



www.FreeTheKids.org



Free the Kids

HELPING HAITI'S CHILDREN

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Fr. Marc to Take Long Overdue Sabbatical

Fr. Marc Boisvert arrived in Haiti on January 1st 1998 and a great story of hope (Espwa) was underway. In his 15th year

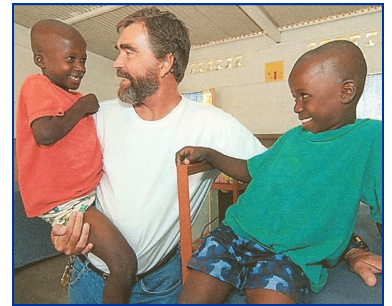


providing care and education to orphaned and abandoned children, it's time to take a long overdue and well-deserved break. Father Marc told us, "This is something I've been putting off for a number of years. But this past year, I felt that God has put it on my heart to spend more time getting as close as possible to Him. I'm going to re-commit to

my priesthood and to my ministries in Haiti. I plan to attend a Missionary Studies program in the U.S. to better understand ways to serve the poor. For almost 15 years I've been Papa to so many. Often I'm the one they come to for answers. I'm looking forward to being the one with the questions. I hope to gain a fresh perspective and a renewed promise to do God's work in Haiti. I plan to re-emerge from this sabbatical a spiritually stronger and wiser father and leader to my Espwa family."

Since this is a first for Fr. Marc, the staffs at Hope Village (Espwa) and Free the Kids were a little worried about what the absence of their patriarch/founder might mean. Fr. Marc assured us, "I have done a very good job of making myself dispensable. There are several

good people at Espwa who run things when I travel. They have proven their capabilities time and again." Fr. Marc will miss his regularly scheduled visits to see his



friends and supporters in the U.S. Initially there was some concern that this might hurt summer fundraising efforts. Fr. Marc had these words of wisdom for staff: "TRUST. I learned in Haiti that God will provide."

If you'd like to help with Fr. Marc's sabbatical expenses please call Jack Reynolds at (336) 272-9376. As always, you can donate online at www.FreeTheKids.org.

Carpentry Shop Makes Dining Room Chairs



The carpentry shop is busy at work making furniture for the long anticipated dining room. Elicnor, who is our supervising carpenter, is shown on the right testing one of our newly crafted dining room chairs. Our young woodworkers provide all of Espwa's carpentry and woodworking needs.





Beth days after surgery.



The Mutty's granddaughter, Carolyn, attended a recent clinic with her mom, Monique Mutty Brown, a kindergarten teacher



Dr. Danielle Mutty at Espwa Clinic

Medical Team Visits Espwa

Beth's Surgery a Success - Excellent Prognosis Thanks to Your Prayers

You may have learned about Beth from a story in our Fall newsletter. Beth is a three year old girl who came to us with a mass on her chest. Her mother called it



Medical Team in Action

“lupaume,” and explained that she has undergone several surgeries. We asked for prayers for Beth as there was a concern that this could be a malignant tumor. Last November, Dr. Michael Blood's medical team visited Espwa as a part of their ongoing clinic. Dr. Ike Okereke, who performed surgery on Beth, removed what



Fr. Marc with Beth at Kanaval

turned out to be a lipoma, which is a benign tumor. THANK YOU for your prayers. The Good Lord heard and answered them.

Husband Wife Doctor Team Serve Espwa Since 2003

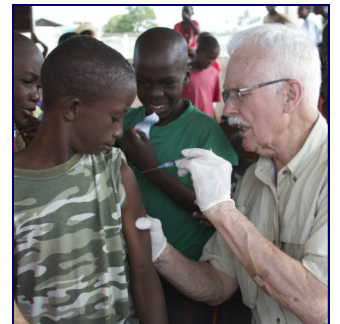
Drs. Larry and Danielle Mutty from Castine, Maine retired from their professional practices in 1999. “Larry was interested in medical missions,” explained Danielle, his wife of 52 years. This led to their participation in medical missions in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Ecuador. The Muttys, who are members of a parish once served by Fr. Marc, knew about Espwa. They decided to pay Fr. Marc a visit and see if they could help. “At that time, the children were mostly in La

Madonne,” recalled Danielle. “I remember thinking how small that place was for 250 children. Fr. Marc had recently acquired the farm land and

there were just two small huts on the property.” The Muttys have seen a tremendous amount of progress over their many trips to bring vaccines, cancer screening tests and medicines to Haitians. They bring a grandchild each time they travel to Haiti. All but one have made the trip. “We think it's a good experience for them.”

Danielle Mutty sings praises for the Pennsylvania vaccine manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur. “They have provided vaccines for every visit since 2006.” The Muttys' most recent trip in February brought 305 Meningococcal Meningitis vaccines to the children at Espwa. Danielle has also arranged for Dahl Chase Pathology in Bangor, Maine to provide diagnostic cancer

screening tests for the house mothers at Espwa. “These tests are not widely available in Haiti and Fr. Marc could never afford them. The clinic nurse, Rose, has been trained to do them and Dahl Chase reads the results free of charge. Several potential cancers have been detected and avoided with surgery.” Thanks to the Muttys for their dedication to the Espwa family.



Dr. Larry Mutty in February at Espwa.

Medical Clinic Construction Completed

Over the past several years, thousands have passed through the doors of *Klinik Espwa*, which opened in 2007 to serve the comprehensive



The Former Klinik Espwa

medical needs of the children in our care at Hope Village. Medical treatment is also offered to the students who attend our schools and to Espwa staff and their families. An outreach program provides much needed treatment to the hundreds of neighbors who live in the surrounding villages. These patients are asked to pay a small fee of 125 gourds, about the equivalent of \$2.50, though patients are never turned away if they cannot pay. The staff at *Klinik Espwa* consists of a Haitian physician, two registered nurses and some assistants. They treat an array of illnesses, conditions and diseases including pneumonia, intestinal parasites, infections, diabetes, and hypertension. Some of the more serious medical ailments include malaria and typhoid fever. And of course, there is a steady stream of resident children with lacerations and broken bones.

As you can see from the photo on the upper left, this small two room clinic is inadequate for the many medical services provided at Espwa. For this reason, we have spent several years raising funds and planning the construction of a larger, more functional clinic.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of Susan Midgett, the

Asante Foundation, the Gerard Health Foundation and Roy & Susie Dorrance, the construction of the new clinic is complete. Thanks to IMEC, the clinic should be fully outfitted and adequately supplied in time for the opening ceremony on Friday, June 15th.

The new clinic contains several exam rooms, a surgical suite, an infirmary

vision and dental treatment. Our new clinic will allow these visiting physicians to be more effective during their visits. For the first time ever, Espwa will have a permanent space to store our dental units for our semi annual dental clinics.

The new Klinik Espwa will provide improved services in the areas of medical prevention, care and treatment to our



The New Klinik Espwa

where children can stay overnight, and a space for public health education. There will be a radiology room for x-rays, a lab and a pharmacy.

Periodically, medical professionals visit and provide expert diagnosis and treatment in a variety of specialized areas. Visiting medical teams offer surgical,

children and those who rely on our outreach programs. The clinic's 24/7 operation will provide more efficient treatment and reduce hospital and ambulance expenses. We are thrilled about the many benefits this clinic will bring to our medical programs. Thanks to all who have made it possible.

IMEC Medical Supplies Enroute to Espwa

Last fall we had a tremendous matching opportunity through IMEC (International Medical Collaborative of America). For every \$10 you donated, IMEC matched it with \$90 in goods for our new clinic. The outpouring of generosity resulted in the speedy outfitting of the clinic. The medical equipment and supplies were loaded on the truck (pictured right) March 14th and are expected at Espwa prior to the clinic opening in June. Thanks to you and IMEC, the new Klinik Espwa will have the supplies and equipment necessary to provide improved medical treatment to the children and families of the Espwa Communities.



IMEC Medical Supplies

Fr. Marc is Recruiting an Army of Angels! Please Sponsor a Child at Hope Village



Anderson



Guerda

Please join Fr. Marc's Army of Angels and sponsor a child for \$30 a month. These kids desperately want to have hope in their future, but they need our help. Your commitment will provide an abandoned or orphaned child the loving care critical to his survival and an education crucial to his future.

Here's how it works:

To sponsor a child, go to www.FreeTheKids.org and click the "Army of Angels" graphic as seen on the left. There you can see photos and read stories about our children. Click the sponsorship link below the photo of the child you wish to sponsor. This will bring you to a donation form where you can securely set up your sponsorship with a credit card. Within the first month you will receive a personal letter from your child through email. And best of all, your child will feel loved a little bit more knowing that there is someone out there who is investing in his future through financial support and prayer. So please sponsor a child today. It's a rewarding way to help the impoverished children in Haiti.

Questions? Call (336) 272-9376

Thank You for helping us Free The Kids from poverty in Haiti. To Sponsor by phone, please call (336) 272-9376.
Free The Kids is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

YES! Please accept my monthly gift to sponsor a child at Hope Village.

I want to sponsor a: Boy Girl

Age: 5 - 8 yrs 9 - 12 yrs 13 - 17 yrs

Bill my credit card monthly as indicated below:

Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

- \$30 a month - Shelter
- \$30 a month - Food
- \$30 a month - Education
- \$30 a month - Medical Care
- \$30 a month - Clothing / Shoes

\$ _____ Total per month for my child

Sponsorship Form

Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

E-Mail Address _____

North Carolina Groups Help Modernize Rest Rooms for Children

Plans to update our children’s rest rooms from dry latrine style stations to modern septic flushable toilets were put on hold because of financial constraints this year. The “outhouse” type of restrooms are currently emptied



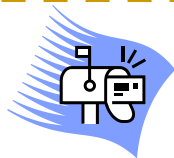
Foreground: Current Latrine Style Facility
Background: New Sustainable Facility

with buckets and have become inadequate for the children’s needs. In March, Max Kern of Oakridge Methodist Church and Gate City Rotary Club visited Espwa. His groups wanted to make a difference and indeed they did! We are grateful to them for all their help in raising the funds to complete the sustainable toilet project. The new rest-room building will have 6 standard size toilets and six mini-toilets for smaller tykes. The structure will also have 4 adult private toilets and a maintenance room. The new toilets are designed to last for many years. Now the children’s



New Restrooms Under Construction

village will have modern rest room facilities near their housing. This project is important as it improves sanitary conditions and will result in better hygiene.



Free the Kids Mail Bag



Dear Free the Kids,

I didn’t realize that companies will match gifts to Free the Kids for Project Espwa. I just submitted an application to my employer, and was surprised to see that your organization is eligible for matching gifts. I assume many other companies match their employer donations too.

Dear Carol,

Thanks for pointing out this often overlooked opportunity to increase your donations. Many corporations have matching gift programs. If yours does, you may be able to make your donation go twice as far! If your employer doesn’t, you can request that they consider making Free the Kids an eligible

non-profit in their employee matching program. You will need to give your employer the following information:

Free the Kids, Inc.
Tax ID # 22-3741436
2303 W. Market Street
Greensboro, NC 27403
(336) 272-9376

Thanks for your feedback, Carol!

Georgetown Fundraiser Planned for June 15

On March 24th in Cambridge, MA, Alexis Vanderhye and Veronica Keddy held a fundraiser at Le Cordon Bleu’s signature restaurant to benefit Free the Kids. Over 100 people gathered for a four course culinary treat complete with wine selected by the Cordon Bleu sommelier. Alexis, a grant writer, discovered our website while doing research about Haiti. “I was impressed because a donation to your organization has a magnified and immediate impact on the kids in

Haiti,” Alexis explained. “A donation to the children in Vilaj Espwa can go so much further than what that same amount can provide in services in the U.S.” They raffled artwork, Boston-



Co-Chairs Alexis & Veronica (2nd & 3rd from L)

Celtics and Red Sox tickets, gift cards to great restaurants and more to make this fundraiser a success. Their efforts resulted in a grand night on the town with fabulous food and fun for many and \$5,000 to benefit orphaned and abandoned children in Haiti. Alexis and Veronica are organizing another fundraiser in the D.C area at Georgetown’s restaurant George, on June 15. To learn more please email Alexis at alexis.vanderhye@gmail.com



Michallae



Espwa Guesthouse

The construction of the dome homes in the girls village was made possible through the generosity and efforts of Haiti Youth Relief Fund and Domes for the World

Espwa Students National Exams in July



All sixth graders in the country have to pass a national exam to continue on to secondary school. Our previous classes have fared very well. The students pile into pick ups for the trip to the city for three days of grueling exams at a cost of \$12,000 to Espwa. We wish our students success!!



Is a Visit to Fr. Marc's Orphanage on Your Bucket List?

Have you thought of visiting Pwojè Espwa? Have you encouraged a young person to become involved in a life-changing event? If so, you are invited to a week-long trip to Haiti. There is no bet-

ter way to inspire young people than a mission to visit the very poorest of the poor. The trip will be filled with laughter, wonderful friends and an experience that is guaranteed to absolutely change your life. Dee Orlowski, who has guided visitors to Project Hope

for more than 25 trips will be your escort. Cost for the week would be approximately \$1,400 depending on airfare. Please email dee@freethekids.org for more information. (The number of visitors is limited due to guesthouse space).

Dome Homes

April 2012 promises to be an exciting, hope-filled month for donors to Domes for the World. Andrew South, President of DFTW said that's when a significant shipment will be leaving for Haiti.

Thanks to the generosity and efforts of some wonderful organizations, a new girls' village is under construction. These dome houses are attrac-

tive because they are inexpensive to build and they stay cool in the warm weather. The new girls' village will consist of 7—20 foot dome houses and 2—32 foot domes; one for showers and modern toilets and the other for recreation.

The dome homes, known as EcoShells, are economical because they use less than 50% of the rebar and concrete as a rectangular building with the same square footage.

They also take less time to construct. EcoShells use readily available environmentally friendly materials so trees and other



Dome Home Construction

local, natural resources are conserved. Construction can be done by hiring local labor with very little special skills and or equipment. Thanks to Domes for the World and Haiti Youth Relief Fund, our dome village will be a wonderful place for the little ladies of Espwa.



Dome Homes in Various Stages of Construction

Espwa Kitchen & Dining Room Project



Espwa Cooking Facilities

“It never ceases to amaze me how the staff at Espwa can serve as many as 3,500 meals a day from such humble cooking quarters,” commented a visitor to Hope Village. “It’s like the miracle of the fishes and the loaves everyday!” Up until now the children have dined standing up in the arched building. But soon, thanks to a group of very generous people, we will finally have a kitchen and dining area adequate for the volume of meals served at Espwa.

This 13,000 square foot facility will be large enough for 800

children to eat at one time. One day, hopefully soon, every single child will be able to eat while seated in a chair. This will be a huge improvement.

The structure, which is the largest and most secure of its kind on the Espwa campus, will double as a meeting place for large groups. It was built to withstand natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. The building is located deep within the property for maximum



security. Fr. Marc will eventually-celebrate Mass there. It will also be used as a multi purpose hall. The

kitchen, which takes up about a quarter of the total space, is



Under Construction Nov. 2011

designed to increase efficiency. There is plenty of space for food preparers to work simultaneously. And the entire facility will stay dry in rainy weather. “It’s better all the way around,” explains Jack Reynolds, of Free the Kids. “The kitchen will be more sanitary, the food prep more efficient and the storage better protected from the elements. We will benefit by reducing waste.” Hopefully this project will be completed in August.

Sincere Thanks to the Espwa Benefactors who made the Kitchen & Dining Hall Possible:

The Thomas & Carol Cracchiolo Foundation

The Molly Hightower Memorial Fund

The Norman Dugas Family Foundation



Photo Left: Kitchen end view near well tower for water access

Photo Right: Side view of kitchen and dining hall. Water tower on the left end.





Julio

Meet Julio. His family is from Port au Prince. Julio and his siblings were home alone when a catastrophic earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 devastated Haiti. In the aftermath, there was no word on the whereabouts of Julio's parents. Their home was destroyed, they lost all their belongings and it seemed to Julio and his siblings that they lost their parents too. Some neighbors stepped in to help for a few days before an aunt sent for them and brought

them to Espwa. A few weeks later, Julio's parents were reunited with their children at Espwa. They are now attempting to rebuild the life they once had while their children remain in the care of Vilaj Espwa (Hope Village).

Now more than two years later, Julio is a very talented dancer and singer despite being one of the youngest on the Espwa dance team. Julio has graced Haiti's national television with his big, bright smile and fancy footwork.

To learn about our children, visit: <http://Children.FreeTheKids.org>.

Or visit www.FreeTheKids.org and click on the Army of Angels

