
MERCY & SHARING

A 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY

12th Edition

www.haitichildren.org

November 2005

Jessi

by Carol Horn

Jessi came to *Mercy and Sharing* an extremely distraught little girl abandoned by her family. Jessi (now age five) was born with deformed legs, a brilliant mind and a beautiful smile. Children who are born with serious birth defects in Haiti are fre-



quently abandoned and shunned – many of them dying a slow, lonely and painful death. Jessi's type of deformities are generally considered by Haitians

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New Management in Haiti

by Joe Krabacher

Mercy and Sharing has recently hired several new top-level personnel in Haiti, including Mr. Gary Downey, the Deputy to the President of M&S, who will oversee all Haitian operations, including our soon-to-be-opened Prenatal Clinic. Mr. Chad Snyder, our new Assistant Deputy, will oversee our Abandoned Infant Unit, Orphanages, Warehouse and our new Nutrition Program. The new Child & Youth Pastor for our Cazeau Orphanage, and the new Bible Teacher at our John Branchizio School, is Mr. Romain Raynold. And last but not least, we have hired Carol Horn from Canada to be our North American Deputy who has been working with Susie, Trish and the staff in Haiti.

Mr. Downey has over thirty years experience with various international missions, including the *United Methodist Church's International Outreach*. Gary's most recent employment was as a top-level administrator with the Albert Schweitzer Hospital (H.A.S.) in Haiti, and Gary comes very highly recommended. Gary is

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to be the result of voodoo curses placed on the families, even though the causes of many of these kinds of birth defects are well known in the developed world and are easily prevented with the most basic prenatal health care.

Jessi and *Mercy and Sharing* have been blessed by a chance meeting with Esther King of *King's Kids* - a Canadian organization that raises funds needed to bring children with deformities like Jessi's to Canada for assessment and surgery. *The Vancouver Hospital* which hosts *King's Kids* is very supportive of Esther, along with her dedicated team of nurses and support workers.



Jessi's knees after a day of getting around...

Jessi's surgery and the required pre and post-operative care will be performed and donated by an orthopedic surgeon from *Vancouver Hospital*. Using a series of casts to straighten her left foot, the sur-

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Paola Surgery Follow-up

by Susie Krabacher

Sometimes birthdays are dreaded. This November 2nd was mine, and I have to tell you about a miracle. These days, every time I see a miracle I have to tell someone about it because with so much tragedy around us miracles may go by unnoticed, and I think if we don't acknowledge them when they do happen, then God may decide to perform them somewhere other than here.

For four years, Paola, the little girl you read about in our May 2005 Newsletter, has waited for surgery that would transform her into a normal little girl. Paola was born with a severe cleft palate, the appearance of both sexes and also had no separation between her urinary tract and colon. Paola was still beautiful to us, however. She frequently had a great number of serious infections, trouble swallowing and sometimes trouble breathing, among other problems.



Paola at 16 months old

When Paola was an infant, her mother screamed and cried and ran away, abandoning her in my arms. At times we were discouraged. With Paola's many different and complicated problems we learned that it would take a team of very specialized surgeons to correct her deformities, and that the expense would be great. *Mercy and Sharing* has seventy-two other terminally ill and severely handicapped children who have also been abandoned or whose parents are dead. We are in a constant state of fund raising for medical care and corrective surgery. Sometimes it's exhausting, and sometimes we have to compete for

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geon believes that she can salvage Jessi's left leg. Her right leg, which now ends with just a stub several inches below the knee, will have to undergo surgery to allow for the fitting of a prosthetic lower-leg.

Mercy and Sharing is covering the cost of air travel and accommodation for Jessi and Carol Horn, who will accompany Jessi into Canada until Jessi feels comfortable with her temporary host family in Vancouver. *Mercy and Sharing* will also provide warm clothes for Jessi since the weather in Vancouver is obviously very different from the weather in Haiti!

We eagerly look forward to the day (soon!) when Jessi will stand and walk like a normal little girl. This will be an enormous improvement over the way she gets around now by walking on her knees, which must be unbearably painful, but she never lets it get her down! Pray for a successful operation



Jessi with Carol Horn

and speedy recovery for this special little girl, and many thanks to Esther King of *King's Kids*, and also to our very generous financial donors Blake and Alana Appleby for this wonderful opportunity.

(...Paola, continued from page 2)

funds with natural disasters that happen at home in our own country. For some, it's easier to imagine our own living room full of six feet of water than it is to imagine being born with all these horrible things wrong us. So this seems so impossible, that one of our handicapped children, Paola, would EVER be called "normal" or healthy.

BUT ALL OF YOU WHO DONATED FOR PAOLA CHANGED THAT. YOU THOUGHT "MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE", AND YOU DID!

Today, November 2nd, Paola is still sleeping after 5 hours of surgery. The team of surgeons has just announced that it went very well. Paola should be a healthy little girl.

I HAVE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR LETTING GOD USE YOU TO BE A MIRACLE FOR PAOLA, AND FOR GIVING ME THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT I HAVE EVER HAD!

- Susie

Additional note from Betty Henderson - Paola's U.S. guardian:

Hi all,

Paola is out of surgery and doing really well. Everything went great. Everything is now in it's normal place and should be functioning normally. We will be in the hospital for about 6 more days. Thank you all for your prayers - they have been answered! As for her prognosis: All of her female parts are there and should be functional - she will even be able to have children according to the doctors! It is truly a miracle. She is a miracle. I must get back to the room now. Sending my love to all of you...

(...New Management, continued from page 1)

an American and brings a vast wealth of experience working within the unique socio-political environment of Haiti. Gary also has a substantial background in health care and is fluent in Haitian Creole. He resides full-time in Port-au-Prince with his Haitian wife.

Carol Horn is based in Canada and has been heading up the volunteer efforts of Mercy & Sharing for quite some time. Carol has been instrumental in getting Gary and Chad up to speed with M&S. She has traveled to Haiti on numerous occasions along with her husband Richard who oversees Special Projects for M&S. Carol was a Children's Director and teacher in Canada for a number of years.

Chad Snyder is a 3rd-generation American missionary to Haiti, whose grandparents founded *Mission Possible* in Haiti thirty years ago. Chad is fluent in Creole and has lived in Haiti for four years. Chad, his wife Papillion, and their three children plan to permanently reside in Haiti as of November 5.

Romain Raynold has been on the job for several months now. His enthusiasm for teaching the Bible to children is very evident during Sunday Morning Chapels at the orphanage. Romain is Haitian and speaks fluent Creole, French and English and is a graduate of *Christian Ville College* in Haiti.

We want to thank the Lord for bringing these people to work for Mercy & Sharing, to glorify His work in the children of Haiti. Please pray for them and for their families as they daily face war-like conditions in this broken country.

The Christmas Card Project

by Julie Kartrude

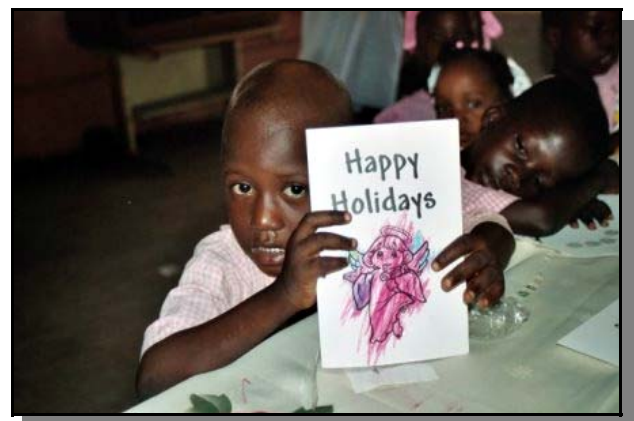
I traveled down to the Mercy House Orphanage in Port-Au-Prince this past September to work with the children on the annual Christmas Card Project. Prior to traveling to Haiti, a fundraiser was held in



Julie visits with some of the M&S kids

Miami where we asked for donations of crayons, markers, stickers, etc. Through the generosity of all who attended, we collected all the necessary supplies needed for this project. We brought them with us and hand delivered them to the children.

The children gathered during school hours to partake in a bit of arts and crafts as they decorated the Christmas cards with crayons, markers and colorful stickers. They had such fun decorating the cards – and not all of the stickers made it onto the Christmas cards. We had some wonderfully decorated children at the end of each session as well.



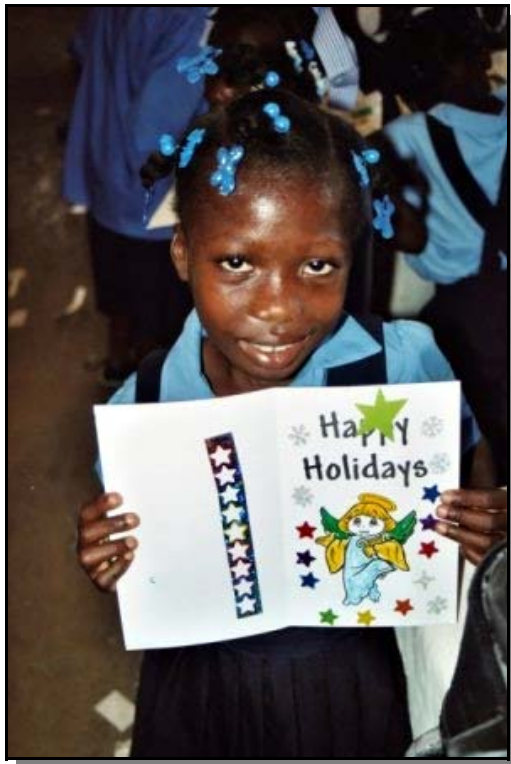
Photos by Julie Kartrude

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They were especially excited knowing that their artwork was going out to the people who cared about them and supported them through the Mercy and Sharing. It was also a special bonding time for us those of us who were privileged to work with these children during this project. Spending several hours each day, side by side with these children allowed us to form many friendships and was the cause of many smiles.

M&S Donors: Look for your Christmas Cards this year and be sure to note the detail and originality of each card that these children created especially for you. They worked on these with great love and appreciation – not to mention an important creative outlet. Each child was so proud of their masterpiece. They would rush up to us and proudly hold it in front of our face so we could lavish them with praise over its beauty. And this was true with children of all ages, from our youngest toddlers to our teenagers.



Thank You to all who made donations to this event, and thank you to Mr. James Brewster and the Formsman Company who so graciously donated the printing of these Christmas cards.

Nutrition Center Projects

by Carol Horn

When one travels to Haiti, the face of hunger is one of the first faces one sees. Hunger steals life from the most vulnerable, the children. Without proper nutrition, many of these children will not see tomorrow, and many others will never meet their developmental norms.

Mercy and Sharing is now undertaking a major new project in its mission - the implementation of three major new Nutrition Centers. These centers will feed approximately 1,500 children at least one well-balanced meal every day.

The new nutrition centers will be located in Hinche (the interior of Haiti), in Terrier Rouge (the north of Haiti) and in several Haitian refugee camps just across the border in the Dominican Republic. Plans are well underway in implementing these Centers.

Funds are urgently needed to help get these projects off the ground...

In starting these Nutrition Centers, we knew that the financial strain on M&S would be significant, but we have been asked to help and we can't just stand by and watch children starve to death. Please help us in any way that you can. Additional information and photos will be included in our next newsletter. Thank you in advance for your urgently needed assistance.



Do you believe?

Photos by Julie Kartrude

Mercy and Sharing Facts

The following summarizes some of the current projects as of April of 2005:

Cite Soleil School:

100 students

Address: Bellecourt District Cite Soleil Port-au-Prince, HAITI. Provision of schooling/books. One meal per day; clean water.

Taint Saint School:

207 students

Address: Merger Carrefour, Port-au-Prince, HAITI. Provision of schooling/books.

Mercy House Orphanage I

Terminally Ill and Handicapped Orphans: 61 orphans; Address: Tabarre 16 Rue Pierre, Cazeau, HAITI.

Mercy House Orphanage II

32 orphans

Address: Tabarre 16 Rue Pierre, Cazeau, HAITI.

Cazeau School:

250 students

Address: Tabarre 16 Rue Pierre, Cazeau, HAITI. Provision of schooling/books.

One meal per day; clean water.

New Feeding Centers:

Terrier Rouge, Hinche and the Dominican Republic Border Areas.

Provision of food for 1,500 children

Gonaives - Emergency Response

Project: Medical care, food, water and clothing for up to 300 children.

Gode School:

240 Students

Address: National #2 Merger Gressier, Port-au-Prince, HAITI.

Provision of schooling/books.

One meal per day; clean water.

Saint Antoine:

230 Students

Address: Merger Saint Antoine Church Road, Port-au-Prince, HAITI.

Mercy and Sharing Abandoned Infant Unit:

Currently 14 abandoned/orphaned .

Address: Hospital General H.U.E.H., Rue Mgr Guilloux, Port-au-Prince.

Newly orphaned or abandoned infants.

Mercy Clinic: Opening very soon : a state-of-the-art paranatal clinic.

Needs List -- We have many needs for over 2,500 children, orphans and special needs children...

As an organization committed to giving 100% to the children, you can help us by funding (or in-kind donation) of these items in bulk (for shipping purposes), and for financial support. We realize items by the case are costly, but they are unrealistically expensive or unavailable, in Haiti. You can be crucial to our survival by sponsoring certain items monetarily. Funds are needed for:

- **Equipment – all kinds of office & waiting-room furniture for our Clinic.**
- **Ambulance for transporting critically ill children to our new Clinic.**
- **Funds for Supplies – laundry detergent; shampoo; soap; mosquito repellent; baby powder, etc.**
- **MONTHLY Sponsors for individual projects.**
- **Guardian Angel Program Sponsors (see www.haitichildren.org for details).**

Mercy & Sharing does not believe in charity. In all of our projects there is a common thread: opportunity. We teach our children and in return they learn and teach others. We feed them, and when they are old enough we teach them to feed themselves and to feed others. We educate them in their youth, they learn a trade in their adolescence, and in return they provide for themselves and their families. There is no empowerment in charity, so we choose to empower instead. We employ a staff of over 140 native Haitians (average salary is USD \$70 per month), who mentor, nurture, love and respect the children. In return our children learn to love and respect others.

Board of Directors: Susan Scott Krabacher; Joe Krabacher; Frank Scott, Jr., E.J. Christensen; Dr. Steve Gorlin, Mr. Jeffrey Leck, Mr. Michael Lypka, Mr. John Lynch and Mr. Rick Hicks.

Advisory Board: Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D. Mich); Dr. Serge Parisian (Orthopedic Surgeon), Mark Gillette (Defense Attaché – U.S. Embassy, Mongolia); Michael Chiu – Trustee - Cornell University, Richard & Carol Horn (Volunteers Directors) and Mr. Mark Salter (Programs Advisor).

Honorary Director: the late John Branchizio, U.S. Navy SEAL, (1966-2003).