



Rescue One

PO Box 8174
 Grand Rapids,
 Michigan 49518
www.rescue-one.org



Students in the Beree program celebrate Flag Day in Haiti

Vision

All children living in Haiti will be raised and educated in a safe, wholesome Christian environment

Donors, you are the heart of this mission and the key to its success. Thank you.

In this issue, you will read about:

- The enhancement of the medical component of our wrap around care
- Stories that give you an insight into the living conditions of many of our students
- Documentation of the amazing creativity of our Haitian partners as they use their gifts to care for these students
- Evidence of the change that your support brings to these vulnerable students.



As you can see from these stories, life in Haiti is very difficult, even for those who are more privileged. There are civil disturbances and incidences of Covid are increasing.

- Please pray for safety for our students as they journey to school along long, dangerous pathways
- Give thanks for our phenomenal, strong Haitian staff who work tirelessly to keep these children safe and healthy.

Mission

We partner with Haitian churches who desire to rescue, one at a time, vulnerable children in their community.

*Board of Directors: Jeff Buursma, Dan Rinzema
 Nancy Tuit, Jody Vogelzang, Carol Woltjer*

The Enhanced Medical Program

Since its inception, the Rescue One program has been committed to holistic care for its children. One critical component is medical care. We have always wished that our students could have a place to which we can refer them when they are ill or injured.

Due to the diligent research of our Haitian staff, that dream is becoming a reality. At its March meeting, the US board approved establishing a partnership with King's Hospital through its General Director and Surgeon, Dr. Hubert Morquette. The program will provide free annual medical check-ups and vaccinations for children. For other services, we will pay prices that are more affordable than many other facilities in the area.

The coordinator of each church program is providing the name, age and picture of every student in the Rescue One and YEP programs. These documents are placed at the hospital where a team of four administrators takes charge of our students when their parents bring them to the hospital. The coordinators also communicate between parents and hospital staff as needed via phone and email.

The following services are available: Medical Consultation, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology, Surgery, surgery room, and hospital beds. Medical specialists available include Pediatricians, Surgeons, Dermatologists, Urologists, Gynecologists, Orthopedists, General Practitioners, Otorhinolaryngologists (ENT = Ears, Nose and Throats) and Associate Anesthesiologists.

Since March, five students have already availed themselves of the program for such maladies as infections, hernias and skin conditions. All of them have recovered enough to be able to return to school. We are grateful to be able to bring them relief. Please pray for their complete healing.



*Meredith awaits a consultation for a skin condition
(See inset.)*

With this newsletter, I'd like to offer a **special word of thanks** to Kerline Jules, our director in Haiti, who diligently and lovingly supervises the care of these vulnerable ones. She knows them personally and enters their homes. She communicates with the US board and provides us with timely information for our newsletter. She uses her gifts for the Lord and enriches me spiritually. I am blessed to be her friend.

Thank you, Kerline

—NT, editor

Values

1. **Haitian Leadership**—God has empowered his church in Haiti with gifts, knowledge and a desire to rescue children in their community. Our work is accomplished through church members and local Haitian leadership.
2. **Family Focused**—Church partners focus on children and their families resulting in healthier and more self-sufficient/empowered families.
3. **Holistic Care**—The program holistically provides for the physical, spiritual and social needs of the children so they can impact their community.

Like a Game of Hopscotch

Alice, a 10th grader, is a very interesting and beautiful young girl who has been in the RO program since kindergarten. She is the youngest in her family and has three sisters and one brother.

Alice and her siblings do not receive a great deal of supervision from their parents. Because the family is very poor, the father and mother are constantly looking for ways to secure food. From Monday to Sunday, the mother leaves the house at 5 in the morning and does not return until nightfall. The father even spent several weeks outside of Port-au-Prince in search of small jobs to make a living

Alice's family lives in a very poor and dangerous shantytown where there is no infrastructure. There is no clean drinking water. For washing their clothes, the family uses sea water. As our staff goes to visit Alice in this seaside slum, they have difficulty finding a place to put their feet. Because the street to the house is dirty and filled with puddles along the way, it becomes like a game of hopscotch. When it rains, it gets even worse.

One day as the staff approached her house for a visit, everyone was calling to Alice. She is like a star in her neighborhood. Our staff was amazed to see how popular she is and how much the people in the community appreciate her. She is involved in several activities in her community.

At the visit, the RO staff asked Alice questions about how she manages on her way to school when it rains. She answered, "What you see is nothing compared to how much worse it is at other times. **When it rains, we have to carry our shoes in a bag with a bottle of water so that when we get out on the main street, we can wash our feet and put on our shoes.**"

Unfortunately, in that community, the level of hygiene is very low and the children run barefoot. Alice decided to organize a team of young people to clean the area where they live. Thanks to her

leadership and to her team, her immediate environment is no longer as dirty. They do their best to clean it from time to time. Alice is also in charge of a football team of children there.

Alice loves the Rescue One program very much. She is always ready to participate in all the activities that take place in the program, as well as in the church activities. In summer camp she is the first to start with craft work. She is very gifted with her hands and as a leader but is not as high achieving in her studies.

Despite her involvement in

several activities, the staff always senses a sadness in her eyes. She explained how difficult it is to go to school since the school has moved to a new location*. It is now very far away and her family cannot afford transportation. These difficulties affect her work in school.

Please keep Alice in your prayers. She is a beautiful young girl who will turn 19 in June. With her beauty, many young men offer her lot of things that can destroy her life. Pray that she can overcome her large number of difficulties and reach her full potential as a leader.

*Because of violence in the area, the school the Bolosse program uses has had to move to a safer location.



Alice at Summer Camp in 2013

Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Alice today

The Rescue One Board thanks these faithful donors for their kind comments.

Of all the organizations to whom we give gifts large and small, regularly and irregularly, Rescue One is truly the one that shows us the hands and feet of Jesus. Their regular communications are full not of boilerplate fundraising language or generalities, but of photos and stories and detailed information about this small group's work. We love that Rescue One is a local organization run by local Haitians, and we are deeply moved by their commitment to love and serve the children and families they walk with. In the internet age, it's easy to become overwhelmed by global suffering. Our giving to Rescue One feels like an invitation to stay awake to the needs of people far away. We are always encouraged by their work, heartened by their love for God and their fellow citizens. It's an honor to participate in that in a small way and to witness it from afar.

— Karl Swedberg and Sara DeBoer

A Canal Runs Through It

In the Fall of 2015, this newsletter introduced you to Jessie who was a new enrollee in the Calvary Church program. She is now 11 and in the 4th grade. Jessie's mother died from HIV and this family of seven struggles to secure life's basic necessities, food and shelter. Only three of the children have the opportunity to attend school. Jessie is one of the fortunate ones because of the Rescue One program.

An analysis of Jessie, by Evan the coordinator when she was first enrolled, said this:

"Jessie is not a brilliant student, her grades are seldom what we expect but I end up with the understanding that her environment doesn't respond to her needs as a kid. She is sleeping in poor conditions and no one in the family can help her with her homework. She cursed when she answered me while I was reprimanding her."

When staff visited Jessie's home, they were deeply saddened. It took some time to figure out how the little house was constructed. The small hut is built on the side of the mountain where it slopes down into a ravine. It is covered with cloth and a few pieces of tarpaulin and blankets. Standing up straight in the home is impossible without hitting one's head on the roof. The floor is nothing but earth. The staff asked themselves, "How do they sleep? This small room that can't even take a bed, let alone a table and chairs." The home is without a latrine and the family uses a basin which they empty into a stream under cover of darkness.



Jessie and a sister

Any big rain is a danger for that family. If it is raining, water will slide down the slope and enter the house. In an attempt to prevent this, they made a small canal through the inside of the house so that neither water slipping down the slope nor what might fall from the roof will invade them. This is effective depending on the strength of the rain.

I think this great outcome is from all the support ...and, above all, the love that we bring to that little girl through the Rescue One program.

After analyzing all the factors, the staff was able to think beyond what they were initially seeing about Jessie. They understood that it was all about family issues and her unhealthy environment.

Now, in 2021, Gary, the new coordinator of the Calvary program, writes this:

"I think Jessie's self-confidence is growing. Despite the environment she lives in, she is averaging 6 in her first period of school this year, which shows that she wants to move forward. Despite everything, she is very respectful."



Jessie, the coordinator and Jessie's father.

Our director in Haiti writes:

"I think this great outcome is from all the support: education, food, water, healthcare, teaching her Christian values, spending great quality time together with her and the other RO kids, socialization (summer camp, children's clubs, children's church ministry), helping her with homework, and above all, the love that we bring to that little girl through the Rescue One program—all contribute to her wholesome development. She is now joyful and making great effort. A few years ago, when we realized that her mom was HIV positive, the pediatrician of the RO program of Calvary Chapel did a few lab exams and we were so grateful when we received the results and knew that Jessie is HIV negative. I am proud of her and the great work that the team of Calvary Chapel is making in her life."



Jessie's neighborhood

The Rescue One Board **thanks you** for your compassionate and generous support. Rescue One is a small light bringing God's grace into the lives of over 90 Haitian children. Your check can be made out to the Rescue One Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations can be sent to PO Box 8174, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49518 or you can donate by PayPal on our website. All contributions except for printing and mailing costs go directly to Haiti.