



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

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

MEDICAL-DENTAL CLINIC CANCELLED

The Cape Zonta's annual spring Haiti dental/medical clinic which was scheduled for March 8-12, 2019 was cancelled. Unrest in the country, which had been brewing since the summer, erupted. A level 4 no travel ban was in place, and the facility at which the team stays was closed to missionaries. While the people of Haiti are resilient, the cry of "Nou bouke" (we are tired, we are exhausted) is understandable. The majority of people in the USA can't fathom being without life's basic needs-clean water and food, a place to live, medical care, and education for one's children. However due to depreciation of the Haitian gourdes, overwhelming unemployment (80% among young adults), a shortage and rising cost of goods, children having to leave school to help the family, and a corrupt government mishandling funds, this is what faces the majority of Haiti's people.

SCHOOL RESUMES

The Mixte Shalom des Freres in Croix des bouquets, Haiti was closed for ten days during the worst of the unrest. However, the Haitian American Caucus and school director, Samuel Darquin, opened the doors daily feeding over 500. HAC based in NY is an umbrella over the school. He also assisted three orphanages that send children to the school that were running out of food and water. At this time, the majority of the over 500 students have returned. A larger number of students are being fed daily as there is little food available at home. Shortly after school resumed, a fever flu hit the school and nearly a third were absent daily. Fortunately, medical supplies that had been sent for the clinic were able to be utilized.

CHALLENGES

The 2018-19 school year had its challenges prior to the riots. If you received last fall's newsletter, you recall that a family of children walking to school were hit by a truck. Nine year old, Samuel Raphael, was the most seriously injured. After one leg was amputated an infection was developing in the other leg and he was transferred to Doctors without Borders. They were able to save his other leg and are doing therapy. Here is "little Samuel" on his return home alongside "big Samuel".



In November, the St. Pierre children lost their mother, a single parent. She was ill when she visited the Sept. clinic and continued to digress. The children have been taken in by one of the teacher's at the school. Funds have been raised to assist her with the four children.

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



In Jan. another 40 children from Madamn Placide's orphanage were incorporated into the school. She was unable to continue operating her orphanage's school. A sponsorship drive for these children was launched before Christmas. Another of the orphanages that attends the school, a private home called OCAM with 12 little girls, is in a financial strain. She is fearful that she will have to turn the children over to the government and that would mean separating the girls. Presently, they are all sponsored at the school. Fundraising to help her is ongoing. Cape Zonta thanks those of you that have answered the call to help with sponsorships and funds for all of this school year's needs and those of you that continue to sponsor children year after year.



PROGRESS

On a happier note many good things have graced the school year. In Nov. Melissa Bain, 610 Project director, was honored at Cape Zonta's Women of Achievement banquet for her work with the children at the school. She took a team down in Jan. and held a band camp with instruments that have been collected over the last couple years.



Here is Hope Seeds doing a program on plant germination.

CAPE ZONTA HAITI CHAIR NOTE

It was very difficult for the team leader to cancel our March trip. I want to assure all sponsors that the school is operating and making a difference, now more than ever, in the lives of the children you sponsor. Hopefully, we will take an early fall clinic down on Aug. 29. As sponsors you are welcome to go on a mission trip and meet your child. I can't tell you how much your continuing support means to Cape Zonta and myself personally as Sponsorship Coordinator. I have a blessed job getting to meet with the sponsored children each trip and capture their smiles for you. The growth I have witnessed since I joined the team in 2013 has been amazing, and I feel hopeful that great things are to come to Haiti through the education of its children. Please share this newsletter with others that may join us in this mission.

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