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*Hearts with Haiti is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible.
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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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Be Connected, Stay Informed, Be Supportive

- ✓ Follow Hearts with Haiti and the St. Joseph Family on social media. Both organizations have active Facebook pages and post updates several times each week.
- ✓ Check out the newly redesigned websites for both Hearts with Haiti (www.heartswithhaiti.org) and the St. Joseph Family (www.sjfamilyhaiti.org).
- ✓ Watch the recently created videos about the SJF ministries on the Hearts with Haiti YouTube channel
- ✓ Do your online shopping through AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and choose "Hearts with Haiti Inc" as your designated charity. It is exactly the same shopping experience as the regular Amazon site, but a portion of qualifying purchases are donated to Hearts with Haiti.
- ✓ Become a sponsor of a resident at Wings of Hope. For \$360 a year (or \$30 a month) you can sponsor a resident at Wings of Hope. Sponsors receive photos, stories and communications from and about their sponsored resident throughout the year.

Hearts with Haiti is planning a trip for members of the St. Joseph Family leadership team to visit the New Bern and Raleigh areas of North Carolina in May. If you would like to know more about events and meetings you can attend to hear about the great things happening in Haiti, please email info@heartswithhaiti.org

Spring 2019 Newsletter



www.heartswithhaiti.org

A challenging time for Haiti and the SJF

For 10 days in February the tensions and frustrations in Haiti brought the country to the breaking point. Protests, which often turned violent, shut the country down for almost two weeks. People were trapped in their homes, afraid to go out onto the streets. Businesses and street markets were closed and people could not shop to get food or water. Schools were closed. Electricity was even more scarce than normal, leaving people in the dark, increasing the level of fear.

During the protests the St. Joseph Family faced the same challenges as everyone else. It was a daily challenge to get out and find supplies. Food and water were scarce, and when they could be found, the prices were high. Fuel was almost completely unavailable. Long lines were at every gas station and the waiting went on for hours, without any guarantee of fuel

when you finally got to the head of the line. And if you were fortunate to find fuel to be able to use your vehicle or run a generator, the prices were much higher than before the protests.

Since the protests in February a tenuous calm has returned. Schools and businesses have reopened and people once again fill the streets to go about their daily lives instead of filling the streets to protest.

But, the underlying causes of the February protests remain — an unstable economy that sees the value of the Haitian goudede and the buying power of Haitian currency drop almost daily; sky-rocketing prices on everything, including food staples which have almost doubled in cost in the past few months, leading to hunger and frustration of the population; fuel shortages that impact everything from the availability and cost of transportation to severely restricting an already only partially-functioning electrical system;

billions missing from government accounts in the Petrocaribe scandal, without anyone brought to justice.

All that on top of an already struggling population who deal daily with injustice, poverty, inequality, and who have been the victims of one natural disaster after another, and it all some times becomes too much to bear. That's the frustration that lead to the protests in February, and that's the frustration that is still bubbling under the surface of daily life. Each day there are rumors that the protests will break out again. People wake up every morning and check to see if it is safe to go out of their homes, wonder if the few goudede they have in their pockets will allow them to feed their family today, and pray everyone they love will be safe.

While the SJF and its employees have been affected by all of this, with

teamwork and faith they are all surviving, but new challenges are a daily occurrence. Rising prices have impacted the SJF budget, so choices have to be made with the limited funds available. Shortages of food and fuel lead to long days of looking for supplies and standing in line in hopes of being able to purchase what is needed. The US State Department warning about not traveling to Haiti has caused groups to cancel their plans to come to Haiti, which means fewer people getting to experience the great work being done by the SJF, and less money coming in from the guest house.

No solution will be immediate or easy, but with friends by their side, the SJF and Haiti will go on. Please keep them all in your prayers, consider a donation to help with their challenges, and keep your heart open to consider a trip to Haiti for a life-changing experience.



A line at a gas station during the February protests.

Did you know?

You can donate stock to HWH

By donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year, you are actually giving 20 percent more than if you sold the stock and then made a cash donation. The reason is simple - avoiding capital gains taxes. The maximum federal capital gains tax rate is 20 percent on long-term holdings. Given that the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose from about 13,000 at the end of August 2012 to almost 26,000 at the end of February 2019, you are likely to have realized a taxable profit on the sale of assets you purchased in the past five years. But if you donate the stock directly to Hearts with Haiti, Inc., there's no capital gains tax to pay. Plus, you are still eligible to deduct the full fair-market value of the asset you donated from your income taxes, up to the overall amount allowed by the IRS.

HOW TO DONATE STOCK TO HEARTS WITH HAITI, INC.

Your first step in donating stock is to determine which stocks you want to part with. This is partly a matter of personal preference, and partly a question of tax implications.

Your best bet is to look for stocks that you bought at least a year ago and have risen in value since you bought them. Not only will that make for a more worthwhile donation, but it also means you get to avoid paying a capital gains tax on the stock's appreciation. If you have a financial advisor, it may help to get them involved in this process early on. That way, they can start by choosing the best stocks for you to donate.

You'll need to contact your brokerage firm or investment advisor for the exact actions required of you to send your stocks. This usually involves filling out a transfer form. The forms and documentation required can vary depending on your stock broker.

Next, you should reach out to Hearts With Haiti, Inc. to get our information about what brokerage account to transfer the stocks. This is also a good time to let us know the name of the stock you're sending, the number of shares and the date they should arrive. That way, we will know exactly who sent the donation and its exact terms. Once the transfer is complete, we will send an acknowledgment letter listing the stocks received as well as the value for tax donation purposes.

To speak someone at HWH to learn more, or to set up a stock donation, please email: info@heartswithhaiti.org

MEET PETERSON

A resident at Wings of Hope

Peterson is an active young man who began attending Wings of Hope as a day student. He is autistic, has a seizure disorder and some intellectual disabilities. He receives medication daily at Wings of Hope to help control his seizures, but wears a helmet to protect his head if he has a seizure.

Peterson's mother is a merchant who had a market stand on the street outside of Wings of Hope in Fermathe, selling food she cooked. She got to know the leaders of Wings of Hope as they passed by her market stand and purchased food from her. She asked the leaders to allow Peterson to spend the day at Wings of Hope so she knew he was in a safe place and would be taken care of while she worked to support her family. Peterson began coming to Wings of Hope in 2007 as day student and lived with his family near Wings. In 2009, his family situation changed and it was no longer safe for him to live at home, so he became a resident at Wings of Hope. He is very happy with the move.

Peterson did not do well when we tried to place him in the classroom. He did not interact well with the stimulation of being around so many other children, so we created a work-study program for him.

For many years he helped in the laundry and benefited from the positive interactions he had with the laundry workers. He likes to do other chores and tasks around Wings of Hope.



Over the years, we have seen many positive changes in Peterson. His self-confidence and self-esteem have dramatically increased. He used to be made fun of by the neighborhood children and they would hit him and steal his toys, but with the confidence he has gained at Wings of Hope, he now is able to stand up for himself and interact in more positive ways with others.

He has become more talkative and interactive with others. While he does not like to play with the other children, he does like interacting with adults and spending time playing with toys by himself. He loves to play basketball and jumping rope. He likes to collect and carry around toys and other little items that look like junk to others, but become toys with his active imagination. He carries a backpack full of his treasures at all times. He loves balls of any kind and loves to kick and toss balls with others or by himself. Peterson loves to sing and loves listening to the radio.



New payroll system at the St. Joseph Family offers new opportunities

Even with the protests and challenges, one of the things we celebrate is the amazing employees of the St. Joseph Family.

Despite the dangers of traveling during the protests the SJF employees came to work to make sure the children and ministries were taken care of. Despite their buying power taking a hit with the crashing economy they never complained or demanded more money (which they knew the SJF didn't have). Because of their faith and loyalty the SJF, with the help of Hearts with Haiti, took a big step in March. It is a step that has been talked about and planned for a long time but one that comes at a cost.

Up until now the payroll for the SJF has always been in cash. This was risky, for both the SJF and the employees. Large amounts of cash had to be transported between the missions. As the prices increased but the pay levels did not, the employees took the economic hit.

With the new payroll system, the employees are paid by check, in US funds. This means less risk for the SJF because large sums of money don't have to

be transported. It allows the employees to deal with the fluctuating exchange rate and have more Haitian currency to take home at the end of the day.

With the move to the pay-by-check system, the SJF also enrolled in two government programs that will assist the employees. Now both the employees and the SJF pay into a Social Security-like system and a government health care system, and each of the employees have an account with both programs. All the employees also received slight raises to help them cover their cost of both programs and to reward them for their loyalty and work.

The SJF is still working out all the logistics of the new system, but it is an exciting step forward for everyone. It does come at a cost though, as it caused the yearly budget for wages to increase by 33% to cover the increased wages and taxes. Hearts with Haiti and the St. Joseph Family are being challenged to bring in more donations and income to cover the increased cost, but both organizations are committed to taking care of both the SJF missions and the people who serve there.

Be a virtual guest to make a real impact

One of the ways the SJF contributes to the budget every year is through hosting groups at the Wings Welcome Center and the SJ Welcome Center. Besides the benefit of allowing guests to see the wonderful work being done at the SJF missions first-hand, the Welcome Centers generate some income to help support the missions.

When the protests were happening in February, the US State Department raised their travel warning to its highest level — Do Not Travel To Haiti. That has caused many groups with plans to come to Haiti and stay with the SJF to cancel, and will likely prevent future groups from even

considering a trip. We have no idea when the warning level will go back down or when groups will start planning on traveling to Haiti again.



To help make up some of the shortfall and deal with the rising prices we are asking you to consider a special "Virtual Guest House" donation. This challenge for donations of \$50 is to represent one night of guest lodging in Haiti.

We would love to have you visit Haiti and experience the amazing work of the SJF for yourself, and we hope that is possible soon. But until then, please help us deal with the challenges the current situation is presenting.