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Keeping Blindness Away: Heading Off Glaucoma Before It's Too Late

Rick Bartlett, OD, was part of an eye team of 8 optometrists who donated their time this past February to serve in HFHC's Child Care Clinics. They brought with them over \$200,000 worth of donated glaucoma medicines to distribute to those identified with this insidious disease. This is what he had to say about his experience.

38 years, and I have never diagnosed glaucoma in a child. This week, in our clinic, out of the 800 children we examined, we put 8 sponsored kids between the ages of 8 and 12 on glaucoma drops. And we also identified a lot of "glaucoma suspects" who will need to be watched and monitored as well.

Glaucoma is a disease without symptoms – usually there is no pain. It will just gradually take your sight before you realize it. One day you wake up and you have lost all your vision. Glaucoma is an epidemic here [in Haiti]. Statistics show that in developed countries, the incidence of glaucoma rate is about 2%. In Haiti, studies are showing that 1 out of every 5 Haitians will develop glaucoma sometime in their lifetime. But even more concerning, we saw it appearing in the younger population more than any other demographic that I am aware of. I have been in practice

This is a very tangible result of HFHC's work. We are catching glaucoma in these kids and giving them a year's worth of drops to keep their pressures down. The drops will be dispensed either at school or at home. We will continue to follow these children, and make sure that their eye pressures are under control and their vision is being preserved.

There is huge value in the sponsored child eye clinics in identifying these children early. They are the hope and future of Haiti.



One of the many children thrilled to receive new eye glasses



The medical team conducted basic health exams along with eye exams to ensure the children were healthy



Rick Bartlett examines a student's eyes to check for symptoms of glaucoma while his translator, Roolite, looks on with a smile

Phito Oupette: A True Success Story

“When you are a Christian, it’s not what **you** want from God; it is what **God** wants from you.”



Phito 2018

Meet Phito. In 1999, Phito was brought to Cazeau Christian Orphanage at age 10 after his mother passed away. Through HFHC’s child sponsorship program, Phito was able to receive a quality Christian education at Cazeau Christian School. After finishing high school, he became a plumber in order to earn a living and provide for his family. While working in this field, Phito decided to study theology at Delmas University of Theology and now teaches Bible classes at the Cazeau Church of Christ. He also made a career transition and currently spends his days working as a tutor and administrator at the Cazeau Christian School.

“I am serving the Cazeau School because they gave to me,” explains Phito. “Now I am giving back.”

Along with his daily task of raising the Haitian flag, Phito has responsibilities to oversee and facilitate student interactions. He explains that some days are easier than others. “It is a lot to watch over the kids.” He hopes the children are learning to take life seriously and that they see him as a good example.

Although he cares for the children of Cazeau Christian School, Phito also has the joy of a family at home. He and his wife raise a son and a daughter. Tragically, his daughter has been paralyzed from birth. When asked about how this affects his life, Phito suggests that

his life is not merely about himself.

“When you are a Christian, it’s not what you want from God; it is what God wants from you.”

While Phito lives a fulfilling life, he still has big hopes and dreams for his family. He gives his children the opportunities he was afforded as a young man and encourages them to pay it forward. By capitalizing on the opportunities to obtain an education and learn about leadership and family, Phito now gives back. He beautifully illustrates what it means to be a Christian leader in his home, church, and community and is living proof that hope can make a difference... one child at a time.



Phito 2005



Phito speaking at church

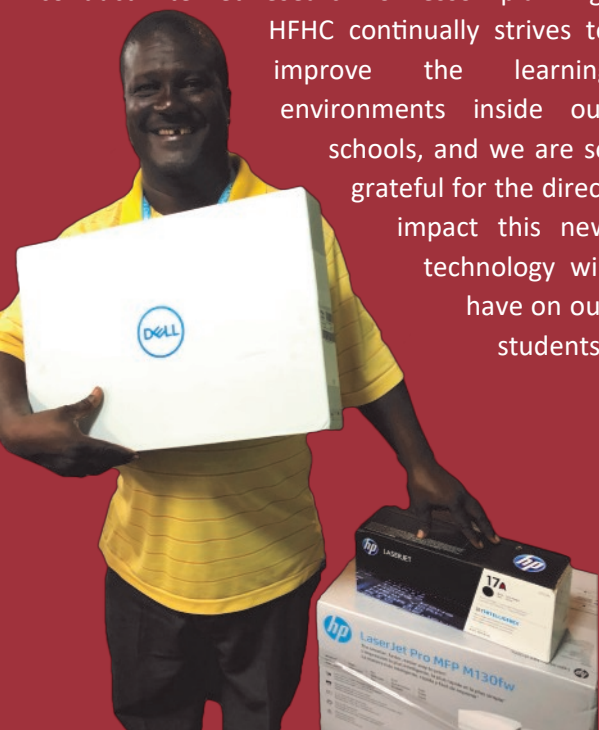


Two of our principals smiling with their new gear

New Laptops and Printers for School Administrators

From the very beginning, principals and teachers have written everything in small notebooks. From attendance records to lesson plans and tests, everything is on paper. With electricity available in some schools and in nearby cyber cafes, school administrators have been asking for computers and printers. Thanks to a generous donation, all 10 HFHC school principals have received new computer equipment!

The administrators and teachers are thrilled to have better ways of recordkeeping and test creation. In addition, they will be able to conduct internet research for lesson planning. HFHC continually strives to improve the learning environments inside our schools, and we are so grateful for the direct impact this new technology will have on our students!



Rebuilding Hope Breakfasts

Cities and Dates

Nashville, TN—July 27

Oklahoma City, OK—August 10

Memphis, TN—September 7

Mooresville, NC—October 5

Dallas, TX—October 26

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to join the HFHC community in learning about upcoming developments and supporting the children of Haiti. Enjoy a complimentary breakfast and hear from HFHC staff as well as special guests.



To register for a breakfast, email breakfast@hopeforhaitischildren.org or visit www.hopeforhaitischildren.org

2,000 Children Sponsored!



Hope for Haiti's Children is thrilled to announce the **2,000th child** has been sponsored! HFHC is at 80% sponsorship of all 10 schools. Sponsors and supporters, you have made this possible. But we are not finished! With your help, we hope to reach **100% sponsorship by 2020**. Will you join us in this effort? To sponsor a child, visit www.HopeForHaitisChildren.org.

MISSION MOMENT

By Maggie Browning, a Joy Box Mission Team Member



Maggie with a child receiving a Joy Box

My first Christmas Joy Box trip was in 2013, and I had no idea what I was getting myself into! Growing up, my family had been a part of the effort at our church, but I had no idea how big it really was. We landed in Haiti and met up with the rest of the group at the airport, grabbed our bags, loaded into the trucks, and headed to the hotel. When we met for dinner the first night, Beverly, HFHC's Joy Box Coordinator, gave us the numbers. We were going to give out over 1,700 Joy Boxes in five days.

Each day was full of delivering gifts, but nothing compared to watching the children open their Joy Boxes. They would go through them very carefully and excitedly, inspecting everything inside and showing all of their friends what they got. Every child sat on the edge of their seat hoping to get a box just like the other children. Unfortunately, not every child who came to the school or church with the hope of getting a box received one. It was heartbreaking to see a child walk away empty-handed. This is one of the many reasons why the sponsorship program is so important. The sponsored children were guaranteed a Joy Box with their name on it. While receiving a Joy Box is not the most important aspect

of the sponsorship program, I saw it give children the chance to be a child when so many of them do not have the luxury in their everyday lives. When I returned this past December, HFHC delivered over 2,500 Joy Boxes, and I witnessed so many more smiling and excited kids. The sponsorship program has grown so much in the last 5 years, and while it is still growing, more sponsors are needed! Every child deserves the joy that comes from receiving a Joy Box. They show the pure joy of Christ every day, and it is contagious.

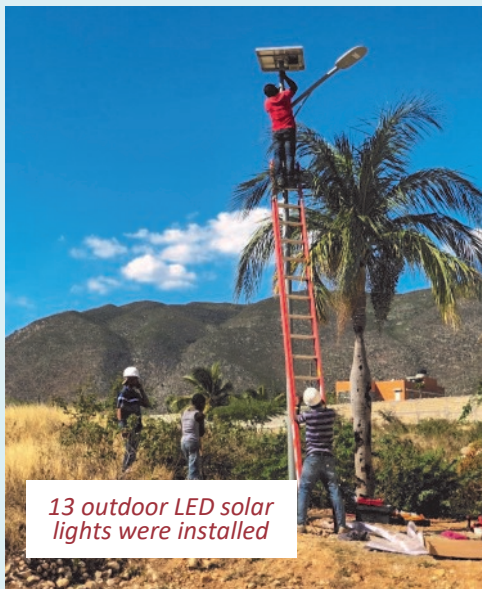
*The Christmas Joy Box effort will begin again in July, and we would love for you to participate!
If you are interested, contact joybox@hopeforhaitischildren.org.*

Lighting the Way in Haiti

Thanks to generous donors, the Robert Christian School, located in a remote village in western Haiti, and the Thomazeau Christian School in central Haiti recently received much-needed solar electric systems! Schoolchildren now enjoy brighter learning environments, teachers and administrators have consistent electricity for basic equipment, and church members can hold evening gatherings at the school/church buildings. Outdoor security lighting has also enabled local students to meet in the evenings to study and fellowship together. At HFHC's Hope Center in Thomazeau, newly constructed Camp Hope cabins are equipped with solar power, and 13 powerful outdoor LED solar lights improve security for the entire campus.

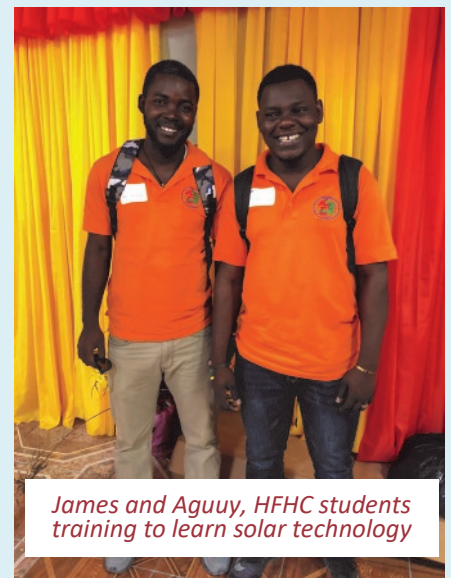


New lights in this mountain school create brighter learning environments



13 outdoor LED solar lights were installed

An added blessing from this work includes the involvement of two graduates from HFHC's sponsorship program. James Charlemagne and Agguy Oxi apprenticed with the owner of the Haitian company LC Renewable Energy Solutions and learned how to set up and install solar systems. The company informed us that after engaging in on-site training, James and Agguy installed the solar electric systems at two of our Camp Hope cabins. We are certainly proud of these two graduates and their vocational success!



James and Agguy, HFHC students training to learn solar technology



Camp Hope Cabin: Solar power provides electricity during the day and security at night



Light around the campus increases security



Light helps the community use the Hope Center water facility at night

Gifts In Honor Of

Becker's St. Peters Lutheran Church
Karen DeLong

Jim Bever
Thomas & Lisa Bever

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Alesha & James McAdams

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Joanne Tanner
Lynn Widrick

Jill & Casey Tipton
Elizabeth Boyette

Westhill Church of Christ Elders, Deacons, and Staff
Jeff & Debbie Giles

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Preston & Ann Hill

Edsel Celsor
Preston & Ann Hill

Dale and Lynn Conner
Dale & Sandy Conner

Wade Calvert
Paula Fulford

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Dale & Jane Cox
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Shane West
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A gift can be made in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special.

Enclosed is my gift of _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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This gift is made to honor _____
or
This gift is in memory of _____

Please send an acknowledgement letter to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Education in Haiti

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the dates of the school year?

A: Mid-September through June

Q: What percentage of children attend school?

A: Only around 50% of school-age children attend elementary school and approximately 20% attend secondary school. At HFHC, 93% of sponsored students in elementary school pass the 6th grade and promote into secondary school.

Q: What is the structure for the grades in Haiti?

A:

- ⇒ *Preschool:* Although not compulsory, preschool is offered to children ages 3-5.
- ⇒ *Primary School (Elementary):* Grades 1 - 6
- ⇒ *Lower Secondary School (Middle School):* Grades 7 - 9; A National exam is given in the 9th grade. If a student does not pass this exam at the end of the year, they must repeat the grade again.
- ⇒ *Upper Secondary School (High School):* Grades 10 - 13; Although a student may complete the 13th and final grade, they must also pass a standardized National Exam to receive a diploma. Students spend the entire year preparing for this difficult exam. If they do not pass, they can retake the exam or repeat the grade and try again.

Q: What will students do during the summer?

A: Just like children around the world, students are excited for the summer break! Most will stay home and some might visit family members in other villages. For teens ages 13-16, they will count the days until they get to attend HFHC's summer camps held in June, July, and August.

Q: What do students say about their education?

A: Almost every student asks for prayers that they will be successful in school. Education is highly valued by all, and young people know that it is essential in helping them escape the cycle of poverty. They remain grateful for the opportunity to attend school!

Needs to Consider

Each Fall, our HFHC staff visits each of our schools and orphanages and prioritizes needed improvements and repairs. Please prayerfully consider donating to help us sustain/complete these important projects:

1

Summer Camp

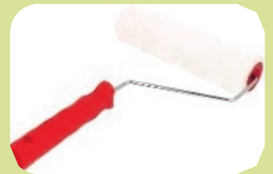
This summer, 220 teenagers will attend HFHC's Christian Leadership Youth Camp. \$100 will cover ALL expenses to send a kid to camp!



2

Paint a School

Three schools need a paint job on both the inside and outside. A fresh coat of paint will help to create a clean and bright learning environment! The cost is \$1,500 per school.



3

Sponsor a Child

Just \$36 a month provides a Christian education and health care for an under-privileged child. 100% of your donation is sent to Haiti.



4

Vocational Training

The older children at our orphanage are enrolling in training programs to teach skills. \$360 will allow 12 students to attend sewing class for 1 month.



5

School Roof Repair

The structural beams and metal sheets of the roof at the Pageste Christian School are in need of replacement. The cost is \$3,000.





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