



Vision Illimitée

Newsletter of The Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Foundation for the Children of Haiti

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Thank You from CFCH

As another year draws to a close we extend a huge “thank you” to our friends for your generous support for the Foundation’s work.

2017 was our 36th year of operation. Over those years, God has blessed FCH in ways no one could have imagined in 1981 when Gladys Thomas was asked to take over a small, run-down orphanage.

Today – through the Rainbow of Love residence for children, Hope Home for children with disabilities, three elementary schools, our post-secondary trade and technical school, and Hope Hospital – the Foundation touches and changes the lives of thousands of Haitians every year.

In 1981 no one would have dreamed that an organization like this could be built and sustained without corporate or government support. Yet today FCH stands as a symbol of what is possible through faith and dedication.

One of the many gifts God has provided for this work is *you*, our faithful and generous friends who sacrifice and pray and give so that others can enjoy a better life.

We thank you for your partnership with us over the years. We couldn’t do it without you and look forward to working together to make a difference in Haiti.

We wish you and yours a Happy Christmas and every blessing in the coming year.

Message From Gladys

Friends,

Through God’s grace and His faithfulness we close another year of work at the Foundation for the Children of Haiti.

We thank God for every good thing that has happened this past year, and for sustaining us through the many challenges we have faced.

Looking back over the past year we rejoice over the many accomplishments in the children’s residences, schools and hospital. We are blessed to have the opportunity to make a difference in lives of so many people.

Although working in Haiti seems to become more and more challenging, we

look forward to facing every day with faith, love, patience and obedience. As we have for the past 36 years, we look to the New Year with determination and hope.

As always, we can’t thank our friends and supporters enough for your faithfulness and generosity. It means so much to us that we stand together as partners in this wonderful work.

All of us in Haiti wish you the best for a wonderful Christmas and every blessing in the coming year.

Gladys

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Foundation for the Children of Haiti, visit us at www.cfchcanada.ca

Foundation for the Children of Haiti - Update on Education

Education has always been a priority for FCH. The first school was established in 1981 for 45 children living at the Foundation's first children's residence. Today there are approximately 550 students enrolled in FCH-operated schools and 25 Rainbow of Love children attending a local high school.

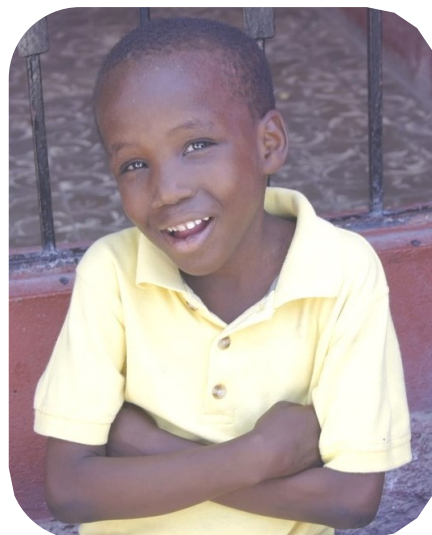
New Academy of Excellence Elementary School ("NAE")

In September 2016 FCH opened its new elementary school building on the site where Hope Home and the Rainbow of Love residence are located.

School-age children living at Rainbow of Love attend NAE, along with 25 neighbourhood children. As funding is available, additional teachers will be hired and more neighbourhood children will be able to attend.

All teachers at NAE are qualified, having passed the Haitian standard teaching certificate exam.

The NAE library will be an integral part of enhancing the education experience for students. Initial donations of books have made the library operational. Our goal is to build the book catalogue and supplement conventional materials with computer resources and other educational programs.



New Academy of Excellence – Special Education Program

NAE offers a unique program for Haiti – an inclusive special education curriculum for children with disabilities. This program is quickly becoming a bright light of hope for families with children needing special care. The Foundation is also excited about the impact this program can have throughout Haiti as other schools observe what FCH is doing to address the acute needs in this area.

The special education program opened in 2016 with 15 children attending, 14 from Hope Home and 1 child from the neighbourhood. Three additional neighbourhood children were added in the fall of 2017.

One teacher and an education assistant have been assigned to this program. FCH has been working with special education experts in Canada and the US to provide ongoing training to NAE staff.

High School

As children living at Rainbow of Love residence finish grade 6, the Foundation enrolls them in a local high school within walking distance of the Children's Village. Twenty-seven Rainbow children are attending high school this year. High schools in Port au Prince require students to pay tuition, so this is a significant financial commitment, but is necessary to equip the children for a productive future.

Education at FCH (continued)

Mussotte Elementary School

This elementary school is located in a rural area in southwest Haiti (about 2 hours from Port au Prince). The school was established in 2009, with 30 students. Over the past 8 years there have been 3 building expansion projects and this year enrollment is up to 283.

The Mussotte school has eleven teachers on staff. Teachers are from the surrounding area, providing employment opportunities for the community. State exam success rates are very high, reflecting the Foundation's longstanding commitment to quality education.

Given the lack of schools in the area, enrollment is running over capacity. Gladys and her staff are praying for resources to add more space to the building to accommodate the demands of the community.

Christian Institute for Technical Training ("C-Tech")

C-Tech is a post-secondary technical and trade school located in Mussotte, a rural area in south western Haiti. (C-Tech is close to the Foundation's Mussotte elementary school.)

There is a huge gap in post-secondary, career oriented education in Haiti. FCH has been working for years with community organizations to establish an institution providing young adults with employment-focused skills.

C-Tech began classes in the fall of 2016, offering programs in nursing, electronics, and computer science. Fifty students were enrolled in the first year (2016-2017) and twenty-five new students began studies for the 2017-2018 year.

Although student tuition costs are very low (\$650 per year), many potential students cannot afford even that small amount. To address this FCH is exploring partnership opportunities with charitable foundations to provide student scholarships and program sponsorships.

With sufficient funding, the next steps for C-Tech will include construction of a student residence and development of a practicum facility for the nursing program.

The C-Tech program has the potential to make a huge difference in Haiti by equipping young people with skills to provide for themselves and their families.



Christian Institute for Technical Training building

Hope Home Respite Care Program

A wonderful new respite care program has been established at Hope Home to help families with children who have special needs. (Hope Home is the Foundation's residence for children and young adults living with physical and mental disabilities.)

In addition to caring for the permanent residents, Hope Home now provides weekday care for neighbourhood children with special needs. Children who are able will be included in the special education program at the elementary school at the Children's Village (which is on the same site as Hope Home).

This program will give parents a break from the heavy demands of providing complex care to their children. It will also allow parents to continue to work, easing their financial situation.

By giving parents access to emotional support and the ability to work, the respite program will improve the quality of life for the whole family. *In some cases this support will provide parents the resources they need to keep their precious special needs children with their families.*

This is another amazing example of FCH's creativity and commitment to making a difference in Haiti.



Gary and Peter using new I-Pads at Hope Home

Hope Hospital

Starting in 1994 as a small pediatric clinic, Hope Hospital has grown over the past 23 years to become one of Haiti's best medical facilities.

Hope Hospital is now a full service general hospital staffed by 140 Haitian medical professionals providing healthcare to thousands of Haitians each year. Consider what the hospital has done in the past year:

- * The outpatient clinic has treated over 30,000 patients.
- * The emergency ward had more than 5,000 patient visits.
- * Over 800 surgeries have been performed in the 2 operating rooms.
- * In-patient programs (ranging from neo-natal care to general medical care) have served more than 3,000 patients.
- * Around 400 ultrasounds have been done, along with 2,500 X-rays, and the lab has run over 70,000 tests.

Given its high standards, Hope Hospital is also regularly used by medical teams from North America and Europe who provide Haitians with surgical treatment clinics.

The Hope Hospital story is amazing... an independent institution growing from a small clinic to the place where today it is an integral part of Port au Prince's medical services system.