
MERCY & SHARING

A 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY

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www.haitichildren.org

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News of Progress and Hope ***by Susie Krabacher***

On May 17th 2007 the Haitian Government created a new branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs - the *Department for Integration for Handicapped Persons*. This is a huge step that will bring to light the dire situation of handicapped children in Haiti.



A few of our special children in the Mercy & Sharing Abandoned Infant Unit of the Government Hospital in Port-au-Prince

On my July trip to Haiti, I met several times with Louis Metayer the “*Charge de Mission*” of this new Department. Dr. Péan, the *Secretary of State for the Handicapped at the Ministry of Social Affairs*, was out of the country at the time. However, Mr. Metayer graciously made a commitment to work together with Mercy & Sharing to improve the welfare of
(continued on page 2...)

Angels of a Lower Flight ***by Susie Krabacher***

It’s been several years since I began writing the book that would become ***Angels of a Lower Flight***. It is a story about a little girl who, for reasons unnoticed by those around her, actually believed *she* was God’s favorite



child. She had so much hurt inside because
(continued on page 3...)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 News of Progress and Hope***
- 1 Angels of a Lower Flight***
- 2 Jessi Walks!***
- 4 Williamson Update***
- 5 Deaths at the Abandoned Infant Unit***
- 6 Q & A***

(...Progress, continued from page 1)

handicapped children in Haiti. Mr. Metayer has met on several occasions with our Haitian staff members and has sent a delegation from his new Department to visit our Mercy & Sharing Hospital/Health Center and our Orphanages. It was one of the most exciting days ever for our children and staff at the Mercy House Handicapped Orphanage. Mr. Metayer is a handicapped person himself and has a deep desire to help all handicapped persons integrate into Haitian society. This is the first time in our history of caring for these children that any government official has made an effort to actively address the needs of these imperfect and precious children.



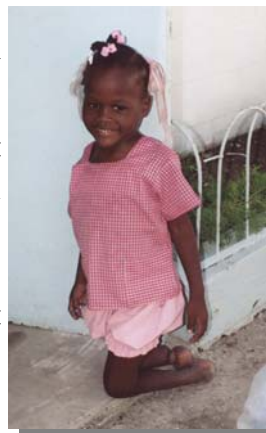
We have many severely disabled children like these at our Abandoned Infant Unit

On October 4th & 5th 2007, a forum was hosted by the *Secretary of State for the Integration of Handicapped Persons* in Port-au-Prince. Three hundred government officials and Non-Government Organization (NGO) representatives were invited, including Haitian President Rene Preval. Mercy & Sharing gave the keynote presentation, describing our fourteen-plus years of work with handicapped orphans. We are honored to share our story with the new government. We're seeing many positive changes in many of the Haitian Ministries, but this change touches on every aspect of Mercy & Sharing's hope of working with a new government that appears to take an interest these small heroes.

Jessi Walks!

by E.J. Christensen

It's been a long time coming, but we are very happy to report that our beloved Jessi has finally made it through her many medical procedures and is now fitted with her new prosthesis and is learning to get around like a normal little girl!



Once again, we are witness to the kind of miracles that are possible through the efforts of many people, especially you, our donors. Jessi is obviously very pleased with her new legs, and her new adoptive parents will be seeing her soon.

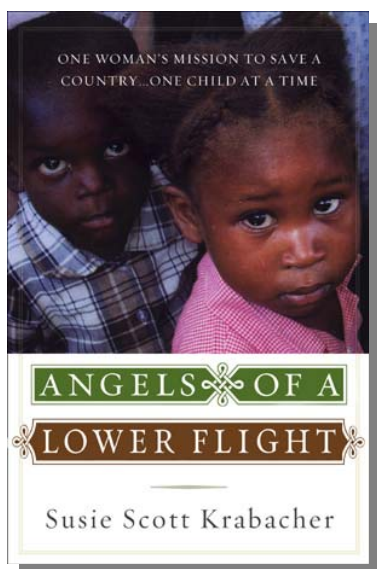


Jessi is all smiles as she takes her first steps...

(... Angels, continued from page 1)

of the secret. Because she'd heard that God never gives anyone more than they can handle, she was quite sure He must think that she was the strongest person He had ever put on earth. She imagined that if God had a refrigerator, then a picture of her and the pictures she drew of Him in rainbow-colored crayons would surely be displayed upon it. She imagined that He talked about her with affection to all of his angels and to his friends in heaven.

The presence of Angels of a lower flight (the ones who are particularly interested in the wreckage of fragile children, even the children who eventually grow up) has become evident. Perhaps these Angels are assigned to the places where "defective" children are pushed down into heaps of garbage, put into boxes behind abandoned buildings or thrown into sewage canals with cinder blocks tied around their ankles... Having been placed there by human hands... presumed by some to be a burden on society or the recipient of a Voodoo curse. Someone decided that they would be better off dead and they should do their dying out of sight



Published by Touchstone, a division of Simon & Schuster. Available now!

and out of mind. Where was God then? He was already sending you... He was already sending me.

Angels of a Lower Flight is a "diary of disaster, defeat and victory" that takes place in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere where life and death choices are often dictated by Voodoo beliefs and corrupt officials. It is a testimony that God has not forgotten the children, and that **He has sent help...**

A few of the advance reviews of the book:

"This is an inspiring book, filled with hope and faith that conquers despair. Susie Scott Krabacher brings us into her own soul as well as into the tragic orphanages of Haiti. You will be deeply moved by both her life and the situation she exposes."

– Walter Isaacson, President and CEO, Aspen Institute and author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe*

". . . An incredible story that needs to be told. ANGELS OF A LOWER FLIGHT is shocking, heartrending and inspiring. . . a compelling read. . . ."

– Nancy L. Horner, bookfoolery.blogspot.com

ANGELS OF A LOWER FLIGHT "is so well written, brutally honest and very moving. . . .This book will break your heart."

– The Feminist Review

100% of all author's proceeds from the book are donated to Mercy & Sharing.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, please go to our website at www.haitichildren.com and then to the News page. If you click on the link to Amazon.com on the News page, Amazon.com will send an additional 4% of the purchase price to Mercy & Sharing as a donation.

Williamson Update

by Gary Downey

The Williamson Project represents Susie and Joe Krabacher's long-term commitment to totally changing the lives and opportunities for our children in both the normal and the handicapped Port-au-Prince orphanages. Mercy & Sharing's vision for this project has several levels of benefits for the children.

The first phase consists of providing the children with an environment that is clean, healthy, secure and conducive to their continued physical and mental development. The Williamson site purchased is about 1½ hours north of Port-au-Prince, situated in the foothills of the coastal mountains with a view to the west of the Gulf of Gonave and the ocean. This site is ideal for realizing the vision as outlined above and is a vast improvement over the area in Port-au-Prince where the children now live.

The second phase is the goal of providing our children with a home-styled facility and a family-like environment to maximize their potential development, whether they are now in the normal-children's orphanage or in the handicapped children's orphanage. This vision includes a Handicapped Rehabilitation Center with a Physical Therapy and Medical Center Unit, a normal-children's Dormitory, an Elementary School and Trade School, a Nutrition Center, administrative office, and guest living quarters for working volunteers. The property may also include vegetable gardens, a fishpond, a playground and a shelter for goats & chickens.

The third phase of the project is the actual realization of final development and construction at the Williamson site. This phase has proven to be the most difficult to date.



- 1 POTENTIAL SEPTIC FIELD LOCATION
- 2 FUTURE TRADE SCHOOL CLASSROOMS
- 3 FUTURE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS
- 4 MAUSOLEUM & GARDEN
- 5 PUBLIC WELL ACCESS
- 6 CLASSROOMS & LIBRARY
- 7 CHURCH & NUTRITION CENTER
- 8 SECURITY GATE HOUSE
- 9 OFFICES MAINTENANCE & MECHANICS CLASSROOM
- 10 LARGE GENERATOR BUILDING W/ BURM FOR NOISE
- 11 HANDICAP ORPHANAGE & THERAPY CENTER WITH DEPOT BELOW
- 12 SPACE FOR FUTURE HANDICAP FACILITY
- 13 VISITOR ACCOMODATIONS
- 14 SMALL GENERATOR
- 15 HEALTHY CHILDREN ORPHANAGES
- 16 AREA RESERVED FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF DORMS OR OTHER FACILITIES
- 17 TERMINALLY ILL FACILITY
- 18 FUTURE RECREATION FIELD

(... Williamson, continued from page 4)

Important issues such as the overall site plan for the positioning of all the buildings, drainage & elevation issues, power needs, plumbing needs and soil analysis have all proved to be very time-consuming and tech-



A view from the top of the Williamson property looking toward the ocean.

nically demanding. With the donated help of a number of professionals, especially Jodie Fielding of Galambos Architects, we are now diligently working our way through these issues.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as Susie, Joe and the Mercy & Sharing Board of Directors continue to reach out for your support...



Many handicapped children will be with us for the rest of their lives. Supporting Williamson will help us give them the love, hope and dignity they deserve...

Deaths at the Abandoned Infant Unit

by E.J. Christensen

We are very sad to say that three children have died recently at our Abandoned Infant Unit at the Government Hospital in Port-au-Prince. We always do everything we can to help all of our children, but unfortunately God sometimes calls some of them home.

The details of the three children and their medical conditions are as follows:

Rony: (three months old, male) died with a diagnosis of poly malformation and meningocele.

Juven: (three months old) was HIV positive.

Gaspar: (seven months old, male) - Hydrocephaly and with congenital malformations.

According to one of our physicians, Dr. Bonne-Annee, these children had very bad prognoses from the beginning and we did not expect that they would survive for very long, but the loss of any of our children hurts us deeply and equally.



In this world, they were loved...

Mercy and Sharing Facts

The following summarizes some of the current projects as of June of 2007:

Mercy House Orphanage I

Terminally Ill and Handicapped Orphans: 57 orphans; Address: Tabarre 16 Rue Pierre, Cazeau, Haiti.

Mercy House Orphanage II

37 Orphans
Address: Tabarre 16 Rue Pierre, Cazeau, Haiti.

John Branchizio School:

392 Students
Address: Tabarre 16 Rue Pierre, Cazeau, Haiti. Provision of schooling/books. One meal per day; clean water.

Cite Soleil School:

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

Gode School:

192 Students
Address: National #2 Merger Gressier, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Provision of schooling/books. One meal per day; clean water.

Mercy Health Center: Now open: a state-of-the-art medical facility in Delmas 75, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Meal Programs:

Terrier Rouge and Hinche in the Dominican Republic border areas. Provision of daily meals for over 1,140 children and 10 widows.

Mercy and Sharing Abandoned Infant Unit:

Currently 20 children.
Address: Hospital General H.U.E. H., Rue Mgr. Guilloux, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
Care of newly orphaned or abandoned infants at the main government hospital.

Trade School/Handicapped Center

New building project underway - "Williamson" will provide vocational training for young adults and therapy facilities for handicapped and terminally ill children.

What You Can Do -- We have many needs for over 3,000 children, orphans and handicapped children...

As an organization committed to giving 100% to the children, you can help us by reading the material on our website at www.haitichildren.org and telling your friends about our work, by purchasing the book ***Angels of a Lower Flight*** and also by sending direct financial support. ***Funds are urgently needed for:***

- **Medical equipment:** All kinds of general medical and micro-ophthalmologic surgical supplies.
- **Misc. equipment:** Physical therapy equipment for handicapped children.
- **Funds for Supplies:** laundry detergent; shampoo; soap; mosquito repellent; baby powder, etc.
- **Special medicines:** antibiotics, anticonvulsives, anti-diabetics, anti-neoplastics, anti-hypothyroid.
- **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 through education instead. We employ a staff of over 300 native Haitians (average salary is USD \$100 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., Ken Delaski, Jeffrey Leck, Michael Lypka, E.J. Christensen, Jean-Dany Pierre-Francois, Dave & Carol Anderson and Richard Taylor.

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