



Newsletter of the Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Vision Illimitee

Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives

December 2019

Friends,

Many of you know that for the past 1 ½ years Haiti has been beset with political unrest and violence throughout the country. We have been living with continual disruption of normal activities, widespread shortages of everyday supplies, and crushing increases in the cost of basic necessities.

The political, social, and economic chaos this year is worse than I can remember. Although recently things have been quieter, the situation remains very unstable. The threat of violence constantly hangs over the whole country even when things are somewhat peaceful.

Frequent demonstrations block roads and prevent delivery of basic supplies, creating shortages. This often makes it difficult to purchase food for the Children's Village and Hope Hospital. When supplies are available, the cost is often excessive.

Despite these difficulties, we thank God that we have been able to provide for the children and patients under our care. We are especially grateful that our children and staff have been safe to this point. The security afforded by the Children's Village – which is located in a neighbourhood that has been spared violence – is a wonderful blessing. We are also thankful that things have been less volatile in the rural area of Mussotte where one of our elementary schools and our post-secondary training institute are located.

After 18 months of turmoil the situation remains deadlocked. The political opposition insists that there will be no peace until the President leaves, and the President refuses to go. We continually pray that this impasse will be resolved.

In these circumstances our faith grows because we know that God will not take us where His grace cannot keep us. With such a promise we can face each day as it comes, trusting in God's protection, love and provision.

As always, we are deeply encouraged and blessed by your love, prayers, and support.

We wish all of you and your families a Happy Christmas and every blessing in the coming year.

With love,

Gladys



"...our faith grows because we know that God will not take us where His grace cannot keep us."

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Foundation for the Children of Haiti (“FCH”) at a glance

Ministry	Focus	Staff
Rainbow of Love (ROL)	Home for 70 children	6 House Moms
Hope Home	Home for 23 residents with complex disabilities	9 House Moms, 5 physical therapists
Children’s Village Staff	Support ROL & Hope Home	Manager + 12 support staff
Village School	110 students (Gr 1-6)	15 teachers, 5 support staff
Mussotte School	204 students (Gr 1-6)	8 teachers, 4 support staff
School of the Good Sower	146 students (Gr 1-7)	6 teachers, 3 support staff
C-Tech post-secondary technical school	70 students (Nursing, electronics, IT)	26 staff
Hope Hospital	35,000 patients treated this year.	171 staff

The Foundation’s mission is to “change hearts, change minds, and change lives”. We pursue this mission by loving and caring for people in a way that demonstrates the standards of excellence that all Haitians can aspire to with vision, faith and hard work.

As an all-Haitian organization – founded, directed and staffed by Haitians – FCH has been able to have a profound impact in the community over the past 39 years.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in Haiti. Your support does more than provide the resources we need to touch and change lives. Your partnership with is also a great encouragement to the FCH staff, especially during this time of strife in Haiti.



Rainbow of Love



Village School



Hospital Dialysis Unit



Ministry Update

A. Children's Village

1. **Rainbow of Love Residence** ("ROL") is home to 70 children. Our children continue to receive the love and care they need, however we have started to limit the number of children at ROL due to the extreme increase in the cost of day-to-day items, as well as food shortages experienced periodically. When things settle, we hope to be in a position to bring additional children into the ROL family.
2. **Hope Home** is home to 23 children and young adults with complex disabilities. As with ROL, numbers are down somewhat as we cope with the fallout of the political turmoil. However, when things stabilize we will be open to new residents. Eleven Hope Home children have been attending the school at the Children's Village, which is very exciting for the children and staff. We are blessed with a wonderful special education teacher who is very patient and has teaching skills well suited for the Hope Home children in her care.
3. **New Academy of Excellence (Children's Village Elementary School)**
The school has 107 students: 46 from ROL & Hope Home, 61 from the community. (24 high school age children living at ROL attend a local high school.)
The school opened as planned in September, however the regular schedule has been disrupted due to frequent demonstrations and blocked roads. When things settle down and financial challenges lessen we will work to increase enrollment of neighbourhood children.
3. **School of the Good Sower**
This elementary school - with 150 students attending – operates out of the building that housed FCH's 1st children's residence, the Haiti Home for Children ("HHC"). In 2016 the children living at HHC were moved to the Children's Village which is in a much safer neighbourhood. Since the HHC school had always included children living in the community, FCH decided to keep operating it as a neighbourhood day school. Due to continual unrest in the area, the school is currently closed, but will reopen when peace returns.





Ministry Update (continued)

B. Mussotte School (in a rural area of southwest Haiti)

The Mussotte elementary school is a day school for 204 students.

There has been much less unrest in this rural part of Haiti and classes have mainly been able to proceed since September. This has become the elementary school of choice in Mussotte. Unfortunately we have to turn children away as the school is too small to accommodate any more students. Plans have been drawn up for an addition to the building and we are praying for success in raising funds to proceed with an expansion.

C. C-Tech – Post-secondary trade and technical school in Mussotte

C-Tech is in its 3rd year of operation, with 70 students enrolled in nursing electronics and computer science programs. 14 students live in our on-site residence.

We were blessed this term with the participation of 2 graduates from MIT Engineering who were guest lecturers. Their dedication to C-Tech has encouraged the students and staff. Initial response to our C-Tech scholarship program allowed us to offer scholarships to 33 students this term. Although tuition is not expensive by Canadian standards (\$1,000 US per year), many potential students cannot afford that amount. We're praying that support from our friends in North America for the scholarship fund will continue, allowing us to change even more lives by expanding enrollment in this unique employment-focused institution.

D. Hope Hospital

When we opened the hospital as a small pediatric clinic in 1994, we never dreamed it would become such an important part of Haiti's health care system. During 2019 we will treat over 35,000 patients at Hope Hospital.

Hope Hospital is one of the best medical facilities in Haiti, offering the following services: pediatrics, neonatology, dialysis, surgical, internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, dermatology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, urology, emergency, laboratory, pharmacy and outpatient clinics. With 171 staff, the hospital is an important employer in the community. During the unrest, our employees have made a huge effort to keep the hospital open. Outpatient clinic numbers have decreased due to the instability in Port au Prince, however the hospital beds have been consistently full.

