

Return to Learn, Haitian Style

Lekòl Sen Trinite

All schools in Haiti had to shut down suddenly in March due to the coronavirus. Lekòl Sen Trinite was no exception. As the months passed the students and teachers were in limbo as everyone waited for the Haitian Ministry of Education to announce its plan for the reopening of the schools. To help the teachers and families cope with the hardship of no school, the LST teachers continued to receive their salaries so they could provide for their families; and LST did a food give-away for the families of the students to help them continue to receive meals even though the school and the school feeding program were not functioning.

The Haitian Ministry of Education announced in late July that schools would reopen in early August to finish the 2019-2020 school year. Not only did the students miss three months of classes in the spring due to the pandemic, but they also missed about three months of classes last fall due to political strife in Haiti. The government announced that school resumed in August, the first two months would be dedicated to finishing the 2019-2020 school year; and then the 2020-2021 school year would start later in the fall.

Classes for the first through sixth grade students at Lekòl Sen Trinite began on August 10. Classes to finish the 2019-2020 school year will go through mid-October, followed by final testing for the year. The 2020-2021 school year for first through seventh grades will begin in early November. The preschool/kindergarten Montessori program will not finish the 2019-2020

school year, but they began their 2020-2021 school year the first full week of September.

Lekòl Sen Trinite is taking the coronavirus seriously and has implemented several mitigation techniques to protect the students and staff. Each student and staff member was given five facemasks and wearing the facemasks while inside the facility is mandatory. Frequent hand washing is encouraged. Daily temperature checks are taken. Social distancing in the classrooms takes place whenever possible.

Wings of Hope

In March, when the coronavirus crisis started, Wings of Hope suspended all academic classes in an effort to reduce the number of staff members who entered the facility each day to limit the exposure to the residents. That continued over the summer. In the summer Wings typically switches to a "summer fun" schedule with more activities and fewer academic classes, so that happened on a smaller scale this year.

By the end of August, Wings of Hope returned to the full academic and therapy schedule Monday through Friday. This was very welcomed by both the residents and staff. Some of the programs look a little different as some therapy and

classes have moved outside to the courtyard area to allow for more social distancing and better airflow.

The proven mitigation techniques that have been in place at Wings since March, and which have kept the residents safe — masks for staff, frequent hand washing for everyone and social distancing whenever possible have now become the normal for life at Wings.



Fun days at Wings of Hope



How You Can Help

If your situation does not permit a financial contribution at this time or if you would like to help in addition to your financial gift we have some suggestions:

- ✓ Select Hearts with Haiti as your charity on Amazon Smile so a portion of your online purchases can be contributed to us.
- ✓ Set up a fundraiser for Hearts with Haiti on your Facebook page.
- ✓ Like and follow “Hearts with Haiti” and “St. Joseph Family, Haiti” on Facebook and invite your network to do the same.
- ✓ Invite friends, family or colleagues to support Hearts with Haiti – ask us to send you convenient introductory postcards you can use.
- ✓ Donate stock. If you have shares that have appreciated you can avoid a tax burden by donating them.
- ✓ Give through an IRA Charitable Rollover. Donors who meet certain requirements may make charitable transfers from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to HWH.
- ✓ Consider a bequest to Hearts with Haiti in your will, or a request that memorial gifts be designated to Hearts with Haiti.
- ✓ Take advantage of this year’s federal legislation allowing every U.S. taxpayer to claim an above-the-line charitable income tax deduction up to \$300 (up to \$600 for couples filing jointly) for donations made to Hearts with Haiti in 2020.
- ✓ Ask your church or your local community group (Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.) if they can help support our mission.
- ✓ Suggest your bridge club, book club, sorority/fraternity, or Meetup group collectively sponsor a resident at Wings of Hope.
- ✓ Host a fundraising event. Children and teens can get involved with a car wash, lemonade stand, garage sale or other activities to learn about helping others in need.
- ✓ Donate first class Forever postage stamps so the SJF can communicate with their sponsors.
- ✓ Donate used but working iPods, iPads, iPhones and other cell phones for use in Haiti.
- ✓ Pray for the Wings of Hope residents and Lekol Sen Trinite students.
- ✓ Send cards or drawings to bring cheer and encouragement to the Haitians. Send the cards to Hearts with Haiti — 27 Horne Street, Raleigh, NC 27607 — and we will make sure they get to Haiti.

For more information about any of these ideas, or to explore more ways to get involved, please email Hearts with Haiti at: info@heartswithhaiti.org

New Facilities, New Opportunities at LST

While classes were suspended and throughout the summer, the crew at Lekòl Sen Trinite worked to finish three new classrooms that will accommodate adding seventh, eighth and ninth grades at the school. The new classrooms, along with a new office area, were added on the top floor of the Lekòl Sen Trinite/Wings Welcome Center building.

We will add seventh grade for the 2020-2021 school year (starting in November); eighth grade for the 2021-2022 school year; and ninth grade for the 2022-2023 school year. The addition of the three new classes was mandated by the Haitian Ministry of Education.

While construction was underway, and the subject of safety of the students was looked at in expanded ways, two additional projects were added to the remodeling project. The first was to add two multi-facility restrooms, one for boys and one for girls, to the main school floor. These modern restrooms have running water and will improve the hygiene of the students at the school. The former outhouse-style restrooms will be demolished during the next phase of the project. An emergency staircase is also being added that will serve as a second exit point for both floors of classrooms at LST in case of fire or natural disaster.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas came a little early this year to Hearts with Haiti! Again this year, a very generous Secret Santa has agreed to match all financial gifts up to \$50,000 through the end of 2020!

This will double your gift and help us do more to support the St. Joseph Family's wonderful programs and activities in Haiti.

As a special incentive for holiday giving, we are participating in the **GIVING TUESDAY** movement again this year. Coming on the heels of "Black Friday", "Small Business Saturday" and "Cyber Monday", "Giving Tuesday" encourages gifts to charitable organizations on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

This year Giving Tuesday is on December 1.

We will have special posts and information all day December 1 on our Facebook page. All online donors to Hearts with Haiti on that day will be eligible for a drawing for an original Christmas painting by an art student from the SJF, which will be used by Hearts with Haiti for their Christmas card this year.

Please continue the gift of giving to support the important work of the St. Joseph Family — caring for some of the most vulnerable people in Haiti. Thank you to our Secret Santa, whose generosity along with YOUR gift will shine the light of hope, love and peace for many during this Christmas season.



Bring a little holiday joy to members of the St. Joseph Family this year by sending them Christmas cards. Visitors have been deeply missed during the pandemic and a Christmas card to let them know they are remembered would be a special treat for them.

For a list of all the Wings residents, young men supported by the SJF and the employees so you can write your cards to a specific person, please email sjgrants@hotmail.com

All cards MUST be received before Thanksgiving

**Mail the cards to:
Hearts with Haiti
27 Horne Street
Raleigh, NC 27607**

MAKE A GIFT!

Donate by credit card or PayPal
online at: heartswithhaiti.org/donate

Donate by check to our office

Donate stock by calling or emailing
us for instructions:
919-758-8085
info@heartswithhaiti.org

Choose "Hearts with Haiti, Inc." on
AmazonSmile when you shop.

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

*Hearts with Haiti is a 501(c)3
organization. All donations are
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Federal Tax ID #: 56-22677991*



Hearts with Haiti
27 Horne Street
Raleigh, NC 27607

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*Fostering a brighter,
more sustainable future
for the young people
of Haiti since 2001*

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SAVE the DATES!

October 17 ~ 7 PM EST

The young singers, dancers, and drummers at SJF are putting on their first ever virtual show - alongside BROADWAY STARS - to raise money to keep their education programs running, lights on, medicine stocked, and bellies fed.

Together with our arts programming partner, Broadway's Babies, we have produced a show that will take you on site to Wings of Hope and Lekòl Sen Trinite to see the students in action and hear from the SJF program leaders!

RSVP for pre-show updates: <http://tinyurl.com/bchahrsvp>
Tune in at: give.broadwaysbabies.com/hwh



December 1 ~ Giving Tuesday

We are participating in the **GIVING TUESDAY** movement again this year. This worldwide day of giving is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving — December 1. We

will have special posts and information on our Facebook page all day on Giving Tuesday to spark your generous spirit. All online donors to Hearts with Haiti on that day will be eligible for a drawing for an original Christmas painting by an art student from the SJF, which will be used by HWH for their Christmas card this year.



Find HWH online

Hearts with Haiti is updating and expanding its online presence and you can follow the developments via our website and evolving social media presence.

We have updated the HWH website with an exciting design and more information about the great things that HWH is doing.

Find us online at:

www.heartswithhaiti.org

Become a fan of "Hearts with Haiti" on Facebook to see the latest news from HWH and from the St. Joseph Family in Haiti. Invite your friends to "like" us too.

Sign up for our email blast to get the latest news and updates from HWH and the SJF.

To sign up, send an email to:

info@heartswithhaiti.org

Watch our website and Facebook page to see what social media outlets we add next!