



H.E.R.O.

HOUSING EDUCATION *and*
REHABILITATION *of* ORPHANS

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SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR STREET CHILDREN

As part of the H.E.R.O. Education Program for Street Children each student is provided with a school uniform. One of our students, Gertha, explained the importance of a school uniform, "If you are child walking down the street and fall to the ground, if you don't have a uniform, no one will help you. But if you are in a school uniform and fall to the ground, everyone around you will help you up because if you are wearing a school uniform that means you are important, you are doing something with your life." A school uniform is a symbol of pride in Haiti. For the majority of the children in our Education Program this is their first opportunity to wear a school uniform. H.E.R.O. is able to provide our students with school uniforms as a result of our generous child sponsors and donors. Thus far 24 of our 68 students in the Education Program for Street Children have been sponsored for the year. As a result, not only are we able to provide school uniforms, but also a free education, school books and supplies, and a daily nutritious meal to the children who need it the most.



H.E.R.O.'S FUNDRAISER, A SUCCESS IN ITS OWN RIGHT



On Saturday, February 12th, 2011, cheerful chatting and generous spirits congregated to benefit the children that H.E.R.O serves in Haiti. Our first fundraiser in metro Atlanta was held at the College Park Woman's Club. Essud Fungcap, an internationally renowned Haitian-born artist, gracefully offered his art work for sale. 100% of the money collected at the door and half of the proceeds from the art acquisitions went towards the funding of H.E.R.O's different projects.

In between mingling and sampling the hors-d'oeuvres and wine, the guests viewed a video presentation about our organization's three-fold plan. The latter impressed the assembly so much so that quite a few suggested a similar event should occur in the summer to spread the word about our vision, mission, and accomplishments. We look forward to additional fundraising events to benefit the street children and orphans of Haiti.

INTRODUCING...

Dayana Brunette

When she was very young, Dayana Brunette lost her father. She remembers putting on her white dress and going to the church, but she can barely remember the man they went to mourn. Her mother did what she could for little Dayana and was able to scrape together enough money to finally enroll Dayana in school at the age of 6 (most Haitian children begin school at 3 years old). January 12th seemed like any other day. It was late afternoon and Dayana was jumping rope while her mother visited some friends not far away. At 4:53 p.m. Dayana's world changed again. Not only did she watch her home crumble, but the house her mother had gone to also collapsed. Dayana's mother was killed, leaving her seven years old and alone. Her much-older aunt took her in to a tiny cement shack which was already overcrowded with her 4 adult children and 2 grandchildren. Every morning Dayana swept the house, washed the dishes, and hoped her aunt made enough money to send her to school.



When Dayana first came to us she was timid and withdrawn, afraid even to smile. After a few weeks in the H.E.R.O. Transition Home for Orphans Dayana learned what it was to be safe, well-fed, and loved. She still loves to jump-rope, but now her favorite part of the day is afternoon karate class. Dayana enjoys writing and is working hard in her first grade class. Dayana is a different girl from the one who came to us not long ago. Now you can see her each afternoon running around laughing with the other children and she even rivals the boys with her healthy appetite.

Christina Chèry

Christina's short life has been one of instability. She has no clear recollections of her father who abandoned the family when she was young. Not long after he left, her mother took ill and passed away as well leaving Christina and her baby sister in the care of an aunt. A vendor in the market, her aunt left the house all day and little Christina was expected to cook and care for her younger sister and cousin. At last, when Christina was 6, her aunt had saved enough money to pay the enrollment fees and she sent Christina to school. Excited, she put on her new school uniform and began to learn her alphabet. Too soon, money became tight and her aunt was unable to keep up the school payments and Christina was removed from the school. "The director knew where we lived," Christina told us. "She took me home and she wouldn't let me come to school because we didn't have the money." Over the course of four years, Christina attended five different schools and between each school were months when she was not able to attend at all. At ten years old, Christina is still in the second grade.



Now that Christina has moved into the H.E.R.O. Transition Home for Orphans her life has finally stabilized. She knows that she will eat three meals a day, she can sleep comfortably at night, and she will awaken each morning able to attend school. Christina can finally begin to enjoy her childhood. A smile lights up her face as she jumps rope with the other girls and she is starting to hold her own against the boys in three-on-three soccer. Her favorite subject is math, and she even likes to practice her addition and subtraction facts outside of study time. With Christina's enthusiasm and perseverance and the education program H.E.R.O. has in place, we plan to make up for those years of education that were lost and enable Christina to achieve at a level with her peers.

H.E.R.O. WELCOMES VISITORS



March was an exciting month at the H.E.R.O. Transition Home for Orphans as visitors and donations came pouring in. We all had the opportunity to enjoy the company of six visitors from the United States and Canada. Winnie Chant, Warren Chant, Jonathan Chant, Steve Choi, Carol Kasnick, and Amber Kasnick got to witness firsthand H.E.R.O. making a difference in Haiti. All of our visitors had given us support prior to their trips through donations and spreading the word about H.E.R.O. in their communities. It was a blessing to have them come face to face with the children they have done so much to help.

In all, the visitors brought down five suitcases full of donations to H.E.R.O. The donations included clothing, books, educational supplies, sports equipment, puzzles, crafts, and many other items. We cannot express our thanks enough for the donations and for everyone who had a hand in making it possible. The love and care that they put into raising money and collecting all the items made their gifts even more valuable. Not only did they bring materials, but they also brought us encouragement as we saw people lend a hand and make a sacrifice for the children of Haiti.

UNION SCHOOL SPONSORS STUDENTS

When Nadia Durban heard about the H.E.R.O. Sponsorship Program she knew she wanted to get her students involved. As advisor to the student council at Union School (an international school in Port-au-Prince) Nadia wanted to involve the students at Union in a project that would benefit the less fortunate in their own community. She presented the idea to the student council, and they were excited to be involved in this project. In all, 9 classes have pledged to sponsor 12 students! Each class chose a different approach—some classes organized bake sales to raise the money, others divided the amount and each student brought in a percentage of the sponsorship. Thanks to these students' contribution we can provide an enriched education for twelve more students.



Not only is this an opportunity for the children in the H.E.R.O. Education Program to receive an education, but by partnering with Union School we are instilling in the future leaders of Haiti a responsibility to improve their community and providing them with an opportunity to act on it now. However, we did not want the partnership between H.E.R.O. and Union to end there. In order to allow the students at Union School and the students in the Education Program to get to know each other, H.E.R.O. and the Union School PTA are teaming up to put on a field day. The students from both schools will have a chance to play games together, share a meal, and have a good time. Thanks to teachers and parents from Union School, food, water, t-shirts, and transportation for this field day have all been generously donated by people in the community. Thank you Union School!

BOOKS AND DVDS FOR ORPHANS

During the enrollment of our first children into the H.E.R.O. Transition Home for Orphans we put out a call for the donation of books and DVDs in multiple languages. In response, Cristina Battistone started a book and DVD drive in her community that resulted in the donation of hundreds of children's books and dozens of brand new DVDs. The DVDs, while entertaining, are also an excellent tool for learning a new language. While French and Haitian Creole are both official languages in Haiti, our children arrived with very limited French language abilities and no knowledge of English. Fortunately, DVDs come with a variety of options for languages and subtitles. As a result, we often play the DVDs in French with French subtitles or in English with French subtitles. We are therefore able to use the DVDs as a learning tool rather than simply entertainment. The books are also of great value, as our children love to read and be read to in both French and English. At H.E.R.O. we are grateful for Cristina, her family, and friends who arranged for the donation and shipping of the books and DVDs. If you would like to collect books and DVDs for our Transition Home for Orphans please e-mail info@haitihero.org.



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](#)
751 Tulip Grove Rd. Suite 1103
Hermitage, TN 37076

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 Tennessee.

[Books in English and French](#)
[New Clothes for Boys and Girls](#)

[Sports Equipment](#)
[School Supplies](#)

[Toiletries](#)
[Backpacks](#)

[Children's DVDs](#)
[Laptops](#)

[Puzzles](#)
[Games](#)

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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.