first one will take place from June 23 to July 1. We are already accepting applications for that team. It's not too late to sign up.

We also have a team heading down in fall of 2008, exact date to be determined. Contact us to express your interest or just get more information about either trip.

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!

At Servants for Haiti, we always strive to be creative in the way we raise money and the way we save it. Each penny we save in postage is a penny used to help our Haitian friends.

Looking Back on 2007

When 2007 began, Servants for Haiti set some very ambitious goals. They were published in the Winter 2007 edition of our newsletter. A year has come and gone and it's time to take a look back at how things are coming along. Here is a recap of that list, along with a brief update on our progress in each area:

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

While we haven't reached the 100% mark yet, we are very close. We need a couple of children sponsored for food and six more for medical care.

2. Build the play area for the orphanage.

The play area is now under construction. It's just a matter of time before the kids will be climbing all over it! Look for photos in a future edition.

Continued on page 2...

Looking Ahead to 2008

SFH wants to build on the momentum we have coming out of 2007 to do more in 2008. Already we've added programs to feed CJRA school children who aren't sponsored and pay more overhead costs at the orphanage. (See descriptions of these programs on page 4.) We also plan to send more teams this year. Finally, we want to continue to expand our base of donations and volunteers so we can help more children. Watch the newsletter and web site for more details on these and other initiatives.

You can be part of the excitement in a number of ways:

Are you a school teacher? Adopt a class at CJRA that is the same grade as yours. The experience would be educational and inspirational for your students. You can have a SFH staff member make a presentation to your class.

Continued on page 4...



New enclosed kitchen at Kingdom Kids Orphanage. One of many 2007 improvements.

2007

...continued from page 1.

3. Hook up the new stove in orphanage.

The stove is installed and working. The staff is very happy with it. See the photo to the right.

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

At the end of 2007, we had 87 students sponsored. We need a lot more to be supported, but this is a great start.

5. Send our first work team. (Our first planned trip in November 2006 was canceled due to unsafe conditions.)

We are very excited to have sent two successful teams in 2007. This is a huge milestone for SFH. The team members did construction at the school and interacted with the children in the orphanage.

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

We expanded our contributions base significantly, holding our first fundraiser and receiving funds from several new sources, including a corporate grant.

7. New, improved web site

The new web site has been up and running for a while. It looks great! Check it out.

On top of all this, we increased our income by \$25,000 in 2007! That's a lot of meals, books, medicine and care for the children of Haiti!

It's been a great year. Children are being fed, cared for and educated *today* because of your generosity. On behalf of the children of Haiti, thank you!



*Now we're cooking!
The new stove in action.*

Thank You!!

At Servants for Haiti, we have much to be thankful for. There is nothing like a visit to Haiti to make one more aware of and more grateful for the many material blessings we have in the US. One of the things we always appreciate is the generosity and creativity of our many supporters. We're thankful for these special friends:

Tina Marcouillier and her kids' Drama Workshop did a Christmas production of "G.T. and the Halo Express". They donated half the proceeds from that event to the orphans of Haiti.

The Thayer grandchildren gave up money that was given to them on Christmas day to make sure children in Haiti would be fed.

The women's ministry of Grace Community Church in Chelmsford, MA prepared 65 gift bags for the women's ministry in Haiti. The missions committee at GCC joined in the spirit of giving by purchasing 100 bowls to be used in the feeding program at the CJRA school.

Susan O'Hare Black and Lowell Vocational School held a fundraiser for soap, vitamins and flip-flops. These items were brought down to the children in Haiti during our November 2007 trip.

Drs. Schofield, Martin and Smagula of Westford, MA for donating toothbrushes and toothpaste for all our sponsored students.

Servants for Haiti Board of Directors

SFH is staffed by a volunteer board of directors.

President

Laurae Richards

Vice President

Howard Richards

Program Director

Judy Evans

Treasurer

John Haven

Pastoral Advisor

Steve McClelland

Communications

Rick Conti

General

Ruthellen Davidson

Trip Report - November 2007

Our November team returned home from Haiti still overflowing with the excitement of the trip, ready to share memories of bucket-passing, seeing old friends, playing with children and seeing first hand the difference Servants for Haiti is making. (They also brought with them one of our partners in Haiti, Madame Milio, the director of the food program at the CJRA school. (See the article on page 4 for more about her visit.)

Here is a report from that trip. These are the words of a first time visitor to Haiti, Jeremy, a college Junior:

Going to Haiti was one of the best experiences of my life. I went there knowing only maybe 4 people out of the entire group of 16 but by the end I felt like I fit right in.

Before I came I did not really have many expectations. I was just excited to be serving God and the people of Haiti. The entire week was amazing. While the work may not have been that complex I definitely learned so much from the kids that were helping us out. I was taken back by the willingness of all the Haitians to want to serve us, especially because we came to serve them. I was really impressed with the younger kids, and how much they wanted to help out. So I would for sure say that I learned a lot from the Haitians as far

as what it means to take joy in service, and to take joy in work that others might view as tedious.

There's a lot to talk about so I will try to keep it short, but another thing that I love was working with the children in the medical clinic. The thing that amazed me the most about that was that kids who were 3 or 4 were coming in to seek medical attention because they knew they were sick. I found myself comparing these kids to 3 and 4 year olds in the U.S. and the difference in independence is huge.

The last thing that stuck with me a lot was how quickly I had become attached to so many of my new friends especially all the kids we stayed with at the orphanage. I miss waking up and walking down stairs and hearing them call my name and asking me to dance.

And also, I was amazed at how much Haitians just love life. At the place I work at right now there are so many people who have everything they could ever want and are still not happy. However the people of Haiti have a fraction of a fraction of what we have here and they are still the happiest people I have met. It really challenged me to think about how much I take things for granted and how much I can learn from them.



Some of the team members give the kids from the orphanage a push on a swing set. These swings are in a playground on the grounds of Quisqueya Chapel. None of these children had ever seen swings prior to our June team taking them here. At first they were very nervous. November was only their second trip to the playground, but by then they were old pros!

Start thinking about joining us next fall. The weather is great in November and school is in full swing!

Two New Feeding Programs

Servants for Haiti has initiated two new ways to fill the gaps in our current sponsorship programs.

CJRA Feeding Program

At the CJRA school, children who are not sponsored must pay for their meals in order to be fed at the school. Most cannot afford it. Some go without while their sponsored friends eat. This is also a hardship for the people working in the kitchen. They are forced to turn away hungry children who cannot pay, while others can eat.

This is especially painful if one child in a family is sponsored and another isn't. The director of the feeding program said, "I cannot tell one sibling, yes, you can eat and the other, no, you can't. How could I do that? I just borrow money to try and feed all the children. It is very hard."

Feeding Program at Kingdom Kids Orphanage

At the orphanage, the current sponsorship program only covers the food for the sponsored children. It does not take into account overhead costs such as water, electricity, charcoal and the other items needed to prepare the food.

Your donations to these new programs will go a long way to resolve those inequities. Consider helping today.

2008

...continued from page 1.

In fact, SFH team members are always ready and willing to speak to your group. Raising awareness of the situation in Haiti is a major part of our calling. We've made multimedia presentations to schools, civic groups other group events.

Contact us any time at:
info@servantsforhaiti.org .

Breaking News!!

Kingdom Kids orphanage celebrated an exciting first this past December. We saw our first orphan go to an adoptive family. Little 3-year-old Tyianna is now part of a loving family! Rejoice with us!



Rice sacks filled by the November team await distribution to families

Madanm Milio Visits U.S.

The director of the feeding program at CJRA school, Madanm Milio, was in the U.S. for a visit from November 12-26, 2007.

During this, her first trip to the States, she was the guest of honor at a reception at Grace Community Church in Chelmsford, MA. At the reception, she spoke about the work she does and the great needs she faces every day in that work. At the end of the evening, she was presented with a gift of a set of serving bowls for the feeding program. She was touched by the gift even as those in attendance were moved by her words as she shared her heart and her commitment to her work.

While Madanm Milio struggled to get around due to an injured leg, she had no trouble communicating her passion for her work and her love for the little ones she serves.

Thank you, Madanm, for gracing us with your presence and sharing your heart with us!

