



The Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti

Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives since 1981

March 2023

My Dear Friends,

It is again my pleasure to provide a brief update from Haiti, and to thank you for your prayers and support. ***I hope you realize how much we value the many ways you stand with us.***

The extreme violence and insecurity continues in Haiti. Gangs control virtually all of Port au Prince. There are multiple murders and kidnappings every day. One day last week there were 80 kidnappings in a 48 hour period.

With everyone being a potential target, most of the population does not leave their home.

I took a chance to visit Hope Hospital and the Children's Village last Wednesday, but I had to return home after a few hours. Although it was a short visit, I was happy to have a little time with the kids at the Village.

A few days ago, a major battle between gangs and the police broke out in my neighbourhood. The gunshots felt like they were at my door. Thank God, we were not touched.

We thank God that the neighbourhood around the hospital and the Village remains rather calm. This is a gift from God. We continue to count on your prayers for His protection.

In addition to the violence, the gangs have another huge negative impact on everyone in Haiti. By blocking several major roads with a "passing tax", the gangs make it almost impossible for goods to get in and out of Port-Au-Prince. Merchandise transporters are often kidnapped and, when the driver is released, the gangs keep the trucks and everything in them. This creates continual shortages and significantly increases the cost of all basic items. Although we do everything we can to fight against inflation and shortages, this situation severely limits our purchasing possibilities, and things continue to worsen.

Through all this, the Foundation for the Children of Haiti has remained strong and positive. It is all by the grace of God that we feel this way. As in years past, He has never abandoned us in our efforts to bring relief to everyone we serve in our various projects.

We are so grateful to our friends, sponsors, prayer partners, and staff for making FCH a beacon of hope during these desperate times in Haiti.

Our eyes are on the Lord. We pray, we trust, and we hope. We are convinced that tomorrow will be a better day.

With love and gratitude,

Gladys





FCH Staff... Making a Difference in the Midst of Turmoil

Despite the dangers and monumental challenges facing Haiti, all the Foundation's activities continue to operate, through the grace of God and the dedication of the staff. FEH employs over 250 people; all are Haitians, committed to their country and the welfare of those they care for.

FCH feeds over 250 people every day through its programs. The hospital cares for around 150 patients per day. Maintaining these activities in the face of the extreme challenges of the last 3 - 4 years has required amazing skill, persistence, and commitment by FCH employees.

In the current environment, just getting to and from work is a risky venture. Even on days when streets are blocked or gas is not available, essential staff have made their way to work. Where possible, jobs are done remotely due to the risk of traveling within Port au Prince.

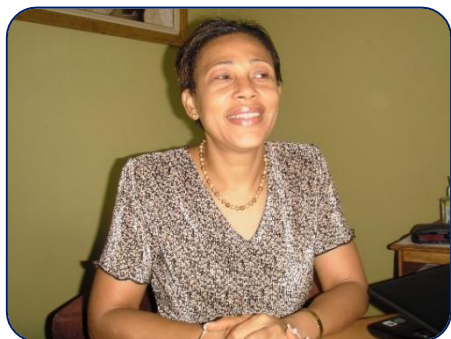
The burden borne by Gladys and her staff is particularly great when thinking about the safety and health of the children at the Village and the patients at Hope Hospital.

Along with the security risks, inflation has added a huge amount of pressure, as employees cope with expenses that have tripled over the past year.

Although even routine daily activities require careful planning, vigilance, and creativity, FCH staff have been able to keep things as normal as possible for the children at the Village and patients at Hope Hospital.

Gladys says, *"Because of what we face with the situation in Haiti, we have all learned to trust God's words and promises even more."*

The staff in Haiti thanks all our friends across Canada for their faithful prayers and generous support.



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Gousse, Medical Director Hope Hospital; Duvina, House Mom Hope Home; Marie Nicka, Psychologist Children's Village; Nurses, Hope Hospital; Teachers, Village School.



Children's Village – A place of refuge

The Children's Village is a place of refuge for the children and staff.

Leaving the grounds can be risky so House Moms only leave once a week to go to the market for fresh produce when it is available.

The Village is home to 89 children: 67 at Rainbow of Love (our residence for children from toddlers to 18 years old) and 22 at Hope Home (our residence for children and adults living with disabilities).

Children living at Rainbow of Love attend the elementary and middle school at the Village until grade 8, then they attend a nearby high school. 145 children from the community attend the Village school as families seek to keep their children in a school nearer their homes.

Several Hope Home residents attend the Special Education class at the Village school, along with some neighbourhood children with special needs.

All Rainbow of Love students passed their end of year exams despite all the instability over the past few years.

Some of the Rainbow of Love teenage girls have been attending an outstanding dance school in the neighbourhood, assisting with mental health and confidence.

Even with the increase in food costs, through the grace of God and the resourcefulness of the Village staff, the children have been adequately fed.

This past year, on top of all the distress caused by the insecurity in Port au Prince, the staff and children at the Village grieved the loss of two Hope Home residents and Mommy Oversie, a longstanding house mother and all-around pillar of hope.



Lunchtime at Rainbow of Love



Rainbow of Love girls' dance performance

*The area around the Hospital and the Village remains calm.
We are praying the gangs do not take over, as they have done so many other communities.
We ask that everyone keeps Haiti in prayer.
- Gladys -*



March 2023

More news on how FCH is making a difference during challenging times

- ✓ Enrollment at C-Tech, FCH's post secondary training institute, is up to 95 students. Thirty-seven of the students are from outside the Mussotte area, so the C-Tech dorms are full. Part of the dorm building is currently being used as a lab. A new classroom is being built to accommodate the lab, which will increase dorm space.
- ✓ Hope Hospital is purchasing four new incubators, a sterilizer, and two new dialysis machines. The hospital is also completing a new wing. The new equipment and building expansion are needed to keep up with demand for healthcare as several local hospitals have closed due to the turmoil in Port au Prince.
- ✓ FCH is investing in a "Comfort Project" at Hope Home. The focus is on providing better equipment for residents to increase their comfort as they grow and / or their condition becomes more complex. New items include back boards and enhanced, customized support for each resident's wheelchair and bed.

Key Challenges

- **Personal safety** is the main concern in Port au Prince. Please pray that something will occur to break the power of the gangs and restore order.
- **Inflation remains very high**, made worse by gang-driven supply interruptions. In addition, security and customs problems have cut international food supplement programs. The price of some essential food products has increased by 3 – 4 times over the past year. For instance, a tanker of water that used to cost 4,000 Haitian gourdes now costs 15,000 gourdes. (With \$1 US worth around 155 Haitian gourdes, the cost of a tanker of water has gone from about \$25 US to almost \$100 US.)



Thank you to our friends for your concern, prayers and support for the amazing work of the Foundation for the Children of Haiti.

We couldn't do it without you !!