

Hearts with Haiti



Spring 2023 Newsletter



www.heartswithhaiti.org

“Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.”

- David Ogden Stiers

Let’s face it, life in Haiti today is grim.

Since the 2010 earthquake that killed an estimated 250,000 people, the country has endured a series of natural and man-made disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the assassination of the President in 2021. Gangs have taken over and are terrorizing Haiti’s citizens. Corruption, kidnappings and deadly violence are a daily occurrence. The country has spiraled into chaos.

Why isn’t this front-page news everyday?

Because there are many awful humanitarian crises taking place around the world, Haiti has taken a back seat. The United Nations is considering options for intervention in Haiti, but so far none offer long-term satisfactory solutions.

Why are we telling you this?

Like Hearts with Haiti, many of you have friends – some you consider to be like family – at the St. Joseph Family. The chaos and violence are having a profound impact on the ministries we serve. Critical staples such as food, water, medicine, diapers, and fuel are scarce and becoming more expensive by the day. The St. Joseph Family must stretch every dollar to provide for the residents and staff at Wings of Hope and the students and teachers at Lekòl Sen Trinite. Often, it is dangerous for the staff to travel outside of the grounds to acquire food and medicine.



Members of the St. Joseph Family continue to navigate these extraordinary times with grace and ingenuity. The doors at Wings of Hope and Lekòl Sen Trinite remain open.

People are safe. Therapy sessions and education go on. Beds are warm. Bellies are full.

After 20 years, Hearts with Haiti remains committed to the success of the St. Joseph Family. They are our family. Fanmi Nou.

Fanmi Nou (“Our Family”)

As we celebrate 20 years of partnership with the St. Joseph Family, we know that our work is far from done. We stand by our mission to create opportunities for Haitians affected by poverty, instability, and disability to build a sustainable future.

This year, we are counting on “our family” to help Hearts with Haiti provide the resources needed to maintain the essential services offered by the St. Joseph Family.

YOU are part of the Hearts with Haiti family.

Your support transforms lives by investing in and empowering Haitians to create a more sustainable future. Now, more than ever, we want to make sure that no one is left behind or forgotten. **Fanmi Nou.**



Fanmi Nou

Join our family of monthly donors.

When you donate to Hearts with Haiti, you are saving lives by providing food, shelter, medical care and education to Haiti’s most vulnerable populations.

Support from monthly donors is an investment that helps us be there for the St. Joseph family throughout the year.

Please consider becoming a monthly donor to help Hearts with Haiti and the St. Joseph Family to effectively fulfill our mission and ministries as Haiti continues to suffer from poverty, violence and political unrest.





Meet Asley who joined the Wings of Hope family in 2021

For the first time in his 16 years, Asley is in a place that was made for him and that helps him achieve his dreams. He is thriving in his new home and loves his new family.

You can sponsor Asley, or any of the Wings of Hope residents, for \$420 a year, and help them to live their best lives



In February, all of the residents at Wings of Hope had their annual physicals, including dental and vision exams.

After a three month delay due to nation-wide insecurity, the new school year at Lekòl Sen Trinite began in December. There are currently 227 students attending classes from preschool to ninth grade.

Packing Support, Shipping Hope, Receiving Love

The Hearts with Haiti shipping container project was incredibly successful. With Americans currently unable to travel safely to Haiti and many items needed by the St. Joseph Family unavailable for purchase in-country,



Hearts with Haiti decided to take action. Thanks to a newly-formed partnership with Love Takes Root, an opportunity arose to share space on a 40-foot shipping container to Haiti.

We had only eight weeks to seek donations, collect, sort, package and transport items for shipping. The response from supporters, especially through the Amazon wish list, was amazing!

Items purchased by donors from Amazon wish list included 40 mattresses, wheelchair equipment, latex gloves, bibs, strollers, swing, helmets, solar lights, diapers, therapy equipment, cups, spoons.

New items from mission partners and private donors included backpacks, hygiene supplies, helmets, walkers, musical instruments, recreation supplies, shoes.

Items purchased by Friends of SJF included hygiene supplies, food, household goods, wheelchair equipment, art supplies, electronics, chairs.

All other items were donated by individuals, groups, businesses, healthcare institutions, etc.

There was a significant amount of prep and packing work for the thousands of donated items. Everything had to be sorted, counted, inventoried, packed, labeled to meet exact specifications, all boxes had to be numbered and a detailed manifest created.

Love Takes Root managed shipping the container to Haiti, getting it through customs in Port-au-Prince and arranging transportation to Jacmel. The St Joseph Family was tasked with picking up the items at the Love Takes Root Concordia

campus in Jacmel.

The container was detained for several weeks while customs was closed due to violence and insecurity around the port area. After a four-month journey, it finally arrived in Jacmel on November 28th, just in time for Christmas!

Because of the current situation in Haiti, the items sent on the container are having a big impact on the lives of those served by the St. Joseph Family, especially the residents at Wings of Hope.

“The wheelchairs on the container are great,” said Jacky Asse, director of Wings of Hope. “The residents were excited to see the new wheelchairs. They are much more comfortable and happier now.



They are much better than the wheelchairs we had before.”

Jacky said the diapers Wings received are also a huge blessing. His staff must get diapers from Port-au-Prince, which can be a dangerous trip, and the cost of

diapers is continually rising. The supply of diapers from the container lasted about three months.

The estimated value of items sent was approximately \$21,000. Hearts with Haiti also was able to partner with Friends of SJF to provide funding and support for the project.

Jacky was very happy and thankful for all the items received in the container. “By having these things, it is making our lives much easier. It is helping our lives in good ways.”



WAYS TO GIVE!

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or PayPal online at:
heartswithhaiti.org/donate

Donate by check to our office

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more sustainable future
for the young people
of Haiti since 2001*

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Hearts with Haiti is planning for the future

Hearts with Haiti recently developed its first organizational strategic plan to define a vision for sustainability and growth with long-range goals for the future. With this new roadmap, we have clearly defined goals, strategies, success indicators and timelines to ensure continued critical mission impact.

The plan focuses on four key areas:

Program Services: Expand the ability and means for HWH to respond quickly and efficiently to ongoing and emerging needs for our partners and the communities we serve in Haiti.

Board Development: Set a clear vision, values, and strategy for the Board with a plan to sustain growth through cultivation, recruitment and training of members.

Marketing & Communications: Communicate clearly and effectively about the impact of the programs we fund in Haiti and the return on investment for stakeholders and supporters.

Fundraising: Diversify fundraising activities and seek out opportunities to better engage and steward donors.

Currently, our Program efforts are directed towards resolving technology and internet access issues at the St. Joseph Family so that we may coordinate and plan for program service delivery commitments for 2023 and beyond.

Also, we continue to grow and develop a diversified, well resourced Board with skills and professional expertise aligned with both the organization's needs and the members' own interests. Please let us know if you are interested in exploring future leadership opportunities with Hearts with Haiti.

*In addition to the strategic plan,
the Hearts with Haiti Board also updated
the organization's mission and vision
statements and core values.*

Mission Statement:

Together with our Haitian partners,
we create opportunities for Haitians
affected by poverty, instability, and
disability to build a sustainable future.

Vision Statement

Hearts with Haiti transforms lives by
investing in and empowering Haitians
to create a more sustainable future.

Core values

Compassion
Empowerment
Collaboration
Respect for all
Transparency