



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HAITIAN OUTREACH!

2017

### Dear Family and Friends:

#### Haitian Outreach had a stellar year!

Each year we are privileged to be able to educate so many children-And 2017 was no different. Getting a high school diploma in Haiti is everything for the future of this 3<sup>rd</sup> world country. With the knowledge of a good education, comes the confidence to achieve their dreams. We give children hope. We change their lives forever. We make them smile! So, we now look at the year in review....2017

1. We had 11 new sponsors join us in 2017 providing an education for children in our 6 schools.
2. We had many successful fundraisers. We raised \$2,000 from the dance in 2016; \$2,600 from two yard sales; \$23.26 from a Lemonade stand sponsored by several new youth volunteers; and \$326.00 from our UNO's night. The plan is to offset expenses for the after-school program at St. Marie, Port au Prince with these funds.
3. We collaborated with St. Bernard's 3rd grade in a fund raiser. They collected 27 full backpacks, 3 bags of food and 100 beanie babies! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
4. Two sisters from the Queen Mary Immaculate order at our schools visited us during the summer. They were overwhelmed with what we do for the children and the schools.
5. We still have 24 children who are in need of sponsorship. Donations provide us with the funding to keep these children in school and provide a backpack for them in March. We will see 309 students when we visit Haiti.
6. We manage Haitian Outreach in a building with no heat, water or bathroom. Our volunteers are a godsend, making great sacrifice considering the working conditions. Thus, we continue to search for kind souls who will allow us to manage our organization in a building in Fitchburg with significantly improved accommodations. We have explored a few options, but nothing has materialized. And when St. Bernard's on Water St. is sold, we may need to move. At this point we are grateful to be able to use the space on Water Street to collect and pack the backpacks and goods we send to Haiti. If you know of anyone who would be willing to help us, please contact us. THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH!
7. We had many new volunteers come to help us this year and we are grateful for the work and donations they brought to us.
8. We still have many new goods to be sorted and hope to have another yard sale in the spring. Thank you for your donations and support!
9. January is "Haitian Outreach" month at St. Bernard's at St. Camillus in Fitchburg. Donations will be collected for the 2018 school year.
10. We continue to look for a kind person to help us fix the roof at St. Marie and create a computer lab at one of our 6 schools. God will provide- in His time!
11. We purchased at cost 121 bins from Sterilite, Townsend, MA. We shipped 63 bins on September 1st, which have arrived safely in Haiti. Our second shipment was sent on November 10th of 58 bins. We spent a total of \$10,890.00 in shipping this year. We were able to send more goods due to monetary donations received throughout the year. THANK YOU!

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