

# HAITIAN CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2019



## LOOKING AHEAD WITH 20/20 VISION

Already the year 2020 is fast approaching and the numerically catchy year is a reminder to us at HCAS that our vision needs to be "20/20". As we enter into a time of promise and new hope for our organization we deal with the extreme challenges presented by some of the most difficult times that Haiti has experienced since the 2010 earthquake. We realize the fact that the people of Haiti want the same things so many of us in Canada take for granted. Enough food to eat and clean water to drink instead of an empty belly and a polluted stream. Medical care when needed instead of a poorly staffed and inadequately stocked clinic. A good education for all children to give them the opportunity to have rewarding work so they can improve their lives. A stable government and the rule of law rather than having to constantly dodge rioters, roadblocks and the odd stray bullet to get to work or to carry out the most basic of daily tasks. Life must often seem so desperate and hopeless. This past week one of our board members shared a devotion with us that was based on Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." I think that this is vision enough for HCAS as we look ahead to 2020 and beyond. While we are not so foolish as to think that by our own efforts we can accomplish anything lasting, we do believe that God will prosper the work of those who choose each day to do His work with all their might.

We are now beginning to make more concrete plans for our Phase 2 Building project which is envisioned as a multi-purpose facility which will serve as a school, basic medical clinic and a space for church and community functions. Even though at present this project seems very daunting because of the turmoil in Haiti, we trust that in a given time there will be a return to a more peaceful period. We also know that the need will still be there and probably will have increased. Of course, how this change will happen is unknown to us as of yet. Perhaps a new year will bring new hope to Haiti in the form of new elections and a better government. Perhaps the fuel shortage will somehow be resolved. Perhaps the international community will decide on some form of intervention again, we don't know, but what we do know for sure is that the needs of the people of Haiti will still be there when the dust settles. The clear vision of HCAS is that we will be there as well with our proven abilities and track record, seeking to diligently provide for those needs of body, mind and spirit that will certainly be a significant concern going forward. In light of this, we ask that each of you would remember HCAS at this time and as this year/decade comes to an end, we want to thank all of you for your prayers and generous financial support in the past years. You really have made a huge difference for so many Haitian children and their families!



100% MATCH ON ALL

December Donations





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## UPDATE FROM

# Haiti

There is currently a real type of war going on for political control of Haiti. Various corruption scandals implicating the president and almost every single senator and leader of any kind make it impossible to know who (if any of them) is on the 'up-and-up' and who is guilty as charged. In trying to save face and cover up their greed, large amounts of money has been paid to gangs and ruffians to produce what has become known as 'peyi-lok' (country lock-down). This has led to the armed and often violent blockading of nearly every road in Haiti, effectively blocking anyone from going anywhere. Schools and students have been threatened, causing most schools to reluctantly remain closed and not even start the school year. Banks and government offices have been targeted and burned in various towns. Merchants selling in open markets have been robbed, threatened and worse. Rampant gunfire, robberies and unchecked violence in what used to be small, peaceful towns. Truckloads of produce sit rotting on the side of the road as hopeful transporters wait for outnumbered and outgunned police forces to attempt to remove roadblocks manned by gangs with illegal firearms. Innocent Haitians in many areas (who are the scapegoat for this "popular uprising") have been effectively limited to the small area around their homes, making accessing food and water increasingly challenging. As this crisis has drug out for weeks, and now months, the majority of the Haitian population who struggle to get by from day to day have at times become desperate.

We see this reality every day, played out in an achingly repetitive fashion, as we serve the families and children in our community outreach programs. In the past three months we have seen a steep rise in numbers accessing these programs and a marked increase in the number of malnourished children, of stressed mothers with breastfeeding difficulties and underweight babies, and of easily treated illnesses that have become chronic and complicated due to the inability to access the well-funded acute care hospital just 8km away. The major challenge that these families are facing is that the stress, threats and violence impedes their remarkable ability to find little ways to make ends meet each day. It is a daily struggle at the best of times in Haiti, and the current situation deters these efforts in that the basic right of being able to buy-sell-trade is daily being threatened and in many cases, impeded and stolen.

At HCH, we have been so thankful for God's provision and care for us, which has allowed us to put more emphasis on caring for those around us. We have been very insulated from the chaos that has overtaken most of Haiti and often remark on the many details of our compound that have provided a safe haven for our children and staff. We have had to adapt to a new normal, which for the last three months has meant staying in the compound at all times, rarely venturing out even to go to church as we cannot take the chance of getting blocked away from the safety of HCH. Our staff have remained loyal and dependable, even when it has required them to walk 8km to get to work as no vehicles dare go out on the roads. There have been days where no one could come-and-go at all, and our staff collaborated and sometimes worked 36-48 hour shifts to ensure that all of the children were cared for. Despite the chaos and destruction going on around us, each day we have so many wonderful Haitian people that remind us of who the majority of Haitian people really are. Kind and generous, hardworking and endlessly willing to find a way to ensure HCH is cared for and protected.

The last two weeks have provided a tentative break in road blocks, allowing people and supplies to move more freely. Crime rates are high however, and there are many reports of crimes of opportunity as three months of minimal law enforcement has allowed many to take advantage of the tumultuous situation. However, the simple fact that traffic is flowing again on the nearby highway has been encouraging on many levels. All of us at HCH have remarked that we didn't realize how much the instability affected us until we felt the ability to breathe a little bit better. We have been fortunate to have a lot of great people around to ensure that the kids are being supported as they process all that has been happening, though we have made a marked effort to shelter them from the details as much as possible. This has helped us all to be regularly processing and talking about the challenges Haiti is facing.



# UPDATE FROM **Haiti**

We do however see the effects of this long stretch of high stress situations especially on our staff, who have all had numerous unsettling experiences. We are working to provide some trauma care for them, as despite their incredible resilience, we feel strongly that they deserve to be provided with some coping tools and the ability to process their experiences.

We would continue to ask you to pray for Haiti, and particularly the political situation. It has been so disheartening to see all the advances made in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake be destroyed in a matter of weeks. Two airlines have canceled their Haiti routes completely, and the rest have greatly reduced availability. Haiti's first chain hotel closed up and pulled out, and numerous businesses that strive to provide life-changing employment to Haitian families are struggling greatly as many depend on visitors to purchase their beautiful creations. The domino effect is staggering and unsettling. All of us at HCH would like to thank all of you who have committed to supporting HCH with your prayers and finances. We are so incredibly thankful to know that we only have to focus on obtaining supplies, and that each month HCAS is able to provide the funds needed to purchase those supplies. This allows energy to be spent in other essential areas, and ensures that we can maintain our excellent level of care. We cannot emphasize enough what a gift that is to the children and staff of HCH.

Here are a few specific ways you can pray:

- 1) For transparency and accountability within the government of Haiti
- 2) For continued ability to function a bit more normal in Haiti
- 3) For Haitian adoptions-numerous offices have been closed for three months slowing an already complicated process
- 4) For peace and consolation for many Haitians who have experienced much trauma especially in the past three months
- 5) For wisdom for all of us at HCH as we care for our preteens
- 6) That the Prince of Peace would come and touch this little island in a mighty way



100% MATCH ON ALL

# December Donations

Merry Christmas to HCAS!

A donor, who believes strongly in the work being done by HCAS has offered to match all general donations made to HCAS in the **month of DECEMBER!!**

We have been blessed by this donor already in 2019 with a match of our fundraiser total in October allowing \$158,000 to be raised during that time!!

Thank-you so much!



Haitian Children's Aid Society  
P.O. Box 46206  
Edmonton, AB T6T 0K8

DONATE ONLINE @  
[www.hcas.ca](http://www.hcas.ca)

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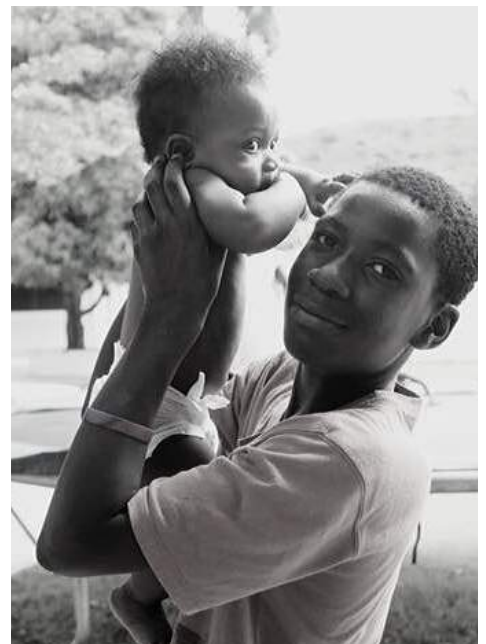
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[info@hcas.ca](mailto:info@hcas.ca)

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2019 TAX RECEIPTS will be issued mid February. To qualify as a 2019 donation, please ensure mailed cheques are postmarked by December 31.

## SPRING FUND RAISER

*Save the  
Date*



SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020  
DOOR OPEN @4:30  
DINNER @ 5:30  
UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
RED DEER, AB