

HAITI EMERGENCY RELIEF ORGANIZATION



Port-au-Prince, Haiti

H.E.R.O.



Joe, Age 3

Circle of Friends - Orphanage Emergency Relief – Development & Education

HERO has committed to a one year, option to renew lease for a 4 bedroom house with a large yard in the town center of Fermathe, which is ½ north of Petion-ville on the outskirts of the Capital to support the Kay Timoun Orphanage directed by Mr. Nickson Jean Francois and the children under his care. The new project home is called, "Circle of Friends."



Before: Children slept on tent floor without mats



After: New Home in Fermathe being refurbished

The Circle of Friends goal is to establish an eco-friendly, energy efficient model of orphanage management, which is supported by volunteer efforts; medical professionals, teachers, volunteer house parents, gardeners, handy "persons" and anyone with a with a knack for humor, good will, and heart. **HERO** also has permission to establish a community vegetable garden in a lot across the street from the home and in time, this will help defray from food costs and assure the cleanliness of food. A neighbor is already collaborating with us to startup with a little park as we clean the vacant lot to prepare for planting.



Before: Malnourished and neglected children



After: Nursing 7 back to health

HERO has hired an experienced (& wonderful) house mama named "Mama" Augustin who keeps an eye the daily well-being of the children, and most importantly she cooks our main meal. Nickson started Kay Timoun Orphanage two years ago. At 24 years old he is learning leadership skills and is being mentored by **HERO** to understand, manage, and undertake the business at hand to establish and successfully maintain an orphanage home with 8 children and 5 adults. Solomon is tasked with child care, and Michel (the caretaker next door) totes water and keeps the house mopped and clean. I'm Barb, HERO Director, and together with our circle of international volunteers we are teaching and training our Haitian circle of friends how to properly care for children; nutritional, emotional, physical, and medical well-being. And, it is not a light undertaking. One goal of Circle of Friends is to strongly encourage parents of children who live at the house to spend one weekend a month with us to participate in caregiver training and eventually take their children back home for weekends.

HERO is actively seeking international volunteers to spend time with their new Circle of Friends to love & nurture children while helping to train Haitian caregivers to maintain sanitary, nutritional, medical and emotional standards of care that are in the best interest of the children.

HERO Volunteers



Vicki Lewis, USVI / Sept 2010
Volunteer Art Teacher



Marilyn Holmes, USVI / Nov 2010
Physical set up of new orphanage



Anna Oakley, R.N., Texas / Nov 2010
Medical Assessment and Care

Vicki Lewis, (USVI), HERO's first volunteer spent 10 days teaching art at orphanage in Port-au-Prince in mid September Vicki is coming back to oversee Circle of Friends home for a month in June. She loved working with the kids, raved about her stay in Haiti and..... ask her about her "moto" adventure story.

Marilyn Holmes, (USVI), Federal Program Manager for the Department of Road Works, brought needed tools and hardware supplies from Home Depot to Haiti. With these supplies, Marilyn helped to hang 13 hammocks and make other improvements to the new house. Her great sense of humor, nurturing and loving attention helped the children to respond positively to care and healing.

Anna Oakley, R.N. (Texas), a school R.N., volunteered 8 days with at Circle of Friends home to examine the children, institute an appropriate diet, and train household staff in appropriate hygiene, sanitation, home medical care, and nutrition. She immediately tended to infections, skin diseases, toilet training, coughs, fevers, and gave each child a thorough medical exam and assessment. She came armed with stickers, band-aids, warm pyjamas, hoodies, and above all a Lion King DVD which was (at last count) running 8 nights in a row.

Jon Neff, www.GrandTrunkgoods.com, generously donated 13 travel hammocks to the children at Circle of Friends. For the first time, perhaps in their little lives, these children are not sleeping on a cold floor and are now in the warm and snuggly travel hammocks for a GREAT night sleep. They love these hammocks!!



Annie (USVI/Vermont), Barb's reluctant



volunteer – she has no choice!

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Feed a Village Bakery – Micro enterprise entrepreneur development

Due to the proximity to Petion-ville, Gode is the border between the agrarian peasantry and the middle "suburban" class. It is a "one horse town" that sits atop a ridge between two mountains and is an agrarian outpost for transport to the Capital. Nickson has a corner on the bakery business; it is the only one in town – when his bakery doesn't open or produce enough bread, the local population goes without.



5 employees work in 9 x 12 building



HERO mentors Nickson in basic business



Bakers cutting and rolling bread

HERO was introduced to Nickson Jean Francois in June, 2010. In addition to a bakery that has 5 employees, he is also the director of the Kay Timoun orphanage. These two initiatives were financed by a Canadian volunteer who “partnered” with Nickson to own and manage these two going concerns. The proceeds from the bakery were intended to support the orphanage.

When the Canadian volunteer ran out of funds he left Haiti. Nickson was left with enormous responsibilities for which he had neither training, nor education, nor support. Within a year Mr. Nickson was in dire straits financial and frantically seeking help to support an orphanage and a bakery under his management; both were failing. In a series of misguided emergency responses, Nickson sold the Bakery pickup truck to pay the annual lease on a severely dilapidated orphanage home with deplorable living conditions and then, hoped to provide food for the children with the remaining funds. It did not take long until the money was gone, and without transport there were no means to maintain either the bakery or the orphanage.



Current bakery (open window on left)



Local retail outlet sells Nickson's bread



New building for expanded bakery

Since the original objective of the bakery was to generate enough profits to contribute to the orphanage, Nickson has been working with **HERO** weekly for the past 2 months to learn basic business and accounting skills to produce more bread, run his bakery more efficiently, and increase his profits so he can contribute to the sustainability of the Circle of Friends home. The bakery, which operates 7 days per week, makes a small daily profit but lack of management expertise is hampering cash management and growth. **HERO** is helping Nickson to stabilize the cash accounts and monitor the cash flow of the bakery in preparation for expansion and double his production to provide daily bread to a local population of approximately 1,500.

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Duchity Center for Community Care – a community center for health and vocational trade education.

The Duchity Center for Community Care is multi-purpose, multi-functional, and will be the backbone of community health care and local economic development in Duchity. **HERO** is currently working with local leaders to programmatically establish two community based initiatives that are led by Mr. Despagne Felix, who is a trained mechanic, and Ms. Nacize, R.N. who works in the local medical clinic.

Ms. Nacize, a resident of Duchity, is a community leader, and a founding organization member of AFSAD, "The Women's Group," whose grant application garnered an 800 sq ft, 4 room building constructed by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).



Road to Duchity.... just another 4 hours to the top

The Center for Community Care will house female health care, communal maternity support, parenting and sex education, birthing and medical assistance training, and vocation development programs which include classes in mechanics, sewing, carpentry, and welding. First conceived by "The Women's Group" group, the center is organized, and actively seeking an international partner to realize programming; they want to utilize the Center as soon as possible. The Center's doors have been locked for the past five months due to lack of program funding and community leaders are primed to start-up.

"Despay," a cautious and honorable man who resides in Port-au-Prince and wants to return to his native village home is in Duchity. He has co-purchased land in Duchity with the Vermont Haiti Project for the express purpose of establishing a vocational school that will train uneducated agrarian youth in various trades that will be sustainable through the trade services; income received from repairs, and goods created on his campus. **HERO** funds will help to establish a bakery; the first in a series of trades training programs envisioned for the school. The bakery will not only feed approximate 1,000 people, it will stimulate a dormant local cash economy.

Community Economic Development meetings were cancelled due to Hurricane Tomas and the HERO project team has rescheduled project development and community meeting for the month of January 2011.

HERO Donations Eight Reasons to give generously



Chaina

Kevins

James

Joe

Laila

Evans

Sandy

Stevenson

Seed funds from post-earthquake fundraising activity in the USVI and Vermont are enabling this start up initiative which assures an immediately improved standard of living for vulnerable, orphaned and abandoned children through the design of a model, pilot program for orphan management and parent education. Additional funds are greatly needed to continue to bring the house up to standard, i.e., plumbing, solar energy, clean cisterns for fresh rain water, essential modest furnishings, i.e., food, medical care, tables, chairs, household operation expenses. Circle of Friends is feeding 13 people twice daily.

A Final Note

These projects have been selected by **HERO** for funding and technical support because they are endeavors which are already undertaken by Haitians to improve their communities, and of their apparent

ability to succeed over the long term. Together these three projects form a cooperative network that is capable of improving the standard of health and life for more than 15,000 people.

Support for Circle of Friends is an investment in the future of Haiti's children. Feed a Village Bakery will double production and will literally supplement food in a mountain region where little exists. The women's health care center will assure healthier women, families and reduce infant mortality. The vocational school bakery will stimulate the local economy and provide access to training and enhance community development.

All contributions, whether financial, volunteering, "adopting" and supporting the Circle of Friends orphanage, investing in the Feed A Village Bakery or contributing your expertise and skills to the Duchity Community Development Initiative are greatly appreciated, much needed, and will help assure that that our Haitian beneficiaries have a greater chance to succeed during this time of great need in Haiti.

All contributions to **HERO** can be mailed to:

Vermont Haiti Project/**HERO**
25 Iris Lane
South Burlington, Vermont 05403

Or

The St Croix Community Foundation/**HERO**
5072 Flag Drive, Gallows Bay
St. Croix, VI 00820

For information regarding **VOLUNTEER** work **WITH HERO** in Haiti, please contact:

Barb Leslie
HERO Director
barbleslie@gmail.com
802-825-8155 (International)
+509-3-995-0358 (Haiti)



Our website is underdevelopment, in the meantime, please visit **HERO** at www.vermonthaitproject.org