



The  
**Haiti Micah**  
Project

## Newsletter

*Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti*

Volume 4, Issue 2

November 2009

### Organization:

Haiti Micah Project  
501(c)(3) organization  
established in 2005

### Project:

Haiti Micah Project  
A Residential Home for Street  
Children

### Location:

Mirebalais, Haiti

### Officers:

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant  
President  
The Rev. James B. May, Jr.  
Vice President  
Dr. Ruth I. Quartey  
Treasurer

### Directors:

Michelle Baptiste  
Valeska Daley  
Richard Frazer  
Olivine Pilling  
Bryan J. Schaaf  
The Rev. Rudolph Stewart III  
William J. Taczak, Jr.  
Jean Michel Voltaire

### Volunteers:

Andreanna Truelove  
Tyler Hetzer  
LaNita De' Vore

### Legal Consultant:

Laura Fraedrich  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

## *Feed a Child, Feed Your Soul*



## **SUPPLY SHIPMENT TO MIREBALAIS**

HMP is gathering items for the orphanage in Mirebalais and for the children in the feeding program. A shipment will leave Virginia for Haiti on November 23, 2009. Here is a list of what the children need:

- Shoes and sandals. New
- Nightgowns and pajamas. New or gently used (no stains, holes, or frayed edges; wash in hot water)
- Sheets, twin-sized. New or gently used (no stains, holes, or frayed edges; wash in hot water)
- Towels. New or gently used (no stains, holes, or frayed edges; wash in hot water)

*(cont'd. on page 3)*

## President's Report

*The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. Acts 11:29-30 (NRSV)*



Over the past two months, I have visited several churches at the invitation of their rectors and lay leaders to preach or speak on the ministry of the Haiti Micah Project. I always consider it a privilege to be invited to share the Word of God with these communities and to meet their members. One of the many things I have discovered is that these congregations are committed to living out their Christian calling to minister to the poor and disadvantaged.

In September and October, I preached and led forums at Immanuel Church on-the-Hill in Alexandria, Virginia; St. James's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia; and St. James Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland. These congregations and their leaders are steadfast in living out their baptismal covenant to "proclaim by Word and example the Good News of God in Christ."

I was also invited to speak to the Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee of the greater metropolitan D.C. area exploring the topic of how financial crises have the potential to affect one's spirituality. I shared with this group the importance of sharing all of our gifts, our time and our talents in these times of financial insecurity. Recently, Haiti Micah Project has had two volunteers step forward to share their talents, Tyler Hetzer and Andrea Truelove. They have reenergized our communication and fundraising efforts and are actively engaged in supporting the efforts of Haiti Micah Project.

Over the last month, I had a couple of occasions to engage with young people interested in Haiti. I spoke to a group of faculty and students at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, on how these young students could use their gifts and talents to help the children of Haiti. My daughter and her friends also donated almost all of their Halloween candy for the children of Haiti. The candy will be sent as part of our Christmas shipment. As one of her friends said, "We have Halloween every year here. It never happens in Haiti."

I am grateful to all the men and women, churches and schools and other organizations that have supported the ministry of the Haiti Micah Project. By sending relief to the streets and vulnerable children of Haiti, you are bearing testimony to the ministry of Jesus and his disciples. Our determination to support the children of Haiti according to our ability is in fact drawing us closer to God's children beyond these shores as we move toward becoming one family.

On behalf of the children of Haiti, I want to thank you for caring.

Faithfully,

*Father Joseph M. Constant*

## SUPPLY SHIPMENT TO MIREBALAIS (*cont'd.*)

- Pillows. New
- Underwear. New
- Undershirts. New
- Bras. New
- Socks. New
- Clothing for church (khaki pants/white shirts for boys; dresses for girls)
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Lotion
- Soap (Dove)
- Cotton Swabs
- Sanitary pads
- Hair care (combs, brushes, barrettes, ribbons)
- Containers (shoebox-sized for toiletries, larger for clothing, etc.)
- DVDs (French or English)

- Books (French)

Please deliver all items for shipment to Joseph Constant no later than **November 20, 2009**.

Send items to:

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant  
 HAITI MICAHA PROJECT  
 3706 Seminary Road  
 Alexandria, VA 22304  
 Tel: 703-328-5808  
[jconstant@haiti-micah.org](mailto:jconstant@haiti-micah.org)

For those of you who are sponsoring a child or family, this is also an opportunity to send a holiday gift to your child or family. Please make sure that the package is clearly marked on the outside with the child's or family's name.

## HMP NOTABLE CONTRIBUTOR: ANNABELLE O'BRYAN



One of our younger contributors is Annabelle O'Bryan, 8 years old, of Alexandria, Virginia. Annabelle had heard about the children in Mirebalais from her grandfather and her church. Wishing to do something for the children, she held a series of yard sales to raise money to buy a puppy and to "help the starving children in Haiti." Annabelle contributed half of her earnings to HMP.

Looking for items to stock her first yard sale, Annabelle searched through her clothes, toys, and books for things that she felt she did not need. She asked her mother and grandmother for any items that they could contribute to the yard sale as well. She painted and posted signs to advertise the sales in her neighborhood.

Inspired by Annabelle's altruistic efforts, her neighborhood friends asked to participate in Annabelle's second yard sale and brought items of their own to sell. To date, Annabelle has raised enough money to feed one child for six months. This compassion is an inspiration to all of us as we focus our energies on helping the neediest in the world today.

Thank you, Annabelle, for your support of our HMP children!

## PRESS RELEASE: ST. MARY OF THE HILLS STUDENTS TAKE A PAGE RIGHT OUT OF BIBLE

*Train up a child in the way he/she should go and when he/she gets older he will not depart from it.*

St. Mary of the Hills is working hard to instill this in the students of the school. This is evident in the way Alexia Etienne, a 5th-grade teacher at the school, has gotten her students involved with the Haiti Micah Project Sponsor a Child Program.

"My daughter and I sponsored a child on our own over the summer. I knew it was something I needed my students to take part in," Etienne said. "The first task, though, was figuring out how to raise the money."



Etienne explained that although it would have been easy to just ask each of her fifth-graders to bring in money, her principal, Ms. Lisa Fasano, suggested having a bake sale to raise the \$300 needed.

"It's great that the class was onboard with the program," Fasano explained, "but I wanted them to see that problems aren't solved simply by asking for money." Fasano went on to say that she wants her students to know the work that goes on behind the scenes to raise money.

All of the fifth-grade students brought in baked goods the following Friday to sell during their recess breaks. "They took time out of their free time to get the job done. That was great to see," said Maureen Brinn, the academic advisor for the school.



The money was counted at the end of the day, totaling over the \$300 needed to sponsor the child in Haiti. The leftover money will be spent on gifts to send to the Haitian child when the students receive their child's information.

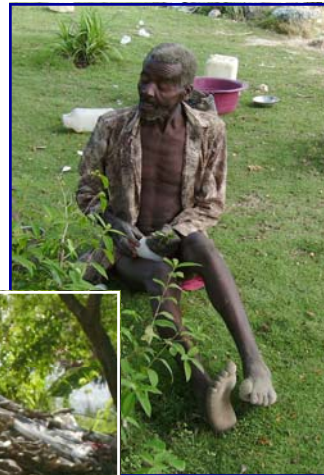
Etienne said, "Our hope is that because the students were a part of the process from beginning to end, this will be a lasting impression upon their hearts as they move on in life. We also hope that this will be just another thread woven in the fabric of their Christian journey."

The fifth-grade students are now waiting to get the information on their sponsored child and plan to keep in contact with the child all year. St. Mary of the Hills is a K-8 Catholic school in Milton, MA, which educates students from a variety of towns. With a focus on innovation in education, the faculty and staff strive to promote spiritual growth, personal academic excellence and social development in a safe and nurturing environment. For more information, please call (617) 698-2464 or visit online at <http://www.saintmaryofthehills.org>.

## MEET THE DELANOT FAMILY

The Delanot family is the first family to be sponsored as part of the HMP Sponsor A Child program. The family includes the father, who is disabled, the mother, and three children — sons, Yawell Joseph (age 11) and Dieudinot (age 9) and daughter, Lovelie (age 6).

The family lives in a makeshift house in Mirebalais. Their home is approximately two miles from the feeding program site, but Mrs. Delanot daily takes the children to enjoy a hot meal.



## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Are you having a difficult time coming up with the perfect holiday gifts for your loved ones? Give your loved ones a gift in their honor to the children of Mirebalais.

This holiday season, brighten a child's life by giving a tax-deductible gift contribution. Choose one of the following gifts or make a donation to HMP in the amount of your choosing.

- \$25 provides art supplies for five children.
- \$50 helps pay for a child's school tuition and buy books.
- \$75 buys clothing for the children in the house.
- \$100 provides approximately 100 meals in the HMP feeding program.
- \$150 sponsors a child for six months in the housing program.
- \$300 sponsors a child in the housing program for a year.

If you wish, HMP will send a holiday card to the recipient of your gift describing the gift contribution, and HMP will send you a receipt for tax purposes. Please specify the gift you wish to give and include the name and address of the recipient, if possible.

## FUNDRAISING GALA

HMP is planning a fundraising gala in late spring to raise money for the project. The gala will highlight Haitian cuisine, music and culture. Please contact Andrea Truelove at [andrea.truelove@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.truelove@gmail.com) if you would like to help with the planning.

Below is a song for our work in Haiti in Creole and English. We share with you this song that we often sing before and after our HMP board meetings. We hope to sing it with all of you at the gala.

### Hymn: O Lespri Sen

O Lespri Sen Desann sou nou  
Nou gen yon misyon pou Ayiti  
O Lespri Sen desann sou nou  
Nou gen yon misyon pou late-a

O Holy Spirit, descend on us.  
We have a mission for Haiti.  
O Holy Spirit, descend on us.  
We have a mission for the earth.

## HAITI MICAH PROJECT NEWS!

We're in Facebook. Become a fan of the Haiti Micah Project on

 (<http://www.facebook.com>).

HMP can also be reached at <http://www.haiti-micah.org>.

## HAITI MICAH PROJECT

3706 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: 703-328-5808  
E-mail: [jconstant@haiti-micah.org](mailto:jconstant@haiti-micah.org)

