



H.E.R.O.

HOUSING EDUCATION *and*
REHABILITATION *of* ORPHANS

www.haitihero.org

888-315-HERO

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WE HAVE LAND!

H.E.R.O.'s search for the perfect plot of land to construct a 24 bed residence for orphans has been filled with hills and valleys. At the outset, Natacha Constant, the H.E.R.O. Vice-President generously offered a free piece of land near Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. After the earthquake, however, the land began to be utilized by individuals and families that had lost their homes, resulting in a lost opportunity for H.E.R.O., but a blessing for thousands of people in need. A second piece of land became available in the province of Nippes, a larger piece of land, but this also fell through due to issues with flooding on the property. Finally, as a result of the generosity of Sandra and Kerby Albert, H.E.R.O. was donated a 2500 square meter piece of paradise in the town of Maniche, near the city of Les Cayes. Sandra and Kerby want H.E.R.O. to use this land to build a residence for orphans that can help children across the country. The documents are signed and registered, and now we are finally ready to begin the process of design and construction! We will keep you informed every step of the way as we continue our mission to serve the orphans and street children of Haiti.



THE H.E.R.O. ANNUAL FUND

This July, H.E.R.O. launched our first annual campaign to raise support for the H.E.R.O. Annual Fund. We must begin by expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible generosity of our donors. In spite of difficult economic times, we are continually blessed by individuals who make sacrifices in their own lives in order to provide an education and a future for children in need. The response was remarkable as donations came in from all over the world, bringing in a total of \$20,156.00!

These funds are used to continue all of our programs at the high level of quality, efficiency, and effectiveness that the children of Haiti deserve. The H.E.R.O. Annual Fund supports everything from day-to-day expenses for the Residence for Orphans in Port-au-Prince, to school fees, to medical check-ups, to our newest building project: the Residence for Orphans in Maniche. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children of Haiti!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings H.E.R.O. Supporters!

It is with great privilege that I introduce the H.E.R.O. Fall Newsletter. Inside you will discover that our summer was filled with exciting news including the acquisition of land in Maniche, hosting dedicated volunteers, and the success of the H.E.R.O. Annual Fund. These are all amazing accomplishments that could not have been completed without you, our supporters. Thank you for your donations, contributions, and support as H.E.R.O. continues to make a difference in the lives of the orphans in our care.



I want to take a moment to talk about the importance of education in Haiti. Every child in our care at the Transition Home for Orphans arrived with some experience in a formal educational setting. Valencia attended school for four years, Robenson for two, and even Franky, who entered our residence at the age of 13 and the most academically behind, had previously attended school for two years. But, unfortunately, for our children just having been in school doesn't mean they received an education. In fact, all of them entered our program not knowing the alphabet, unable to identify or write numbers correctly, or even identify the four basic shapes: circle, square, triangle, and rectangle. They may have attended school, but they most definitely had not received an education.



Fortunately, H.E.R.O. was founded by educators. Every member of the Board of Directors and our Country Director are career educators. As a result, we are uniquely qualified to help the orphans in our care receive a quality education. When you enter our residence at 6:00 AM, or 1:00 PM, or 5:00 PM, or even 7:30 PM, you may very well find that our children are studying. At H.E.R.O., we know that education is the key to a successful adult life. Our children have entered our residence at such an educational disadvantage that it is our responsibility to help them attain academic knowledge.

As the 2011-2012 school year begins I am confident that the children in our care will finally receive a quality education. I do worry, though, for the millions of other children in Haiti that will go to school, but not receive an education. It is for this reason that our work in Haiti is so important, so that we can work towards creating a pathway for children to become healthy, educated, self-reliant, and socially conscious citizens of Haiti. Together, we can turn our mission into reality.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Kirby, Ed.D

H.E.R.O. VOLUNTEERS IN HAITI



This summer H.E.R.O. had the privilege of hosting two volunteers. Tyler Fair and Toni Burns spent 10 days with the children, bringing smiles to their faces and loads of fun to their lives. In addition to spending quality time with our children, they also dedicated their time to painting the bathrooms inside of the residence and building shelves to house our donations. At H.E.R.O. we truly appreciate individuals that are willing to leave the comfort of their homes to volunteer in Haiti, a country that is a foreign environment, a place with a different language, and often a difficult country to traverse. Toni, an amputee from Alaska, took these challenges to heart, overcame them, and showed our children that there are no obstacles that are insurmountable. In 10 days Tyler was speaking Creole with the children as if he had lived in Haiti for years. H.E.R.O., our staff, and most importantly the children truly benefited from the presence of Tyler and Toni at our residence. We look forward to hosting them, and additional volunteers, in the near future.



KIDS HELPING KIDS



All over Haiti, children have been anxiously awaiting October 3rd: the day they will finally begin school. At the same time, in various places around the U.S., kids have been teaming up to make that school experience complete.

In Florida, H.E.R.O. partnered with the Girl Scouts of America to do more than just fundraise—they wanted to add a personal touch to their donation to the street children of Haiti. First, the girls collected school supplies, and then they assembled them into kits so each recipient would have a complete set of supplies. Each kit includes a glue stick, scissors, a pencil sharpener, 7 pencils, 3 pens, a ruler, a box of crayons, a pink eraser, a notebook, and a coloring book all loaded into a specially decorated backpack! In all, the girls assembled 37 school kits for the children of Haiti!

All the way across the country, in Washington State, the children at the Zillah Church of the Nazarene held a school supply drive to benefit H.E.R.O. Each summer, the church hosts a Vacation Bible School for children in the community. As a part of this program, the children support a cause that benefits children in need—H.E.R.O. has been the fortunate recipient two years in a row. This year, the children collected over 1,000 items including backpacks, glue, scissors, and more! Now in Haiti, these school supplies can be distributed to children who are unable to afford their own school supplies.

Through this experience, we have been blessed, not just with the much-needed supplies, but also with the spirit in which they are given. Seeing children in the U.S. working to help others sets a great example of social-consciousness for others. At H.E.R.O. we instill in our children the importance of gratitude, but also of service. Their gratitude is not complete until they also give back to those in need.

Your Support is Critical to H.E.R.O.'s Continued Success in Haiti

Online Donations

Online donations can be made on our website at www.haitihero.org. Donations can be one-time or recurring donations, and are tax-deductible in the United States.

Mail in a Donation

If you would prefer to donate by mail, you can send a check made out to H.E.R.O. to:
Housing, Education, and Rehabilitation of Orphans
P.O. Box 480820
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33348

Other Ways to Give

H.E.R.O. offers a variety of alternative giving opportunities that don't require a cash contribution.



H.E.R.O. has partnered with Baking for Good, an online bakery that donates 15% of every purchase to H.E.R.O.

Orders are packaged individually and sent right to your door. To place your order and support our mission visit www.bakingforgood.com.



H.E.R.O. has partnered with Vehicles For Charity, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, to process the donation of your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, recreational vehicle, camper, and more! To donate your vehicle, please call 1-866-628-CARS or visit www.vehiclesforcharity.org.

Donate Items

We are always in need of donations in the form of books, school supplies, clothes for the children, etc. Here is a short list of items you may wish to collect to donate to H.E.R.O. For a more comprehensive list, e-mail info@haitihero.org. All donations can be sent to our address in Florida.

Books in English and French
New Clothes for Boys and Girls

Sports Equipment
School Supplies

Toiletries
Backpacks

Children's DVDs
Laptops

Puzzles
Games



For more information visit us on the web: www.haitihero.org
Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@haitihero.org or call 888-315-HERO
To remove your name from our mailing list, please send an e-mail to info@haitihero.org.