



ZONTA
CLUB OF
CAPE GIRARDEAU
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

A VISION BECAME A REALITY

In 2003 Jean Solomon Darguin had his dream fulfilled. He started a school in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti. At that time, the school population of about 60 was in an unfinished two-story building. Solomon, a teacher, had worked at the airport to support his wife and two children. His family had moved to NY. After the devastating earthquake of 2010, Solomon asked his son to come back and help rebuild his country. Thus the Haitian American Caucus was established as a support to the school. While the torch for the school's vision of growth was passed to Samuel, Solomon remains a quiet, observant presence walking among the now 500 students. The original building has been completed, a two-story elementary building constructed, and presently a high school building is being completed. Zonta of Cape Girardeau, MO began working with HAC in 2012 and has since been a positive force at the school.



Father and son, Samuel and Solomon Darguin.

MEDICAL CLINIC

The Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau, MO took its fourth medical team to Haiti Oct. 10-15, 2017. Pictured at the top are Zonta members: Cheryl Mothes (team leader), Dr. Danette Miller, Cheryl Klueppell (Cape Zonta Pres.), Dr. Heather Cugini, Geri Prophete (Golden Z Pres. SEMO State Univ.), & Andrea Sachse (Sponsorship Coordinator). Additional team members were Karine Prophete, Deanna Ware, Peggy Urhahn, Chrissi Glastetter, Wyky Jean, and Jessica Meredith of MO. Nadine Edmond and Dominique (Samuel's sister) came from NY.

The team saw a sharp contrast in the health of students in the school compared to those coming from the surrounding community. Doctors were pleased to see an increase in breast fed, thus healthier, babies. Many eye irritations are due to the bright sun and dust. Therefore, sunglasses were distributed to the older students and adults. Reading glasses were also available.

Thanks to the record keeping system that Dr. Cugini has developed, the following statistics were derived. 710 patients were seen in 3 days. According to her, we showed a "female gender centric", which is a Zonta focus. 333 of the HAC students were seen in the two days school was in session. The children are the most influential population for health care change in Haiti. Patients were referred at this clinic to the dental/medical team coming in March. Therefore, continuity of health care for the population the team serves is improving as well.



Secondary building nears completion at HAC.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

It was an “awe filled” moment seeing the new high school building nearing completion. The older students expressed excitement in having their own campus area. Cubical cabinets were in some classrooms, helping with student organization.

A Vo-tech based team was present to do a study of the next level of training for students that are not college bound. Once a wall is built to secure the land behind the school, acquired earlier this year, this next project can commence with funding.

The yearbook that the 610 Project spearheaded had just arrived. A day to present them to each student family is being planned.

SET BACKS

Unfortunately, the Kids Against Hunger meals have run out. The container with more meals is being held in port, as more urgent supplies are being sent to hurricane ravished countries. This means feeding the children on supplies bought in country, which is a great expense. In addition, the government withdrew the book subsidy. This meant another \$9,000 plus cost for HAC. Thankfully, the funds for books needed the most were made possible by a generous donor.

SPONSORSHIP

The sponsorship of your child eases some of the financial strife for the school. It is greatly appreciated that many of you have continued your sponsorship and added an additional sponsorship. However, we are in need of more sponsors now than ever before. Zonta clubs that sponsor are asked to encourage individual sponsorships among their members. Individual Zonta members are asked to appeal to their club to sponsor. In addition, we are encouraging other civic and church groups, private schools, work places, corporations, etc. to either sponsor a child or make a donation to one of the school needs (food, books, building fund).

Melissa Bain in Alabama with the 610 Project and Andrea Sachse, Zonta Sponsorship Coordinator in MO are working together to increase and improve sponsorship communication. We need any email changes or changes in contact information for groups, as we begin to send electronic updates to sponsors.

Any sponsorship checks (\$450) or other donations by check should be sent to Andrea Sachse, 373 Oakshire Dr., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. (amsachse5@yahoo.com or 573-579-8414). The checks will be recorded for tax deduction receipts and then sent for you to HAC in NY. Pay pal donations are also available.



Teamwork made a very successful mission trip.

Stay connected to HAC through their website: WWW.WEAREHAC.ORG or become a friend on their Facebook page. 