

Hearts with Haiti



Spring 2021 Newsletter



www.heartswithhaiti.org

More students and updated facilities bring hope through education at Lekòl Sen Trinite

The pandemic shut down Haitian schools in March 2020. This came after classes were suspended for several

weeks in the fall of 2019 due to civil unrest. The 2019-2020 school year was thrown into chaos because of these two shutdowns. Fortunately, schools were able to resume classes in

August 2020 and met for three months to finish the 2019-2020 school year. The 2020-2021 school year started in November, about two months later than normal, to accommodate this schedule.

As the 2019-2020 school year was finishing last fall, the staff at Lekòl Sen Trinite (LST) was preparing for the new 2020-2021 school year. LST has always been a school that centers on lifting up those students most in need. A tuition-free school, it provides an education for students from the poorest families in the Jacmel area, students who would not be able to go to school if it were not for LST. For the past several years the enrollment at LST has been between 120-150 students. With the addition of seventh grade

for the 2020-2021 school year the staff anticipated raising the enrollment to 185 students. But because of the pandemic, and the economic and political crises in Haiti, when registration started the staff was overwhelmed by the increased need. Because LST, as well as the entire St. Joseph Family, operates on faith and puts people and needs first, the staff decided to help as many children as possible.

The final enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year was 224 students. This is an increase of approximately 100 students from the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

The LST staff has been able to accommodate the increased number of students and they are flourishing. The students receive not only an academic education, but also receive an arts education through our

mission partner Broadway for Arts Education (formerly Broadway's Babies). The students receive a meal each day, so that their bodies, as well as their minds are nourished. After school tutoring and extra-curricular activities of karate and cooking classes provide further assistance and enrichment for the students.

Even through the pandemic shutdown, the staff at Lekòl Sen Trinite looked towards the future and worked to make the school better. With no students at the school, work on the new classrooms on the roof was able to move forward more quickly, and additional projects of an emergency staircase and modern bathrooms were completed. This spring more security was added with the expansion of a security wall and the building was improved with a new multi-color paint job.



Easter traditions celebrated at Wings of Hope

The Wings of Hope family celebrated Holy Week and Easter with family traditions.

On Holy Thursday the family gathered first for the washing of the feet, which was acted out by the Wings residents and staff members. After the always moving service, everyone gathered in the dining room to dye hundreds of Easter eggs.

On Good Friday the family joined together again to act out the Passion, again performed by the Wings residents and staff. That was followed by not one, not two, but THREE Easter egg hunts — one for those who use wheelchairs, one for ones who walk and one for the employees. It was a friendly, but competitive, fun family time.



Remembering the Wings of Hope angels



Fabiola
October 2020



William
November 2020



Sam
January 2021



Mimine
March 2021

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HWH Welcomes New Executive Director

The Board of Directors is delighted to introduce to the Hearts with Haiti (HWH) community, Emily Everett who has joined HWH as our new Executive Director.

Emily has a rich and diverse 30-year history of nonprofit leadership and fundraising experience that includes the Lung Transplant Foundation, Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now), the March of Dimes and the American Red Cross. While at Rise Against Hunger, she traveled to and worked directly with local leaders in South Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Nicaragua. Her interest in promoting and supporting the needs of people with special needs grew out of her two decades working with the March of Dimes.

When it is possible again, Emily is looking forward to visiting Haiti, meeting the St. Joseph Family (SJF) leaders and staff and seeing SJF's programs in Port au Prince and Jacmel. "This is such an exciting time to join the Hearts with Haiti family," Emily says. "Once we are able to travel



again, I look forward to visiting St. Joseph Family to learn more about how we can work together to provide more resources for the programs there. Despite the pandemic, the doors remain open and operations continue. That is such an amazing testament to the team at St. Joseph Family and the Hearts with Haiti volunteers and supporters!"

Emily is a native of Smithfield, NC. She earned a B.A. in Radio, TV & Motion Pictures from the UNC-Chapel Hill and a M.A. in Journalism from the University of Arizona. She serves as

a volunteer on the Raleigh Chapter Board of Tri It For Life mentoring first-time female triathletes, and as a consultant for The Masters Group, a communications & marketing consortium. Emily and her husband, Eugene, live in Cary with two very spoiled dogs.

Help us welcome Emily and let her know how she can serve you by emailing her at:
emily.everett@heartswithhaiti.org