

Village Highlights

World Wide Village Incorporated Update

February 2008

Survival is the Greatest Challenge for Haiti's Children

Only 55 percent of primary-school age children attend school.

The average girl attends school for only two years.

(Child Alert: Haiti, UNICEF March 22, 2006)

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Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the mission in Haiti. The ongoing response since the "Festival for Haiti 2007" has been tremendous. We are pleased to bring you this update covering a few of the exciting happenings since August.

Arcahaie Update



Water is a lifeline in the hot, humid climate of Haiti. It has been a component that was lacking at the church and school in Arcahaie. After several futile attempts and hundreds of feet of drilling, water was struck on the compound at about 260 feet with a 4" diameter casing. Unfortunately during the subsequent 6" boring process the drill bit became lodged and blocks completion of the drilling. A cistern has been built to collect the well water and piping for the water system will be completed in the near future. Complete operations are expected in the next 60 days.

Through your faithful donations, purchases and prayers, Pastor Rene's organization now has three large KW generators. One will be used at Arcahaie to power not only the new water system but will also provide electricity to the block making machine allowing the initiation of the manufacturing of concrete blocks. The production of blocks creates 10 to 12 jobs for locals and will spur on the completion of the warehouse project with surplus blocks being sold to local contractors.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Festival for Haiti 2008
Saturday, October 4th
Airport Marriott
Bloomington, MN

Don't miss this spectacular evening of entertainment and enlightenment - even surpassing the fun of last year's event!

(If you would like to be part of the planning committee or would like to volunteer at the event, let us know. Planning meetings will begin in March.)

The Gift of Sight



Clear eye sight is a precious gift to the Haitian people - especially the children. Most classes in school are taught solely from the front of the room (without books), so reading at a distance is very important to the students' overall ability to learn. In addition, providing reading glasses to adults allows them to become much more functional in their daily living.

Jeff Turner, a frequent team member to Haiti and faithful supporter of World Wide Village, discovered Kendall Optometry Ministry, Inc. of Jeffersontown, Kentucky. Kendall Optometry is an organization formed to provide optical equipment and training to Christian mission teams traveling all over the world. Use of the eye examination equipment and training is provided at no cost and supplies are provided at break even prices. Glasses of all sorts, including donated prescription glasses, readers and sunglasses, are available for purchase at less than 50 cents per pair. The initial inventory totaled more than 3000 pairs of glasses.

Jeff and Mark Pahl traveled to Kentucky to be trained on the Kendall system. This new expertise and technology allowed their respective teams to see more than 1,000 adults and children, fitting hundreds with glasses and the gift of sight during recent trips in January and February. One older Haitian gentleman exclaimed, "Now I can read my Bible." We are thrilled to be able to offer this gift of sight to the Haitian people.

Micro Enterprise Blossoms



One of the goals of World Wide Village is to help the Haitian people become self-sufficient. In September, we took a small step in this direction by providing tools and funding for six women of Port au Prince to start a fledgling cottage industry which they have named "Apostolique Art." These industrious, talented women are producing hand stitched greeting cards for sale in the United States. Each card is an artful creation -- beautiful enough to frame, as well as use as a personal greeting card. They are currently producing 600 unique cards per month.

These beautiful women are truly a success story and we are especially proud of them. When asked how the extra income benefits them and their families, their overwhelming response was, "It allows us to pay tuition for our children's schooling, buy uniforms and other clothes, provide additional food and to tithe more to our church."

Apostolique Art's success has created a welcome dilemma for World Wide Village. We now have a growing inventory and an insufficient distribution system. We need your help in this area and would appreciate input from anyone with ideas for distributing the cards. Church and secular bookstores, specialty shops, and gift shops would be a good start. Please contact us with your ideas or for samples. (Representations of the cards can be viewed at www.worldwidevillage.org under "Apostolique Art.")

Minnesota Teen Challenge in Haiti



In January, a delegation from the Board of Directors of Minnesota Teen Challenge along with Randy and Pat Mortensen traveled to Haiti on a fact-finding mission to determine the viability of a Teen Challenge facility in Haiti. The team consisted of Pastor Rich Scherber (Executive Director), Chuck Beske (Board Chairman), Vickie Jefferis (Board Member) and Cindy McCarthy (Board Member of Grace Manor).

The Teen Challenge representatives, along with Pastor Rene Joseph, Sister Anne Franck, Brother Armand Francklin, Reginald Abraham and Butch Louisiana, participated in meetings with President Rene Preval; Minister of Social Affairs, Gerald Germain; Director of Well Being, Gabrielle Beaudin; Director of Penitentiaries, Jean Roland Celestin; and Director of National Commission for Disarmament, Alix Fils-Aime.

We visited the Centre de Carrefour, currently housing street children, a women's prison and a male adolescent prison.

The group was overwhelmed by the tremendous needs they observed. To quote Vickie Jefferis, their reactions and observations were "indescribable!" Through the sensory overload experienced in Haiti, they worked diligently to summarize their findings in order to present a clear and concise picture of the needs in Haiti to the Minnesota Teen Challenge Board. Preliminary indications are that a facility in Haiti, initially serving approximately 50 residents ranging from 16 to 24 years of age, is warranted and would undoubtedly have significant impact using the Teen Challenge model. Discussions will continue regarding its feasibility.

Rebirth of an Organization



World Wide Village Inc. (WWV), a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed in 2001 by a group of local Christian entrepreneurs as an international humanitarian relief organization dedicated to providing children and families in developing nations with the basics of food, clothing, shelter, health care, Christian education and guidance toward self-sufficiency.

The vision, mission, and values under which WWV functions closely align with endeavors underway in Haiti. The goal is to always operate the organization with high degrees of accountability and integrity while preserving contributor trust and growing the donor base. An expanded board of directors is being formed and will meet next month to begin refining the goals, strategies and budgets for upcoming years.

World Wide Village is being used as an umbrella organization offering support to a number of organizations focused on Haiti. Affiliates currently include: Protein for Kids, Loving Hands, Hands of Friendship and Regent Ministries. The new organizational structure will allow for greater utilization of federal and private foundation funding/grants that will increase the assistance provided to our Haitian neighbors.

2008 is already a year of great accomplishments and we anticipate considerable growth under the World Wide Village umbrella in future years. Please visit our website at www.worldwidevillage.org.

Spring and Fall voluntourism trips in May and October are being planned. If you are interested in accompanying a team, watch for more information or, contact us to let us know you would like to join us.

Until next time,



*Randy and Pat Mortensen
World Wide Village Incorporated*