



Free the Kids

HELPING HAITI'S CHILDREN

www.FreeTheKids.org

FALL 2012

Army of Angels Page 4



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Medical Clinic Answers Prayers 2
- Message From Father Marc 2
- Are You Getting Email Updates? 2
- A Home of Their Own 3
- Through My Eyes: A First-Time Visitor's Tour of Espwa 3
- Army of Angels 4
- Matching Opportunity 5
- Blessings for Food at Espwa 5
- Child Sponsor 6



Michaëlle

Twins Bring New Joy to Espwa

Six months ago, twins Sony and Sonice were born. Sadly the mom died due to complications from their birth. The father was left with ten other children and could not provide for the twins. After a home visit, the social worker was alarmed at the twins' condition and has been looking for outside help. We have agreed to care for the babies here until a long-term solution can be found.

Since we first introduced the twins to our Army of Angels supporters in July, we have

received an outpouring of support. And my, how the twins have grown! As they make the transition from



infants to toddlers, we are finding new challenges and new needs every day. "We were never designed as a place for infants" said Father

Marc. "When God leaves an angel, or in this case, two at your doorstep, you love, nurture and care for them as a member of the family."

"We simply don't have enough money to do the work we need to do at Espwa, but because we are doing what God wants us to do, we know the money will come."

If you would like to help Father Marc by support

ing Sony and Sonice and all the children at Espwa log on to freethekids.org or send a check to Free the Kids, 2303 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27403.

A Tropical Storm

Tropical Storm Sandy strengthened rapidly with the surrounding warm waters as it slammed the Southern coast of Haiti causing extensive damage. Espwa was not spared the storm nor the damage.

"Thank God no one was hurt!" said Ben Abiles, Executive Director of Free the Kids after receiving word from Deacon Peter Faford on the ground at Espwa. "The storm has

downed trees, power lines and caused flooding everywhere you look." said Deacon Faford.

If you would like to help in the clean up efforts, please log on to freethekids.org and make a donation today.

Damage and Flooding at Espwa from Tropical Storm Sandy





Learn how you can make a difference with our Medical Clinic at Freethekids.org



Father Marc Boisvert,
Founder

“Fundraising this year has been especially difficult. We find ourselves with a shortfall that is beginning to have impact on our mission.” Father Marc Boisvert

Medical Clinic Answers Prayers

We are most excited about our new and expanded clinic which opened in June, 2012. This facility was made possible by the support of many donors for which we are extremely grateful; this is an answer to prayers. The flexible design of the new clinic allows us to greatly enhance our services.

a larger area where we can do minor surgery, an infirmary where sick children can stay overnight, and an area devoted to public health education and dental treatment. Services have been enhanced with an X-ray room, a laboratory, and a pharmacy.

to our own residents, staff, villagers, and pediatric cases from the nearby birthing center.



New Infirmary offers overnight accommodations for children.

The new space offers multiple exam rooms and

This new building will help us keep up with our daily call to provide care

A Message From Father Marc

After I arrived in Haiti in 1998, it didn't take long for me to spend all my personal money and feel the need to do fundraising. Since then you have followed my mission here and I am blessed to have your support. But it seems like I need it now more than ever. The competition for your dollars is stiff – particularly in an election year.

Last month, CNN revealed that the Obama and Romney campaigns together had raised nearly \$1.5 billion. I can't even imagine what that much money would be like, much less what could be

done with it. All I know is that fundraising has become very difficult this year. So how are American non-profits supposed to compete?

Fundraising has been around for a very long time. Today's fundraisers are following in the footsteps of many biblical figures, including Jesus and Paul, who asked people for financial support. In 1st Corinthians 16:2, Paul used a donor appeal letter for systematic giving, very much like today's sustained giving programs. There's no shame in accepting donor

support; even Jesus and his disciples received donor support (Luke 8:1-3). How we can compete depends entirely on our mission. Jesus gave us our mission in Matthew 18:5 “And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me”. The result of following our mission well is when our supporters give us praise and thanksgiving and plentifully supply the need.

Give praise to God for His faithfulness.

Are You Getting Email Updates?

Email is a great way to keep in touch. We can communicate in a more timely manner and keep you in the loop about what's happening in Haiti.

To sign up for email updates, please visit: www.FreeTheKids.org and click on the blue email updates button at the bottom of the page. Be sure

to add our email to your address book:

Fr.Marc@FreeTheKids.org

This will prevent our emails from getting trapped in your spam folder.

A Home of Their Own: Girls at ESPWA

After the devastating earthquake in January of 2010, Espwa was faced with a number of overlapping crises due to our explosive growth in the days, weeks and months that followed. Children were finding their way to our doors every day begging for help, hope and a place to belong.

One of the incredible phenomena was how many brothers and sisters who had lost parents and extended family were finding each other amidst all the rubble and looking to us for help.

“We had always been an orphanage for boys and there had never been a thought of taking girls. When I met these brothers and sisters and

heard their stories, I knew that everything I had figured out about taking care of children was about to change. There was no way I could split these kids up after the horrific separation they had just endured,” said Father Marc.

That’s where you, our loyal friends and angels came in. We asked you to help us build temporary homes for girls and you said yes. And so they were built. Now our girls live in two spacious homes with modern indoor plumbing, electricity and even ceiling fans to help keep them cool in the heat of the summer.

As our numbers grew, we asked you

for homes unlike anything we’ve ever built on our campus: homes where girls could find their own sense of identity and grow to be amazing young women. Again you said yes. To that end we are nearly 50% complete with our dome neighborhood. A generous donor has pledged \$50,000.00 to finish the girls’ homes but only if you can match their gift. Won’t you please help give our girls?



Through My Eyes: A First-Time Visitor’s View of Espwa

Cameron and Jane Parker (Seen on Page 1 with the twins) visited Espwa on October 12th for the first time after hearing a call from God to help feed his hungry children. What follows are excerpts from their journal of the trip.

Upon arriving in Port-au-Prince for the first time, my husband and I were a bit overwhelmed and shocked by the extreme poverty, the tent cities built everywhere amidst the rubble and the rivers of trash that seemed to flow endlessly. As we drove south we relaxed a bit, as much as possible during this 5 hour death-defying drive, and took in the many sights of the busy life of the Haitian people. The roads were filled with tap-taps carrying loads of people, charcoal, sugar cane and whatever else they could pile on, motorcycles carrying up to 4 passengers at a time, street savvy goats and dogs, women, children, and men alongside their market stands selling their goods and children walking together and alone alongside the fast roads. The beautiful glimpses of the ocean with farmlands in the foreground seemed an oasis compared to the extreme poverty all around.



As we neared Espwa life seemed to slow, if only temporarily, and the traffic subsided as we drove down a bumpy dirt road lined with small huts and beautiful fields lined with palms, banana trees and rice paddies. As we drove into the village we noticed right away Espwa was full of activity. The goats strolled in the grass, the cows were tied all about, the older boys greeted us with smiles and nods, we could hear the fun being had by children in the boys’ section and the women were busy cooking on their outdoor charcoal stoves in the 98 degree heat. There was an intense game of soccer going on with boys of all ages; they were using a soccer ball they had constructed out of bits of trash wrapped tightly together until they had a ball. Amazing!!

These children remind me of my favorite verse, “But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends its roots out by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17: 7-8.” The children at Espwa are like this tree, maybe they are one of these big mango trees that have a broad canopy and deep roots. Being orphans they seem to have gone through a major drought but they have not failed to bear fruit-they smile at passersby, they sing songs and dance, they play games and in their smiles and in their prayers, you hear what they hold onto--HOPE. Help keep this HOPE alive.

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



Lunice



Evencia

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 toll free (888) 684-3543

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 _____ Expire _____

Signature _____

E-Mail Address _____

Your \$100 Becomes \$500 If You Donate Now!

After a successful campaign to help with supplies and equipment for our new medical clinic, IMEC (Int'l Medical Equipment Corp) has once again stepped up to the plate to help outfit our new kitchen and dining hall. IMEC will provide \$500 worth of goods for every \$100 donated to outfit the kitchen with stoves, refrigerators and the dining area with tables, chairs and more.

To take advantage of this matching offer, please visit:

www.FreeTheKids.org/400Match

If you prefer, please mail a check to:

Free the Kids, Inc.
2303 West Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Questions? Call Jack Reynolds
Director of Operations
(888) 684-3543

Q. How is Free the Kids connected to Pwoje Espwa Sud?

A. Free the Kids, Inc. is the 501-c-3 org. which exists solely to support Pwoje Espwa Sud with fundraising and administrative responsibilities. PES's Hope Village is home to many orphaned and vulnerable children in southern Haiti. These children receive shelter, nutritious meals, basic medical and dental care plus education or vocational training.

Free the Kids F.A.Q.



Q. Can I get a DVD of the video on the website?

A. You can get copies of our video on DVD or any of our brochures, fliers, folders, cards or any other information. Just email Jack Reynolds, Director of Operations at :

Jack.Reynolds@freethekids.org

Blessing to All Who Send Meals to Espwa

Our new dietitian, Willetta Lexima, has been working with the kitchen staff to improve the nutritional health of our children. The kids receive substantial servings of healthy food loaded with vegetables, meat and dairy. This is made possible through relationships with several U.S. and Canadian based organizations who provide dried, pre-packaged

food to the children of Espwa. Our sincerest thanks go out to Feed My Starving Children, Kids Against Hunger, Stop Hunger Now, Canadian Food For Children and Cross International for all of their food donations this past year. The challenge, as always, is to find the funding to ship the food to Espwa. The average food

shipment can cost up to \$10,000 dollars U.S. to get to our kids.

Healthy meals are so important to the growth of our children. Please log on to the website now and make a donation to help ensure our kids can continue to get the healthy food they so deserve.

www.FreeTheKids.org



Delsana



Delsana is a Pwoje Espwa child. When she first came to Espwa, she was very shy and didn't speak much. Her family was unable to care for her, and out of love, brought her to Espwa where she would receive an education and care. Delsana withdrew because she missed her family and was unsure of the support she would receive. After only a short time, Delsana began to open up.

She blossomed in her schooling, and began to love jumping rope with her friends. Now, three years after joining the Pwoje Espwa family, Delsana is thriving. She lives in the pre-teen house and helps care for the infants alongside six other girls and housemothers. She loves to color, paint her nails, and attend school. Because of the love and comfort at Pwoje Espwa, Delsana now has goals and attainable dreams.

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

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

