



Newsletter of The Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti  
*Vision Illimitee*  
*Changing minds, changing hearts, changing lives... since 1981*  
November 2020

My Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to thank you for your faithful support, and provide an update on our activities.

We entered 2020 with a continuation of the political unrest and violence that has plagued Haiti since mid-2018. The ongoing disruptions have had a severe economic impact, creating shortages and sky-rocketing prices for all daily necessities, and robbing millions of their meagre sources of income.

The economic situation was worsened by lock-downs implemented mid-year in response to covid. Thankfully, from a medical perspective the impact of the virus has not been severe to this point. However, in Haiti (as with other poor nations) we know the truth of the World Health Organization's recent warning: "Lockdowns have one consequence that you must never, ever belittle, and that is making poor people an awful lot poorer."

Despite the ongoing challenges, we thank God every day that we have been able to keep our children's homes, schools, and hospital operating, and our children and staff have been safe and healthy despite the turmoil. We consider it a privilege to serve God by serving others.

Your support has greatly encouraged us. Your prayers and financial gifts mean more than we can say, as they allow us to make a profound difference in the lives we touch.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership with us in this great work.

We wish you every blessing in the coming year, trusting in God's provision to bring us all through these challenging times.

With love and gratitude,

*Gladys*



*"We consider it an honour to serve God by serving others."*

### ***FCH Celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2021***

The Foundation for the Children of Haiti was established in 1981, when Gladys Thomas took over management of a small, struggling children's home in Port au Prince.

As we prepare to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, it is humbling to reflect on how God has allowed FCH to grow and touch the lives of so many Haitians in such a profound way.

As an all-Haitian organization – founded, directed and staffed by Haitians – FCH has been able to make a unique difference in communities it serves.

We are grateful for the wonderful partnership that has developed between FCH's dedicated Haitian staff and our faithful friends in Canada who have been our partners in this miracle of bringing hope and changing lives in Haiti over the past 4 decades.



## Foundation for the Children of Haiti at a Glance

Ministry	Overview
<b>Children's Village</b> 1. Rainbow of Love 2. Hope Home 3. Elementary School	1. Home to 75 children, from toddlers to late teens 2. Home to 23 residents with complex disabilities 3. 138 students including 17 in a Special Education program
Children's Village Staff	49 workers at the Village: 1 Supervisor, 14 House Moms, 3 Cooks, 5 Laundry, 3 Support, 4 Hope Home therapists, 19 Teachers & Support Staff at the school.
Mussotte Elementary School	260 students, 10 teachers
C-Tech	Post-secondary technical training institute (Nursing & IT programs) 75 students, 24 staff
Hope Hospital	Surgery, OBGYN, neonatal ICU, ICU, dialysis, emerg, pediatrics, general medicine, lab, pharmacy, radiology, dermatology, urology, ENT, ophthalmology, outpatient & inpatient services. 22,000 patient visits in 2020; 177 staff

### A quick look into FCH's activities during 2020

Despite the challenges, the Foundation has accomplished a great deal during the year:

- ✓ Most Hope Home residents are bed ridden or wheelchair-bound as they live with profound disabilities. Despite their limitations, all residents are integrated into the day-to-day life at the Village, and they welcome everyone with a smile and excitement. The Hope Home family is blessed with beautiful staff members that care for each resident as their own child.
- ✓ Many children at Rainbow of Love are from families with surviving relatives. While these adult family members are not able to provide for day-to-day needs of the children, FCH believes that it is in the best interest of the children and their relatives to have some form of ongoing relationship. FCH has established a program to locate family members and encourage meaningful interaction with the children. The children and adult family members benefit through this ongoing contact and support. Ultimately, family relationships will allow for more successful reintegration when children finish high school. Currently about 30% of the children at RoL are in some way connected with adult family members.
- ✓ C-Tech enrollment consists of 56 students in Nursing Sciences and 19 in the Electronics, Computer Programming and Networking program. 22 students from out of town live in the C-Tech dormitories.
- ✓ FCH only has an elementary school at the Children's Village, so 28 teenage children living at Rainbow of Love attend a high school in Port au Prince.





### ***A quick look into FCH's activities during 2020 (continued)***

- ✓ Hope Hospital's dialysis clinic doubled the number of patients receiving treatment from about 1,500 sessions in 2019 to over 3,000 during 2020. FCH was able to purchase 3 additional dialysis machines to accommodate the increased demand for treatment.
- ✓ In addition to the 98 children living in our residences, 473 students in our schools, and 22,000 Haitians receiving healthcare at Hope Hospital, FCH has a major impact on our community by providing employment for 260 Haitians. This means that 260 families are spared the uncertainty and hardship associated with the lack of stable income.
- ✓ During 2020, FCH provided food hampers to families of children attending the elementary school in Mussotte. This community was severely impacted by food shortages due to COVID restrictions and drought conditions in the area. Thanks to the generosity of CFCH supporters, food supplements were delivered in June, July, August, and November.
- ✓ Haiti's public electric power system is extremely unreliable, to the point that Hope Hospital and the Children's Village were almost 100% reliant on generators, which are a very costly alternative. Due to the overuse of the generators they are often out of service, and diesel fuel is frequently unavailable and – when it is – it is extremely expensive. The situation has become so desperate that FCH was forced to begin a transition to solar power. 12 solar panels were installed at the Children's Village to provide much of the power needed, although more capacity is required for the school. In September, Hope Hospital commenced work on a solar system that will provide about half of the hospital's power requirements. Up front costs are high, and FCH is seeking funding to cover this important initiative.



### ***Thank You !!***

Many thanks to all our friends for your faithful and generous support.

Your gifts and prayers make an immeasurable difference in the lives of the people in Haiti who are touched by the ministry of FCH. This would not be possible without your partnership with us.

The staff in Haiti are also greatly encouraged, knowing that you stand with them, sharing their commitment to making a difference in Haiti.

We wish you and your families every blessing in the coming year.



### Hope Home Work Team Update

The term lock down was being used in Haiti long before Covid 19, not for medical reasons but rather to reflect the frequent disruptions and curfews implemented in response to the serious political crisis that began in mid-2018.

For CFCH, the turmoil in Haiti meant delivering supplies to Hope Home before last Christmas was not able to happen. In January 2020 a window opened up and Judith Armstrong was able to head to Haiti. It then seemed hopeful that the small work team planned for March 21st, would be able to proceed, but at the end of “packing day” on March 14th Canadian Foreign Affairs issued an advisory to Canadians against any non-essential travel outside of Canada due to the Coronavirus.

A special thanks to all sponsors who carefully continue to choose gifts that contribute to the quality of life for the young person they support, and much gratitude to the faithful group of packers who came on March 14th to sort and pack supplies and gifts for Hope Home.

We also thank the many other donors who contributed to the 450 lbs. of items that were packed. For those of us who have been at Hope Home when each 50 lb garbage can\* arrives, we know that it means more to the staff and residents than just the items themselves, but the sense that others are remembering and supporting them. (\* Plastic garbage cans are the best way to ship supplies !)

Currently the supplies are still waiting to go; either when the next individual or team trips are able to travel, or if in the interim a way is found to ship them to Haiti.



Bethshaina



Jesse



Christina

*Three Hope Home Residents at the belated Christmas party and gift distribution in January 2020: Bethshaina with her new clothes, Jesse with her drawing tablet, and Christina with her play-foam gift case... all courtesy of our wonderful Hope Home sponsors !*

### FCH Wish List

If you are able to help, here are some funding priorities for the coming year:

- With the extremely high cost of day-to-day necessities, a donation for general operating expenses is always welcome.
- Support for the C-Tech scholarship fund, to assist students in obtaining employment-focused training to allow them to fill positions required in Haiti.
- Support for the transition to solar power. (A solar panel would be a nice gift for FCH... yours for only \$195 US / \$270 Canadian.)