



# The Foundation for the Children of Haiti

*Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives since 1981*

October 2024

My Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to again write and thank you for your prayers and support. We thank God for providing friends to stand with us in this work.

Violence, kidnapping and insecurity remain everywhere in Haiti, despite the arrival of a force of 400 Kenyan police in June. Lately violent gang activity has spread to rural areas outside Port au Prince.

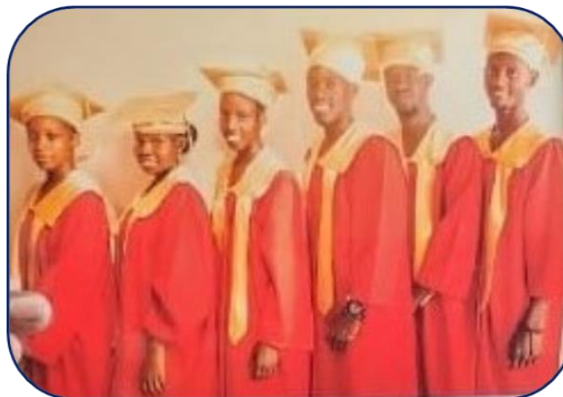
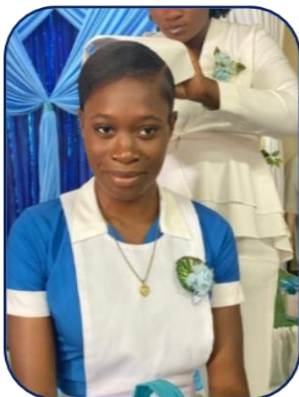
Despite the extreme challenges these troubles present, we are grateful for how we see God at work:

- All activities continue to operate despite the crippling cost of everything, thanks to your generosity.
- We do everything we can to keep life as normal as possible for the children at Rainbow of Love, the residents at Hope Home, and the children attending our schools.
- Last June, six of our Rainbow of Love teens graduated from high school. These young people had summer jobs at Hope Hospital helping clean the new building. This fall, one grad is studying to become a teacher, and the others are considering enrolling in one of the programs at C-Tech.
- In July we held a “capping” ceremony at C-Tech for twenty-two nurses who completed their program, which is always a happy and hopeful occasion.
- Hope Hospital is extremely busy, and we thank God that we have been able to remain open while many other hospitals and clinics have closed.
- The elementary and middle school at the Children’s Village and the post-secondary programs at C-Tech have started new school years. Enrollment at the Village elementary school increased from 174 last year to 260 this year. Due to the extremely high cost of the private high schools in our area, we have added adding a high school program at the Village, with 11 of our teens attending.
- Although gangs still control most of Port au Prince, the streets in the neighbourhood where I live have been quieter lately, and the area around Hope Hospital and Children’s Village remains calm. I have been traveling back and forth to work with a bit less stress, but still have to be very careful.

We continue to trust God and are grateful for His protection and provision.

***We can’t thank you enough for all the ways you help us bring love and hope to Haiti.***

With love, *Gladys*



Left: Nursing grad at capping ceremony. Center: 6 high school grads.

Right: Gladys and high school grad.



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### ***Priority #1 – Keeping up with extremely high and increasing food costs***

The key financial priority is having sufficient funds available to purchase food for the children living at the Rainbow of Love and Hope Home, and the children attending the Foundation’s schools. The disruptions created by gang control has resulted in extremely high cost for daily necessities.

The increased enrollment of neighbourhood children at the Village school over the past 2 years is good news (more children getting a good education) but it increases the cost of the daily lunch each children receives... especially in a time of extreme prices and shortages.

FCH also has a lunch program for the children attending the day school in Mussotte.

***Your ongoing support in helping the FCH deal with the high cost of food is appreciated.***



Currently there are 260 students enrolled at the Village school, and 260 at the Mussotte school (520 children in total.)

The lunch program costs about \$25 US per student per month, for a total cost at the two schools of \$13,000 US per month.

### ***Helping finish the new wing at Hope Hospital***

Finishing is underway at the new wing of the hospital; painting, flooring, doors, lighting, etc.

One of the finishing items for the new wing at Hope Hospital is to purchase lifts for transporting patients between floors.

As shown in the picture to the right, these are relatively simple elevators. One will have a platform 88” by 44” with a 1,000 lb capacity, and the other will have a 60” x 44” platform and a 500 lb capacity.

Cost of the two lifts will be \$8,500 US (equivalent to \$12,000 Cdn).

***If you would like to contribute to this project, please include a note with your donation that it is for the “Hospital Lift Program”.***



### ***Foundation for the Children of Haiti Ministries***

Children’s Village: Rainbow of Love Children’s residence, Hope Home, Elementary & Middle School. Hope Hospital. Mussotte Elementary School. C-Tech Post-Secondary Training Institute.



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## ***What We Have Built Together***

Running a ministry like The Foundation for the Children of Haiti is an incredibly complicated balancing act. On an ongoing basis decisions must be made on how to allocate scarce financial resources between:

- daily expenses for childcare (food, clothing, house mothers' salaries);
- maintenance of safe, clean, functional residences and schools;
- equipment to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of activities;
- prudent pursuit of opportunities to expand activities to meet critical needs the community.

These decisions are made without the assurance of fixed sources of funding, in an extremely challenging environment (poverty, unrest, instability, and frequent natural disasters).

While most of us know how hard it can be to work within a family budget when we know how much our next pay cheque will be, the challenges facing FCH are hard to imagine. Especially considering that the FCH "family" consists of a residence for 72 children, a home for 21 people with disabilities, two elementary schools, middle school, high school, post-secondary training institute, and a general hospital; all run by a staff of 250 Haitians.

We are amazed at the competence, faith, and wisdom of the Haitians who have so capably run FCH for the past 43 years.

***We are also amazed and grateful for our friends across Canada who have stood with us over the years, faithfully and generously providing the financial support and prayers that have sustained this amazing organization.***

***We can't thank you enough for helping Gladys and her team make an incredible difference in Haiti.***

## ***Haiti Security Situation***

The situation in Haiti remains dire, despite the arrival in June of a force of 400 Kenyan policemen. The initial plan was to have an international force of 2,500 officers, however, to date the additional deployment has not occurred.

While there was some reduction in gang violence in the first months after the force arrived, over the past month gang violence has increased with two attacks on small towns north of Port au Prince:

***"Gunmen invaded a town north of Haiti's capital on Thursday, shooting at people and setting homes on fire in Arcahai, just a week after a massacre killed at least 115 people in nearby Pont-Sondé."*** (Associated Press, October 10, 2024)

In addition to the fear of violence, the gang control of Port au Prince and the main highways to the north and south of the country continues to severely disrupt normal supply lines, resulting in widespread shortages and exorbitant prices for daily necessities.

***"Haiti is battling a worsening gang conflict that is exacerbating catastrophic shortages in food and medical supplies. Over 700,000 people have fled their homes and over 5 million are going hungry - nearly half the population."*** (Reuters, October 10, 2024)

Please pray for Haiti.



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## ***Update on the Children's Village***

- ✓ Rainbow of Love residence is home to 72 children (toddlers to 17 years old).
- ✓ Twenty-one people live at Hope Home: 17 permanent residents and 4 neighbourhood children with special needs who are at Hope Home part time to attend the elementary school and provide respite for their parents.
- ✓ The elementary and middle school has 260 students including children living at Rainbow of Love, several Hope Home residents attending the special education program, and about 180 children from the neighbourhood.
- ✓ Three students who previously attended the special education program are now part of the regular school program.
- ✓ Six students graduated from high school in June. For the fall, one will begin studies to become a teacher, the others are considering programs at C-Tech.
- ✓ Due to the high cost of high school at the private school in the neighbourhood, FCH started a high school program at the Village, beginning with 10-12 students entering high school.



## ***Update on Mussotte Elementary School***

- The school year began in September with 260 students from the neighborhood attending.
- The expansion of the annex is finished, providing much needed new space for students.



Mussotte Elementary. The expanded annex is on the left.



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## ***Update on Hope Hospital***

- Hope Hospital remains extremely busy because many medical facilities in Port au Prince have closed due to a lack of public electricity and severe shortages of medical supplies. Over the past 4 years Hope Hospital has installed a solar power system that provides the hospital's electricity needs, allowing it to maintain its operations.
- Finishing work is ongoing for a new wing at the hospital. A significant amount of furniture and equipment for the new space has been purchased.
- Hope Hospital is one of only 2 or 3 medical facilities in Haiti that offer kidney dialysis treatment. ***Thanks to the generosity of CFCH donors, 3 new dialysis machines will be purchased to replace existing machines that are past their useful life.*** This means that the hospital will not have to rely on expensive rental machines to provide this live saving service to patients.



Solar panels on roof of Hope Hospital. FCH's investment in solar power at the hospital (funded by CFCH supporters) has allowed the hospital to sustain operations. The new wing is at top right of the photo.

## ***Update on C-Tech***

- In July, a "capping" ceremony was held for 22 nursing school graduates.
- The nursing and electronics programs continue, and C-Tech is planning new programs: Teacher training, Agronomy, Medical laboratory; Secretarial/accounting/bookkeeping).
- Fifty-three students live in the dorms at C-Tech
- Last year one of the Rainbow of Love high school grads enrolled in C-Tech for the 2023 / 2024 term and will continue his studies this year.

## ***Hope Home House Mom's Jewelry Project***

A few years ago several of the Hope Home House Mom's made jewelry which was sold to CFCH supporters. Earlier this year some unsold jewelry was discovered and sold. Funds were sent to FCH and distributed to the Mom's.



Hope Home House Moms receive funds from CFCH sale of their hand made jewelry.



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## ***Moving Forward***

Despite the extreme challenges in Haiti over the past 4-5 years – in addition to maintaining all of its activities – the Foundation has been able to take several steps to make its operations more efficient and sustainable: Solar power at Hope Hospital, adding middle school classes to the Village school to avoid the high cost of off-site private schools, enlarging an annex at Mussotte school to handle increase enrollment. ***Thank you for your support in making this possible !***

Here are some projects “on the drawing board” that will further enhance services and efficiency:

- ***Water Reservoirs for Hope Hospital and the Children’s Village***

The wells at the hospital and Children’s Village cannot provide all the water required during dry periods that are more common occurrences recently. When well production falls short of requirements, water is trucked to the sites, which is very expensive. During times of disruption deliveries may not be available. The reservoirs will store water when the well is producing, and rainwater that has been run through filtering systems that produces drinkable water.

- ***Upgrade solar power capacity at the Children’s Village.***

- With the addition of the middle school and high school, along with increased enrollment of neighbourhood children, power requirements exceed the capacity of the current system.

- ***Oxygen Generator for Hope Hospital***

- The hospital currently purchases tanks of compressed oxygen, which are expensive. Also, supplies can be interrupted by gang activity, putting patients at risk.

- Having the ability to fill tanks will reduce costs and assure adequate oxygen supplies.



C-tech Nursing Grads



Special Ed Class



Cynthia



Jesse at Hope Home



C-Tech students installing solar panels