
MERCY & SHARING

A 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY

10th Edition

www.haitichildren.org

October 2004

Flooding in Gonaives

by Susie Krabacher

September 26, 2004 -- This may be one of the most difficult times in the History of Haiti. For the *Mercy and Sharing* staff, it has been heart-wrenching to see the look of utter shock on the faces of children who wander through waist-deep mud, desperately



Jeanette, a young Haitian girl, leads us to the location where both of her parents were carried away by the recent floods in Gonaives.

looking for a familiar face, as I work the phones in Aspen to find container loads of blankets, rice, tarps and even shovels so that families can bury their loved ones. I cannot fathom the loss just yet.

Our team in Gonaives (the site at which Hurricane Jeanne left nearly 300,000 Haitians homeless) spoke with the Mayor's Assistant on Friday, Sept 24th. The official said that he had counted approximately 2,200 bodies personally, and that there were still an estimated 1,200 missing.

Many of the children have lost every single family member, and those who have survived, in virtually thousands of cases, have lost all of their possessions, including their homes. As flood victims fight each other for food coming off aid trucks, the strongest are the ones who will get to eat. The children

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without adult care will be pushed to the back of the crowds of starving and thirsty people.

One 11-year-old boy told a staff member, "I have not seen my mother and sister. Nobody can tell me where they are. I was going to drown. Someone grabbed me and put me on the roof."



These children wait in line to be seen by doctors and receive medication provided through M&S

While the UN stabilization units organize distribution of aid, the surviving children are being lead to the structures that are still standing. Temporary shelter has been given in some cases by government buildings that remain standing after the storm.

Mercy and Sharing has been able to send a 40-foot shipping container full of food and emergency supplies, and another container is being prepared to go. We must plan ***now*** for the aftermath. Weeks after the tragedy, Haiti is no longer on the front page of the major papers, nor on many of the news channels. Entire Haitian families have been buried in mass graves. These hundreds of orphaned children are going to need us now,

more than ever.

My personal plea to each one of you is to help us ***now*** to set up temporary EMERGENCY shelter. After working in Haiti for 11 years, I realize that sometimes during the aftermath of a disaster (and we've been through many), children are the ones who suffer the most, because often they are weakest.

Through an emergency aid center for children, we will be able to provide meals, beds, emergency medical care and staff to hold these little ones during the emotional and physical tragedy they have endured. We can take them out of the area to a facility that is dry and clean, and where the stench of decaying bodies and sewage does not threaten their health further.

Please help us now - this is an urgent need...

We are trying to raise \$60,000 in emergency relief aid for newly orphaned children and for those who still have family members missing. This will allow ***Mercy & Sharing*** to provide temporary shelter, food, medicine and 24-hour care for up to 6 months. During this time, we will have our staff members scout the surrounding villages for family members. Until foreign aid organizations can organize and establish permanent homes for these tiny victims, many will remain destitute and have little chance to survive without your help.

As always with ***Mercy & Sharing***, 100% of every penny you donate will go directly to help the children of Haiti.

Mercy Clinic Update

*From September 21, 2004, "The Aspen Times",
By Scott Condon*

Susie and Joe Krabacher's efforts to open a new clinic to help assure the health of new mothers and babies in Haiti received a big boost this month from three Rotary clubs in the Roaring Fork Valley.

The Rotary Club of Aspen and two chapters in Glenwood Springs combined with district offices in New York and Washington, D.C., as well as Rotary International to give a \$29,500 grant to the Krabacher's Mercy and Sharing Foundation.

The money will be used to buy medical equipment the foundation needs at a new clinic that will help mothers before, during and after the birth of their children.

"It's such a huge gift for us. For \$29,500 we can pretty much get all the equipment we need to open the facility," said Susie Krabacher.

The Krabachers, who live in Aspen, started the foundation about a decade ago when Susie learned how Haitians were living in such hopeless poverty so close to American borders. The foundation has focused on running orphanages and schools for kids. Now it is building a prenatal clinic to help avoid some of the problems so many children in Haiti encounter.

Krabacher said the clinic will likely open within the next two months. Social workers are canvassing within the Delmas area of Port-au-Prince, which has a population of 600,000, to inform women about the clinic and get a feel for the type of services that will be in demand.

The type of care that the clinic will offer is so rare in Haiti that even women who aren't destitute will seek service, Krabacher said. Free care will be given to those in greatest need; others will pay on a sliding scale based on their ability.

The clinic will employ about 20 people. The Mercy and Sharing Foundation already employs 154 Haitians.

The \$29,500 check was presented to Krabacher on Sept. 16 by Susan O'Neal, a member of the Washington, D.C., Rotary and a part-time Aspen resident. She helped coordinate contributions from the Aspen and Glenwood Springs chapters with district offices in New York and D.C. The Rotary International Foundation matched funds donated by the Rotary clubs and districts.

The New Library *by Gertrude Joseph*

The idea to have a library at the John Branchizio School came to me while observing the activities of the children, especially the oldest.



Mercy & Sharing students make their first visit to our new library...

...The New Library (cont. from page 3)

I noticed that after class, they change and then go to the cafeteria. They walk; they play with each other, but I felt that they missed something, and my maternal instinct dictated to me that they needed an activity that would be as amusing as it is instructive. This is how the library idea came to my mind.

As by providence six weeks later, I discovered among donations that we had just received, in a box that was half-opened, a picturesque book. My surprise increased when I realized that there were two boxes of books written in French, which is the spoken language at the school and one of the official languages in Haiti.

I immediately submitted the project to the Director who approved of it. Then, I started to set everything up. In order to do this within a disciplinary framework, I chose to give each of them an ID card which would allow them to take part and benefit from this project, which I am certain will grow. It did not take more than a week for the library to start.

I will not easily forget the joy of the children. ID card in hand, they could choose and read a book, each pupil was looking at the choice of the other. I had the impression that they all wanted to have the same book. They were happy and so were we. We have only about 100 books and some educational items for the little children.

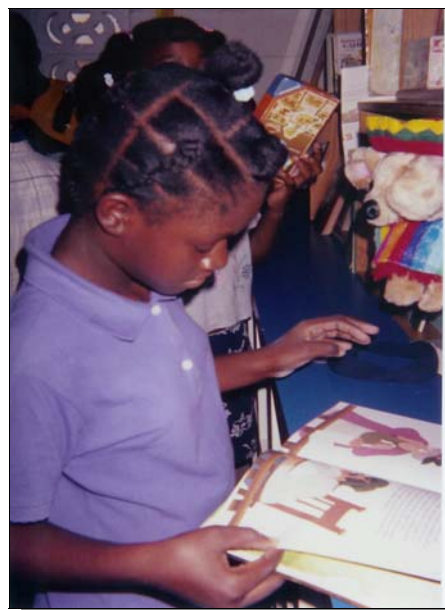
Yesterday there was not a book, and today we have a hundred of them. It is most encouraging! This demonstration of joy, the desire to read, to learn, and the way the kids looked at the books will never be forgotten.

We taught them how useful a book is, how to preserve it, how long they can have it and when to give it back. We made them understand that the other children to come will be as happy as them to have a library at the school and we are expecting some other books, in order to allow the other pupils whom are part of the John Branchizio school but not part of the orphanage to take also advantage of the library, nevertheless they also have their ID card.

The idea to have a library is also a way for the children to learn how to be responsible and how to preserve. They have the book for two days.

The idea will go further while teaching the little children how to handle their educational toys, and testing with some of the dependent kids who can use their hands.

We hope that maybe you too can share some of the English or French books your kids no longer use. If so, please contact Frank Scott at FrankScott1001@wmconnect.com for shipping instructions.



Thank you, and may God bless you all!

Haiti's Development Pains

By Joe Krabacher

As the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, Haiti has continued to suffer while the rest of the world flourished in the 1990s and 2000s. The World Bank reports that Haiti's economy actually shrunk 0.2% per year in the 1980s and 0.4% per year in the 1990s. Per capita income is \$480/year (compared to \$33,550/year in the US) or \$1.31 per day! Population has grown to over 10 million and the population density is 491 people per square mile.

Only 35% of the population is literate, while more than half lack access to clean water or



Haitian workers haul concrete up a ladder to the roof of our new Mercy Clinic building, bucket-by-bucket...

sanitation. And 50% of population is undernourished, with one in five children underweight or under-height for their age. But Haiti's biggest challenge is health care.

Haiti has the highest incidence of HIV/Aids in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 300,000 cases - some 4.5% of the population. As a result, life expectancy at birth is below 50, while related diseases like TB are also spreading.

Please help us as we seek to bring hope and light to the children of Haiti. We do have the power, and while it may seem impossible, by acting together and with the power of God, we will be able to break the chains that bind Haiti's soul and prevent her development. Pray with us, apply your financial resources and ingenuity, and we can and will see new hope for the next generation in Haiti. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Newsletter Feedback Requested ***by E.J. Christensen, Mercy and Sharing Board Member***

Please let us know your thoughts on our newsletters and how we might be able to better communicate with you. For example, would you like to continue receiving our mailed newsletter, or would you rather receive the newsletter by email? Please leave your communication preferences feedback for us at ejc@krabacher.com

Please include your name, mailing address, phone number and preferred email address in your email. Thank you!

Mercy and Sharing Facts

The following summarizes some of the current projects as of April of 2004:

Cite Soleil School:

100 students

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

Decouze School:

850 students

Address: Rue de L'Amitie, Jacmel, HAITI. Provision of school/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.

Terrier Rouge:

Provision of food for 300 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 Antione:

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 – baby incubator; diesel generator; freezer; rolls of metal screens**
- **Mini-van or small bus (for transporting handicapped children)**
- **Funds for Supplies – laundry detergent; shampoo; soap; Comet; mosquito repellent; baby powder (in bulk only please)**
- **MONTHLY Sponsors for individual projects**
- **Guardian Angel Program (see www.haitichildren.org for details)**

Mercy & Sharing Foundation 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 US\$70.00 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.

Advisory Board: Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D. Mich); Dr. Serge Parisian (Orthopedic Surgeon); Stanley Joseph (Vice-President), Mark Gillette (Defense Attaché – U.S. Embassy, Mongolia); Michael Chiu – Trustee, Cornell University.

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