



Free the Kids

HELPING HAITI'S CHILDREN

www.FreeTheKids.org

Spring 2013

Mission & Vision



“Our mission is to help Haiti’s abandoned and vulnerable children by nurturing them so they will live more productive lives.”

“We look to a time in Haiti, when our nurtured orphans and vulnerable children rise and lead the Haitian people to live happy, productive lives beyond their hopes and dreams.”

Board & Key Staff



William Commer
Douglas Dittrick
William Haggerty, CPA
Robert Morris, Esq
Nelson J.Vogel, Esq.

Executive Director:
BenAbiles

Director of Operations:
Jack Reynolds

Contact Us



MAIN OFFICE
Free The Kids, Inc
2303 West Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403
Phone 336.272.9376

REGIONAL OFFICE WEST
25422 Trabuco Rd., Suite 105-362
Lake Forest, CA 92630
Phone 949.951.0943

EMAIL
Inquiries@FreeTheKids.org

MORE THAN A VILLAGE...



The Pwoje Espwa Girls' neighborhood will be comprised of nine monolithic dome houses (the first of their kind in Haiti!) encircling a central courtyard, only a short walk away from Hope

Village's cafeteria and school structures. These domes are designed to be sturdy and cost-effective, as well as resistant to high winds and earthquake damage - all of which make for a welcome addition to the Hope Village landscape. Providing housing for Espwa's forty girls, this neighborhood will be a place not only of rest and safety, but also of community and empowerment.

In Haiti, women are “poto mitan,” the pillars of society; however, this role is tragically unacknowledged in the daily realities of Haitian women, who are disproportionately vulnerable to social inequities, discrimination, and violence. Our Girls' Neighborhood aims to be part of a larger movement of Haitian Female Empowerment by raising its girls in a nurturing environment of sisterhood and self-confidence. Within this protected area, the Espwa girls – part of the next generation of educated Haitian women – will be invited to deepen their understanding of self, strengthen their bonds with one another, and embrace themselves as independent and precious human beings. This neighborhood will also provide an ideal environment for the girls to explore women's issues, such as legal rights, feminine hygiene, gender ethics, and female role models. Our Espwa Family is excited to embark upon this new direction in caring for our girls, and we wish to thank the donors who have allowed us to take the first steps.

However, the girls' housing is far from complete in terms of construction and programming, and we rely on your ongoing support and special generosity to develop this wonderful idea into a blessing for our kids.





DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Free the Kids is looking for a few good volunteers to represent our Army of Angels as Ambassadors throughout the US. Potential candidates must be knowledgeable about Pwoje Espwa Sud and our child sponsorship program. It is vital to have a strong desire and



dedication to bring hope and change into the lives of Haiti's orphaned and vulnerable children.

Angel Ambassadors will be assigned boys and girls from varied age groups with one sponsorship category per child in order to find prospective sponsors for these children.

There are many ways to recruit sponsors -- ask family and friends, set up a display at church, speak with clubs or groups. It is up to each Ambassador to find suitable networking opportunities. Materials, training and support will be provided by FTK staff.

For more details or to apply, please email Inquiries@FreeTheKids.org or call one of our offices.



MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

Witness the love of Christ in action. Follow His footsteps to hope. Visitors come to Pwoje Espwa's Guest House frequently. Would you like to be one of them? Planning ahead for your trip is essential.



General information:

Guests under the age of 18 must be accompanied by parent or designated adult guardian. We do NOT recommend that children under the age of 12 visit. Each visitor is responsible for his/her own expenses and round trip air transportation from their home to Port-au-Prince. You will be advised of preferred flight times to Port-au-Prince. All arrangements during your time in Haiti will be organized and scheduled for you. Room and Board at the Guest House is \$60 per day plus transportation cost between Port au Prince and Hope Village is \$350 per vehicle each way, divided by the number of passengers. All fees must be paid one month in advance of your visit.

In preparation for travel:

A valid passport is required. Chloroquine tablets are highly recommended as malaria prevention. Some immunizations may be suggested. We encourage you to have medical evacuation insurance.

Tentative itinerary:

Day one: Arrive in Fort Lauderdale

Day two: Arrive in Port-au-Prince, travel by van to Les Cayes

Days three, four, five: Participate in activities at Espwa

Day six: Drive to Port-au-Prince, spend the night.

Day seven: Home

Typical Day at Espwa:

- All times for activities are approximate. There will be "down-time", bring reading material or other projects that you enjoy. Especially in the heat of summer, time for rest is welcomed.
- Meals are served at 8 AM, noon and 6 PM. (Safe drinking water is always available in the Guest House.) Please be on time.
- Though we may try, daily activities cannot always be planned ahead in Haiti. Plans that are made while in the US may not always come to fruition once in Haiti. Situations change daily especially since there are so many children to organize. You are asked to please be flexible.

If you would like learn more, do not hesitate to contact Dee Orlowski by email at dee@freethekids.org or call 949-951-0943.



✓ **Yes, I want to help
Espwa's children!**

Thank You

TOOLS FOR LIFE: LEADERSHIP, LIFE SKILLS AND FAITH

How do I move from a community of care such as Pwoje Espwa Sud into the world beyond? What do I need to know in order to succeed in a country where poverty and unemployment are rampant? How will conflict and stress be managed in my life? These are the questions that Tools for Life, a pilot project developed by Pastor Lori Lampert, is addressing with a group of prospective young leaders.

In collaboration with Fr. Marc at Espwa's Hope Village, Pastor Lori is working with seven young men who have demonstrated a willingness and eagerness to learn and grow as leaders. Clarifying values and communication skills were the beginning topics this past fall as the group met 2-3 times a week. In February, the group continued to meet and build on those important topics.

These exceptional young men have dreams and plans. They hope to become doctors, businessmen, teachers. When asked how they will measure success, the answer is much more simple. One young man said, "being able to take care of myself and my family." Simple, important and necessary. These young men can lead the way.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ / _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please accept my gift of \$ _____.

Please charge my credit card _____ - _____ - _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____

____ Monthly ____ One-Time



Or
____ My check, made payable to "Free the Kids", is enclosed.

Please mail to:
Free the Kids, 2303 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403

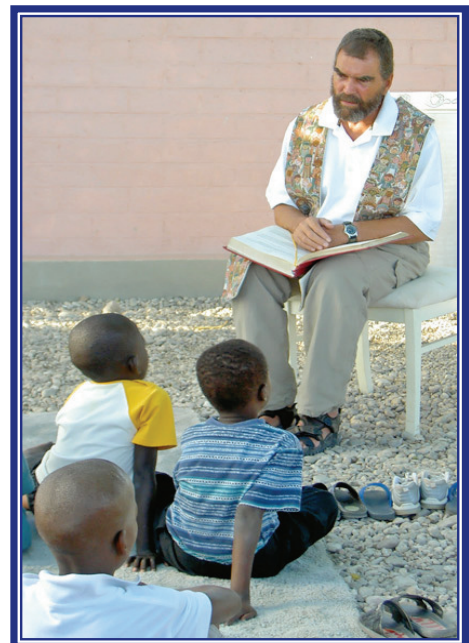
MESSAGE FROM FR. MARC

The beginning of 2013 marked our 15th anniversary. It has been an amazing journey of ups and downs and lessons learned. It has been a journey of faith from the very beginning and remains so today.

In moments of reflecting and reminiscing, what becomes clear is that our journey has been about people. The children who simply want to eat every day, those who seek to better themselves through education and desperate mothers who cannot provide for their families are our reason for existence. Our teachers, housemothers, bookkeepers, tradesmen and staff work tirelessly to offer a safe home, a nurturing family to these children. We are mindful of thoughtful benefactors who are far away, but who make our mission possible. Some visited, some heard about us or read about us and have become supporters. Our family prays for their families every morning, for their sacrifices and commitment in these difficult economic times.

We face ongoing challenges. Will the economy improve? Will our fundraising be successful so that we can provide for the children? Will new people join us in this endeavor? If the past has shown us anything, it is that our belief is warranted. The journey of faith continues.

Your generosity is appreciated. It is vital to us! May God bless you.



Free the Kids

2303 West Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403

Phedy Bonhomme is 16 years old. He has two older brothers, whom he did not see for many years. His family's poverty forced him to become a restavek, child slave, at the age of seven. He cooked meals, swept the yard, washed the clothes, and purchased the groceries, all for the promise of a blanket to sleep on and some porridge in his belly. Phedy began to shut down.

Meanwhile, his two older brothers, Gadlet and Guervens, were happily living at Pwoje Espwa's Hope Village. They went to school, learned to dance and play soccer, made friends, and fell asleep each night with full bellies. But thoughts of their youngest brother haunted their dreams, until one day they approached Fr. Marc. With tears in their eyes, they told the story of their brother, the child slave.

IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1. Go to www.FreeTheKids.org and click on "Army of Angels". You will find stories and photos of children who are waiting for someone who cares, someone who can bring dreams to life.
2. Choose the child you wish to sponsor and click on the link below the photo to bring you to the sponsorship form.
3. Fill out your personal information, including credit card number, to make a secure, tax-deductible donation. Within the first month, you will receive a letter from your child via email.

After negotiations with the family Phedy resided

with, Pwoje Espwa was able to obtain custody, and Phedy joined the Espwa family. It took some time, but he began to develop a sense of trust and a feeling of acceptance at Espwa. Now, five years later, Phedy attends secondary school and is one of the best hip-hop dancers on the Espwa campus.

Phedy is just one of many children Pwoje Espwa has saved from slavery. Because of donors like you, Pwoje Espwa continues to save and support children in need.

