

Volume 23, No. 1 Spring 2015

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

God's Children in Haiti













Dear Friends of Haiti,

I continue to be amazed by the generous response to HEF 's plea for meaningful involvement with our schools and their students. Please take the time to read the wonderful account of how young David Lechter of south Florida and his family became inspired to serve God's children in the village of Cheridant.

Since our last letter more church groups, family groups and individuals have committed to sponsorships of schools, financed the installation of water systems and funded feeding programs to serve our schools, which now number thirty-five.

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www.haitifoundation.org

There are so many ways to become involved. Please contact our office and discuss how this mission might become a part of your charitable life.

Thank you to all who have been so faithful to this effort.



In Christ, *Mike Landers*

(Left) Marsha Long and Vicki Lambert visit with teachers at St. Andre.

(Right) Mike Landers of First Pres., El Dorado, AR, Bill Donovan, and John Young of St. John the Divine, Houston, TX





Mission:

The mission of the Haiti Education Foundation is to provide educational opportunities to children in the mountains of southern Haiti.

Goal: To establish an avenue for giving where 100% of contributions go to the need designated by the donor.

Objective: To help Haitians to help themselves.

Operating Budget 2014/2015 School Year

\$32,161.00 per month (Amount wired to Haiti for operation of schools)

Annual Budget \$385,932.00

The Gift of Your Presence

















Clockwise from Top Left: Ryan Woodzell, Windy Cove Pres. Church, Millboro, VA; Vicki Lambert and Marsha Long, FUMC Women, Norphlet, AR; Pere Michaud with Bill Donovan, St. John the Divine, Houston, TX; Mickey Quinlan, Pere Fred and Father Paul Martin of St. Paul's Episcopal, Shreveport, LA; John Young, Houston, TX; Mary Jo Oliver, Marsha Long, Vicki Lambert, Susan Turbeville, Connor McClurkin, Trey Turbeville, all of Arkansas; Rob Sherrard, Sara Anderson, Kathleen Barden and Russell Woodzell, Windy Cove Pres. Church, Millboro, VA.; Mary Jo Oliver, First Pres., El Dorado, AR.

Please send your group photos so that we can use them in our next publication...haitifnd@att.net



Alternative Gifts International

Look for HEF in the 2016 Catalogue

Mission Opportunity

We are continuing to encourage sponsorship of specific HEF supported schools. Our dream is to match each school with an American partner. This benefits the children in Haiti as well as the sponsoring church! We have heard time and again of the severe poverty of Haiti and that these people so often feel forgotten. A sponsorship creates a relationship between the two entities. This relationship involves two basic tenants; a financial obligation and involvement with the school.

Financial Obligation

We are requesting an investment of at least 50% of the financial need of the school be met by the sponsoring church. Those needs are the salaries of teaching personnel and supplies. We ask that you consider a 5 year sponsorship for our planning purposes, but we do not request any formal written document. The sponsorship amount is a set amount and we will not ask for any increase within that 5 year period.

Church Involvement

Our hope is that a representative from the church will personally visit the school and meet the children and their teachers. This allows members of your church to see how mission funds are being spent.

There are many needs within each school. As your relationship grows, our hope is that you will be led to seek the specific needs of your school. This is not a requirement of sponsorship but an outgrowth of your investment in the lives of these children. If your church is interested in sponsorship, please call our office at 870-862-1252. Our email address is haitifnd@att.net. We can find a match for you!

Church Sponsorship of HEF Schools

| 417 | St. Paul's Episcopal, Shreveport, LA | St. Matthias Preschool, Cherident | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Crittenden Family & Friends | St. Phillipe & St. Jacques, Petite Riviere | |
| 100% | FPC Shreveport, LA | St. Matthias Elementary, Cherident | |
| 90% | FPC Staunton, VA | St. Thomas, Lavanneau | |
| 80% | Windy Cove PC, Millboro, VA | Notre Dame School, David | |
| 70% | FPC Sparta, NJ | Bonne Nouvelle, LeBeau | |
| 60% | FPC Gainesville, GA | St. Jos. D'Arimathe, Pillard | |
| 50% | Church of the Good Shepherd | St. Mathieu, Begin | |
| 40% | Lake Charles, LA | | |
| 30% | St. John the Divine, Houston, TX | St. Etienne, La Mothe | |
| 20% | FUMC Women, Norphlet, AR | St. Andre, Cavanack | |
| 10% | FPC Fort Smith, AR | Epiphanie, Morin | |
| Help us meet our goal of sponsorships for all 35 schools! | Raleigh Court PC, Roanoke, VA | St. Timothee, La Rivoire | |
| | FPC Sand Springs, OK | St. Nom de Jesus, Venant | |
| | FPC Johnson City, TN | St. Innocents, Bellevue | |
| | Tinkling Spring PC, Fishersville, VA | St. Jean Baptiste, Hess | |
| | FPC, El Dorado, AR | Bon Berger, Danot | |
| | Calabash PC, Sunset Beach, NC | St. Simon & St. Jude, Duny | |
| | | | |

Please consider this great mission opportunity. Remember, 100% of your donation is used as you designate.

Christ Roi, Jacmel

FPC, Camden, AR

Working Together!





Shelby Guilbert, Mickey Quinlan, and Michael Bowman.



Amy Bowman visits with the children

A wonderful thing is happening in Shreveport, Louisiana... First Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Episcopal are uniting forces to support the St. Matthias Elementary and Pre-school schools at Cherident, Haiti. This arrangement works to everyone's benefit as they are able to network, plan trips together and work toward the common goal of making this a successful campus for the children and their teachers.

HEF is honored to work with this fine group of missioners. We are excited to see what the future holds! The high school is a work in progress and we hope to find yet another group to join in the effort.

Sponsorship Opportunities

| St. Luc, Briesilien | \$665/month | \$7,980/year |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| St. Barthelemy, Barot | \$690/month | \$8,280/year |
| St. John Baptiste, Moreau | \$700/month | \$8,400/year |
| Transfiguration, Duvillion | \$450/month | \$5,400/year |
| St. Barnabe, Lavalle | \$690/month | \$8,280/year |

There are many more schools!

If you would like more specific information, please contact us at haitifnd@att.net.



Do Something! David Lechter, My Inspiration

Not long ago, I received a very interesting email from a young man inquiring about our schools in Haiti. Emails of this type are not unusual and I always enjoy answering questions and visiting about the happenings of the Haiti Education Foundation. However, there was something a little different about this situation...and little did I know the impact of our conversation. The email was followed with a phone conversation involving David Lechter, his father, Robert, and me. I learned of a great project that twelve year old David had begun to put computers in some of the classrooms in Haiti. Not only was he in the process of raising the money, his mom and dad were planning to go with him to deliver the computers to the school. This all took place in early April and to the right, you will see the photos. The details of David's story also follow...a remarkable young man willing to "do something" to make a difference in someone else's life! - Susan Turbeville

A few months ago, after participating in a leadership competition to represent my school I came to the conclusion that I was lacking experiences where I could reach out and touch the lives of others in helpful ways, especially outside of my community. My school experience has been special in that I overcame a learning disability and was the beneficiary of a well-conceived and financed educational system that allowed me to make significant progress.

Thus, my inspiration was to find ways of helping less fortunate children from disadvantaged school environments. Haiti caught my attention due to its well-known high poverty level, yet it is so close to home.

I also knew about the tragic 2010 earthquake in Haiti. I figured this event had made the situation even worse. Fifty-two percent of the people of Haiti can't read and write and that is an indication of how much is missing there. I knew that was the place where I could help the most.

I had a privileged situation in school. For about five years, I was in a program that allowed me to overcome dyslexia. I was in a self-contained class with only around six classmates. I am very grateful that I was in that program because I had amazing teachers that pushed me to get to where I am now and I had all the necessary resources that I needed, textbooks, computers and supplies. I immediately thought of all the resources children in rural areas in Haiti wouldn't have and that led me to the conclusion that any supplies, computers and books I could collect would make a big difference there.

It took me some time to figure out what to do and how to get there. I started by looking for an organization through which I could work to get to the schools that I wanted to help. I found the Haiti Educational Foundation online and started working with Susan there. With her input, it became clear that computers would be a good way of helping the schools and then the next step was to figure out how to obtain the funds to buy them. I did it by posting a video in a crowdfunding website (gofundme.com) and reaching out to friends and family as well as the parents of all my classmates. I was able to raise over \$3,000!

With the money in hand, and my Dad's help, we bought touchscreen laptops that we found on sale in several stores and on-line resources. I'm proud to be delivering 15 of them already configured to the Haitian language package and loaded with apps that I know will be helpful to the kids. We'll be traveling there to meet Reverend Frederic of the St. Matthias Parish to visit the schools and donate the computers. I can't wait to see the children's faces when I go there in two weeks!

- David Lechter







Clockwise from
Top Left:
David Lechter
and his mom
talk to a group
of students, Ancy
fils Aime, his son
Hans, David and
Robert Lechter;
Pere Fred and a
teacher visit with
David and his
mother, Lorena.

HEF T-Shirts are available on our website for \$15.00!

Visit www.haitifoundation.org to order yours!





Great way to keep up with everyone in your mission group!

One Year Scholarship for a Child... \$75





VEHICLE NEED

As many travel to Haiti to visit schools and monitor projects, we are in great need of replacing one of our trucks. The roads are extremely rough and take a great toll on the vehicles. Our missioners' safety is of utmost importance while they are in country. If you are interested in donating toward this purchase, please call the HEF office at 870.862.1252 for more information.

We are printing our newsletter in color thanks to a gift specified for this purpose.

Please note our mailing address: P.O. Box 10775, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

Current Resident or



100% Used as Designated by Donor

TUITION: One School Year - \$75

- Pere Albert

"Your generosity brings God's people from darkness to light. Light shines in the darkness did not overcome it. Thank You for being His light in Haiti."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 300 East Main Street

El Dorado, AR 71730

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