



H.E.R.O.

HOUSING EDUCATION *and*
REHABILITATION *of* ORPHANS

www.haitihero.org

888-315-HERO

info@haitihero.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP: VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

H.E.R.O. is excited to commence a new phase in our educational plan. This summer, we will begin our vocational program with culinary arts, sewing, and technology. The ability to cook, sew, and access technology are important skills for any self-sufficient adult. Additionally, children who show aptitude in one of these areas will have an early start if they decide to make it a career later in life. In the culinary arts program, children will learn to make traditional Haitian meals, and in the process learn measuring skills, safe food-handling practices, and balanced nutrition. The sewing program will teach children hand stitching, and also how to sew using both electrical and foot pedal sewing machines (still important in a country with unreliable electricity). Our technology program will teach children skills like typing, word processing, and online research. The children will also learn how to use digital cameras and video cameras to capture and share their experiences.

To make our vocational program a true success, we need your help! Materials and supplies are needed to maintain these programs. For cooking classes we can use pots, pans, utensils, and measuring cups. For sewing classes we will need material, buttons, zippers, and thread. In order to begin our technology program, our children will need laptops and digital cameras. Online donations can be made through our website, and checks or material donations can be mailed to our address in Florida (see right).



Online Donations

Online donations can be made on our website www.haitihero.org. Donations can be one-time or recurring, and are tax-deductible in the United States.

Mail in a Donation

If you would prefer to donate by mail, you can send a check made out to H.E.R.O. to:

H.E.R.O.
P.O. Box 480820
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33348

Donate Items

We are always in need of donations in the form of books, school supplies, new clothes for the children, etc. Here are some items you may wish to donate for H.E.R.O.'s vocational program.

Culinary Arts: pots, pans, utensils, measuring cups, etc.

Sewing: various types of fabric, buttons, zippers, thread, etc.

Technology: laptops, digital cameras and video cameras, etc.

For a more comprehensive list, e-mail info@haitihero.org. All donations can be sent to our address in Florida.

Housing, Education, and Rehabilitation
of Orphans is a registered tax-exempt
501(c)(3) Public Charity.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings H.E.R.O. Supporters!

There are some truly amazing things happening in Haiti! I am so very proud to be part of what many call the “Building Back Better” of Haiti. What I want to share in this letter is some of the amazing work that other orphanages are doing, and how we are planning to work together for the benefit of the children that desperately need our help. There is no doubt that within the culture of NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) that work in Haiti there is a sense of competition, disharmony, and perhaps even outright disdain for one another. In a country that needs cooperation and collaboration, many of the NGOs choose to participate in activities that serve their own interests, or even worse, increase their bottom lines. Fortunately, there are organizations on the opposite end of the spectrum that want to do everything in their power to work with others, share ideas and best practices, so that true, sustainable and impactful development can take place.

During the month of April I had the privilege of visiting two orphanages, one in operation, and one under construction. I first visited the Hands and Feet orphanage in Grand Goave. The Hands and Feet Project is an organization founded by the members of Audio Adrenaline and based out of Nashville. They currently operate two orphanages, one in Jacmel and another in Grand Goave. You can read more about their work on their website at www.handsandfeetproject.org. I showed up unannounced at their orphanage in Grand Goave and was warmly welcomed by Andrew and Angie, an American couple that is heading up this particular site. I was truly impressed to see that the grounds were immaculate, the children were quietly and respectfully eating lunch, and there was order and organization to the place. They currently have 24 boys and 7 girls, and are planning to build a more permanent, larger site, not far from their current location.

The second orphanage I visited was Be Like Brit, an orphanage under construction by the Gengel family. Brit Gengel was on a volunteer trip to Haiti in January of 2010, staying in the Hotel Montana. The earthquake struck just a few minutes after she had texted her mother explaining how she had been to an orphanage that day and wanted to stay and help the orphans of Haiti. Hotel Montana was completely destroyed by the earthquake, burying Brit and several of the other students and teachers that were on the trip. After losing their daughter, the Gengel family decided to complete Brit's dream of building an orphanage for the children of Haiti. In the shape of a B for Brit, the new residence will house 66 orphans, include a full medical clinic, and host short and long-term volunteers. You can read more about Brit's story and the Gengel family's journey to make a difference in Haiti at www.belikebrit.org.

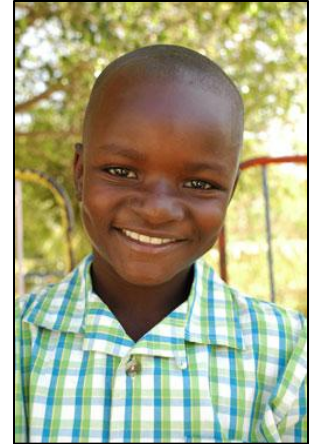
Together, our goal is to share our knowledge and experience working with orphans in Haiti so that we can provide the best possible programs and opportunities for the children in our care. While we realize that our organizations often compete for the same donor dollars in the United States, we know that it is most important to work together for the benefit of the children of Haiti. Instead of being in competition, we will work in collaboration, so that the programs we implement are of the highest quality. We hope to set an example for other organizations in Haiti, and prove that much more can be done through collaboration, than competition. As I always say, together, we can all truly make a difference in the lives of the most disenfranchised youth in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Kirby, Ed.D

MEET LUCKNEAU ANDRÉ

It is 4 a.m. in a small mountain village. A tiny six-year-old boy, Luckneau, rises in the darkness, bathes, carefully puts on his school uniform, and begins the two-hour walk to school. He tries to pay attention to his lessons, but his stomach is rumbling—there had been no dinner last night. Still in preschool, he does his best to learn his letters and recite them for the teacher. When he gets home, he collects firewood and builds a small fire in the cooking pit outside the small wooden shack. Carefully he prepares a meal of rice and beans. He brings a plate to his mother's sickbed and urges her to eat. Scarcely more than skin and bones, she is wasting away. It is not long before she will join her husband who has already succumbed to AIDS.



Child Sponsorship

For \$35 a month, you can make a meaningful impact in the life of an orphan in Haiti. To learn more about sponsoring a child like Luckneau, visit www.haitihero.org/sponsor

Three years have passed, and Luckneau's mother is gone. The director of the local school contacted H.E.R.O. and now Luckneau has a bright future at the H.E.R.O. Residence for Orphans. In spite of his tragic history, Luckneau is full of joy and quick to laugh. He won't walk somewhere if he can run, and he has embraced his new life with exuberance. He splashed and "swam" for hours on a recent outing to the beach—his first time seeing the ocean. Now he attends school each day and has a tutor in the afternoons who helps him catch up on the schooling he missed. "I'm happy I came here," Luckneau says, and we are too!

DAN AND SARAH RAISE \$30,000 FOR THE FIRST ECOSHELL!

Nearly two years ago H.E.R.O. had the pleasure of hosting Dan Hildebrand in Haiti. Dan, an actor and builder of EcoShells, partnered with us to help design the H.E.R.O. Residence for Orphans in Maniche. Most recently, Dan and his wife Sarah have made a generous pledge to raise \$30,000 for the construction of the first EcoShell in Maniche. EcoShell construction is a low-cost 21st century technology used to create a dome shaped building that is earthquake, hurricane, fire, and infestation proof. The first EcoShell at the H.E.R.O. Residence for Orphans in Maniche will be a circular EcoShell measuring 40ft in diameter and 20ft in height. This building will serve as the multi-purpose center for the residence, creating a space for indoor soccer and basketball, church services, large group gatherings, and much more! You can keep track of Dan and Sarah's goal of reaching \$30,000 before the end of June on our website and even contribute directly by selecting EcoShell Building Fund on our donation page. H.E.R.O. thanks Dan and Sarah for their personal commitment to orphans and their dedication to serving the most disenfranchised youth in Haiti.



H.E.R.O. has partnered with Vehicles For Charity, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, to process the donation of your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, recreational vehicle, camper, and more! To donate your vehicle, please call 1-866-628-CARS or visit www.vehiclesforcharity.org.

ACHIEVING ACADEMIC GREATNESS

At H.E.R.O. we are committed to helping our children achieve their maximum academic potential. We most often begin at a disadvantage given that the majority of the children that enter our care have had little to no experience in a formal education environment. As a result, they may arrive at the H.E.R.O. House having no knowledge of the alphabet, correct letter pronunciation, and sometimes can't even spell their own name. Despite these obstacles, through the dedication of our teaching staff and

tremendous effort of our children, the

academic results that have been achieved are truly remarkable. The results of the second trimester exams revealed that 5 out of 6 of our children improved upon their previous results. Out of 14 students in second grade, Dayanna earned the highest score on the exam, with Franky following a close second. In the third grade Robenson placed 1st out of more than 20 students, and Billy earned the second highest scores in his 5th grade class. Luckneau achieved great results in first grade, a tremendous feat given that he arrived not knowing the alphabet or how to write his name. Valencia, despite performing just below the first trimester exams, still placed 3rd overall in her third grade class. At H.E.R.O. we could not be more proud of the academic performance of our children.



H.E.R.O. has partnered with Baking for Good, an online bakery that donates 15% of every purchase to H.E.R.O. Orders are packaged individually and sent right to your door. To place your order and support our mission visit www.bakingforgood.com.

BAKING
for **GOOD**

H.E.R.O. WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS

The H.E.R.O. Residence for Orphans has recently welcomed many volunteers who came and completed work projects, brought donations, and shared their love with our kids. First to visit were Jamie and Judy from Reno, Nevada. During their stay, they made art projects with our children and brightened up the house with the kids' creations. Judy and Jamie got to see more of Haiti than they bargained for, experiencing both an earthquake and a day of political unrest during their 10-day visit. Then came Becky and Kay who shared their love and joy with the children by playing games, helping out at the Easter Egg Hunt, and even singing bedtime songs for the kids. Their visit overlapped with that of Carol and Rob whose projects included repainting the boys' bathroom, painting chairs, and creating a raised-bed vegetable garden. Carol also came with a set of wooden tops which quickly became a favorite among the children. They each painted their own top and now challenge each other to "battle" or practice various tricks. H.E.R.O. thanks all of our volunteers for coming to the H.E.R.O. House—we have been blessed by your gifts of service, time, and love for the children of Haiti.



For more information visit us on the web: www.haitihero.org

Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@haitihero.org or call 888-315-HERO.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please send an e-mail to info@haitihero.org.