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Pigs walk through standing water in Cite Soleil one week after Matthew

Hurricane Matthew Response

Hurricane Matthew caused the worst humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of 2010. In the southern peninsula, homes were shredded by the 145-mile-per-hour winds and families throughout the country lost rooftops. Many of the livestock were killed and crops were decimated. For numerous families, this was the sole source of their income. Additionally, food shortages and water contamination threatened to bring disease and starvation.

As we purchase materials for the rebuilding of homes and church-owned school facilities, we are focused on supplying basic food staples, purchasing medicines to treat those with injuries, providing tarps for church and school community shelters, distributing water purification systems, and supplying solar lanterns for night-time security for families. We are grateful that we can utilize our trusted network of school and church leaders in Port-au-Prince and on the peninsula developed over the past 21 years. As aid is distributed through our leaders, we are using our long-standing system of financial accountability to ensure that all donations are maximized to serve the most children and families possible.



An outline of our Response Plan is detailed here. Relief and rebuilding efforts are planned to continue over the next six months. Thank you to all who have contributed to fund these vital crisis relief efforts.

Hunger Relief

Assessment and Need:

With crops being washed away by flooding, there is a food shortage and costs are rising.

Action Plan:

- Distribute rice and oil to all of our 10 Christian schools serving 2,500 children. (\$15,000)
- Provide rice and staples to children and families in the Jeremie area (\$5,000)



Pictured left: HFHC-Haiti NGO President, Jeantyrd Elmera distributes rice and oil

Hurricane Matthew Response Plan



Homes

Assessment and Need:

Waist-high flood waters swept through the coastal area of Cité Soleil where 364 of our sponsored children live. Some families stayed on their beds hoping the water wouldn't rise above them and hopelessly watched as their few possessions floated away. Countless homes are in such a state of disrepair that there is no way to rebuild...they need to start over. Many roofs were either completely blown off or are barely capable of providing shelter.

Action Plan:

- Build **new** homes for 10 families living in Cité Soleil and in the Delmas area of Port-au-Prince (\$45,000)
- Purchase metal roofing, wood, and nails to repair roofs and structures for **15** sponsored children's families in Cité Soleil and a few families in Thomazeau (\$35,000)

Pictured: Sponsored teen stands in front of his house needing a new roof



Health and Hygiene

Assessment and Need:

Many children are generally uneducated about good hygiene practices like hand washing and the importance of drinking clean water. In addition, some of their community latrines flooded.

Action Plan:

- Conduct Health Education in all schools to teach about proper hygiene and sickness prevention. (\$250)
- Build 2 large community restrooms (latrines) to improve sanitation for our sponsored children and their families. (\$15,000)

Pictured: HFHC staff members Marieshelle Joseph and Jennifer Anthony teach the students about the importance of hand washing, drinking clean water, and how germs are spread.



Safe Water

Assessment and Need:

Polluted water is always a problem in Haiti but is even more compromised when flooding occurs. Many of the children impacted by the hurricane are drinking dirty water and being exposed to waterborne diseases like cholera. **Cholera** is an infectious disease that causes severe diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration and even death if untreated.

Action Plan:

- Provide clean water solutions by using Life Straws and Sawyer Water Filter Bucket kits to filter out the bacteria from dirty water and train school principals and students on how to use them. (\$5,000)

Pictured: HFHC staff and teachers at a mountain school teach the children how to use the Water Filtration Buckets.



Ruins of Chambellan Church of Christ and Christian School

Church & Christian School Outreach /Rebuilding

Assessment and Need:

Hurricane Matthew's main assault was in the southern peninsula. In the small western town of Chambellan, 25 miles west of Jeremie, 80 to 90 percent of homes were destroyed by Matthew's 140-mile-per-hour winds, including the Chambellan Eglise du Christ (Church of Christ) facility (*pictured above*) which also housed the 275-student Chambellan Christian School. Jeriel Martel, the local minister of this church and principal of the school, has worked closely with HFHC in the past and is assisting us in coordinating our local distribution efforts.

Action Plan:

- Support our Haiti staff and local church members who immediately responded and by bringing food, medicine, and clothing to families in the peninsula (\$10,000)
- Rebuild the Chambellan Church of Christ. This church also serves as a school during the week which educates over 200 children. (\$40,000)
- Provide wood, metal, and nails so that families and nearby schools can rebuild and make repairs (\$25,000)

‘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

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HOMESICK FOR HAITI

by Meredith Hutchens

Sometimes I'm homesick for Haiti. Sometimes my longing to be back there is so strong it brings tears to my eyes. Sometimes I feel like my heart is *there* and the rest of me is *here*.

Well, this past July, I took an even bigger piece of me back to Haiti: my 10-year-old daughter. And now, you guessed it... *SHE'S* homesick for Haiti too. *HER* longing to be back there is so strong it brings tears to *her* eyes. And very often, *SHE* feels like her heart is *there* and the rest of her is *here*.

What can I say? Haiti does that to you. Serving does that to you. Jesus does that to you.

We worked and played together, laughed and cried together, watched the Lord do amazing things in people's lives together, and came home filled to overflowing. Together.

It was surreal to watch her fall in love with Haiti the way I did when I first visited. From Sunday morning worship ("Mom, I have no idea what the preacher's saying, but he sure is excited about it!") to the universal language of jumping rope and hand-clapping games with the children at Cazeau Orphanage... From witnessing 30 church camp baptisms one afternoon with eyes full of tears and hearts full of joy, to an emotional last day of camp ("Mom, I'm just not ready to go home.")... I will be forever grateful and forever changed by this week with my daughter.

And yes, we'll probably still be homesick for Haiti. Together.



Meredith Hutchens with her daughter, Jenna, in Haiti

Jenna playing clapping games at the orphanage



Rebuilding Hope 2020: Developing Future Leaders

An Update from Ken Bever, President

Rebuilding Hope 2020 is HFHC's 10-year effort to build the infrastructure required to nurture, educate, and train our next generation of Christian leaders in Haiti.

This \$5 million initiative is approaching its seventh year. Thanks to compassionate partners, we rejoice that the \$3 million mark was reached in September of this year!

Major Rebuilding Hope efforts are underway at the 21-acre Hope Center at Thomazeau. The foundation, structural walls, and roof of the new 1,200 square foot Thomazeau Christian Orphanage kitchen and multi-purpose facility are finished and the plastering, flooring, and electrical is scheduled for completion by November. On September 14, 30+ men from the church and community worked for 24 hours straight night and day to complete the incredibly difficult task of manual pouring the concrete roof for this facility (see photo). Engineering work for the security wall for Camp Hope Phase 1 is also underway.

We so appreciate all of you who have made Rebuilding Hope 2020 donations this year. Many companies are matching employee donations – and these provide us an extra blessing. Memorial and honor gifts are another avenue to assist these efforts. Thanks to everyone for your help and prayers as we move forward in faith. You can keep informed about all the Rebuilding Hope efforts at www.RebuildingHope.org

Construction underway for the Kitchen & Dining Hall at the Thomazeau Orphanage





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SPECIAL EDITION: HURRICANE MATTHEW UPDATE !

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**SPECIAL EDITION
 HURRICANE MATTHEW UPDATE INSIDE!**



Youth Camp Mission Team



**2016 Christian Leadership
 Youth Camp:
 THIRTY TEENS
 COMMIT THEIR
 LIVES TO CHRIST!**



Young girl reads from Bible Study lesson

An amazing mission team from all over the United States planned, organized, and implemented a Christian Leadership Youth Camp for 192 Haitian teens this past July. We took the concept of “church camp” and translated it (*literally!*) into Haitian culture.

The teens, all of whom are sponsored by Hope for Haiti’s Children, came and spent four nights at a wonderful facility where they received physical necessities (safe and comfortable lodging, healthy meals, huge amounts of outdoor play space,

etc.), as well as spiritual necessities (Biblical instruction, small group discussion time, faith-filled mentors, etc.).

The week was a phenomenal success, thanks all to the glory of God, as He called thirty souls to proclaim Him as Lord and Savior in baptism. And many, many other Haitian teens recommitted their lives to Christ and to serving Him more fully while bringing hope to the lost souls of their communities in Haiti.