



Rescue One

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*The
Rescue
One family
wishes you
hearts filled
with
Christmas
joy.*



Handelsona tells us: **“God put angels on our way to help with bank transactions, purchase of food, preparation of food and its distribution.”**

Haiti is in an unprecedented crisis. Since the assassination of the country’s president, the country has deteriorated into turmoil. Gangs roam the streets terrorizing residents and blocking major roads. A notorious gang leader nicknamed Barbecue has blocked access to the port and it has become impossible to bring in fuel and food supplies. Schools have been unable to open*. There is a lack of liquidity in the banking industry making waiting lines long and withdrawing money difficult. Purchasing food is complicated—many stores are in dangerous areas and have irregular operating hours. Transportation costs due to the lack of fuel have raised the price of goods.

Into this dire situation come the loving hands of the Rescue One program. Our Haitian partners lead by Director Handelsona have analyzed the needs and set priorities. The most important goal is to keep the children fed. The Haitian team worked hard to organize a food distribution system.

Friends in the banking sector helped Handelsona with banking transactions. It then took her three days going from store to store in order to purchase the food. These meal kits included tablets that can be used to purify rain water since buying drinking water has become prohibitively expensive. The next step was getting the food to the children. The committee selected 3 churches that are in more secure neighborhoods. Beneficiaries of the other churches could come to these three sites to secure food bags for their students.

*At the time of this writing, some RO students have been able to take online classes, some schools have opened cautiously and most schools hope to start on November 21.

Parents and students could not stop expressing their gratitude. Their joy brought tears to the eyes of the committee. Even though this food distribution is not a sustainable, long term solution, it will serve to keep the children fed until regular programs can resume.

In addition to being hungry, the children are traumatized and depressed. They fear going to school. Handelsona and the committee members are trying to identify leaders, pastors and psychologists who can act as mentors and therapists to the children and young adults.

Our Haitian partners are encountering many difficulties and God has been alongside them guarding their steps. The US board applauds and supports their efforts to do whatever is best for the children in these extreme circumstances.

Food bags, created from bulk supplies, are attractive and ready to go.



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

An Invitation

Donors, we know that you carry Haiti and our RO and YEP students in your hearts. Would you be interested in joining our team as a board member? This requires a time commitment of a few hours a month. Board meetings are held via Zoom. If you or someone you know is interested, please respond to the address on this newsletter or email Nancy at nancygt@sbcglobal.net.

THANK
YOU

From a student at Summer Camp:

Today is my last night with you, I want to thank especially each leader, each child and our donors. I want you to know that I love you very much. When I am with you I feel joy. It was one of the best times I've had with you. I would have liked to spend more time with you, but the camp is over, unfortunately! I hope that next year we will spend more time together.

I will end by encouraging you to apply all the advice, the exhortations and the word of God that the leaders taught us. I want to tell you that you are in my heart and in my mind. I love you very much.



Prayer Corner

• Give thanks that our leaders in Haiti and especially Handelsona, our new director, are willing to risk their lives to make sure that the students are cared for.

• Give thanks that 3 RO students are graduating and will become part of the YEP program.

• Please ask that our students and Haitian partners will remain safe, that conditions will ease and that our program can once again function fully.

But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Romans 8:26 NLT

Meet Elaine

Elaine, now 14 and in the ninth grade, was recruited into the Bolosse Baptist Church program of Rescue One at age 8. Her mother died one month after her birth leaving behind 5 children. Elaine never knew her father who refused to have anything to do with her even though he lived nearby.

Elaine's aging grandmother took her to live with her in Grand'Anse, an isolated area of the countryside. One day an aunt of Elaine's arrived in the countryside and realized the dire situation that Elaine was living in. She chose to care for her and traveled with her to her home in Port-au-Prince. This aunt is a street vendor. Unfortunately, the bandits in the area stole all of her goods and she has been unable to earn a living. She has survived on donations from family, friends and churches. She, Elaine and Elaine's older sister lived together in the home of a friend.

This unmarried aunt, who is in poor health from diabetes and high blood pressure, could no longer afford to feed Elaine and her sister and they did not eat every day. As the chaos in Haiti worsened, the family could no longer rely on the help of friends. The neighborhood in which they live is dangerous and presents many challenges for young people. Eventually the sister ran off. Elaine is now totally dependent on the Rescue One program for her needs.

It is imperative that we keep young girls like Elaine in the program. Without the educational, social and nutritional support that we give her she would be unable to continue with school and would likely become pregnant and repeat the circle of poverty.



Rescue One pledges to do their best to support vulnerable young people like Elaine.

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 85 Haitian children. You may donate by PayPal on our website or 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. All contributions except for printing and mailing costs go directly to Haiti.