



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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SEPTEMBER 2017

*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded."* Ralph Waldo Emerson



Hurricane Matthew and \$10,000 from Heaven.

This year **Bec's 8th Annual HMI Silent Auction** took in an amazing \$118,345 which includes all sponsor donations. This money is dedicated as matching money to building homes. It provides half the cost of the home. We currently have enough money from this year's silent auction to fund the matching amount through **Home #136**. From the donor side we already have funding pledged or received to fund through Home # 115. But as you can see, we are in need of funding for **Homes # 116-136 which represents 21 homes or \$78,750**.

We have always been amazed at the generosity of donors particularly in the second half of the year who make donations towards a home. We often receive donations of \$3750 or more to build a home or two. We also receive many smaller donations which we combine together and to add up to \$3750.

Last year, we were blessed with a donation of an ATV that we raffled off and raised \$22,160. What a blessing that was! It helped us get over the bump in the raising of final funds to reach our goal of building the 100th home by May 2017. With your help and enthusiasm we made it!

If you remember, when we began the raffle in July of last year, there was just the urgent need for houses - no Hurricane Matthew. The raffle was the week after the Hurricane. You know the rest of the beautiful, incredible story of how we all came together to raise an additional \$80,000 to replace all the roofs of the HMI houses that were damaged by the Hurricane **and still reached our goal of building 100 houses by this past April**. So this year, we've reached another little bump in the road and heaven has sent us another gift. **An anonymous donor made this offer. "I'll give you \$10,000 if you have a raffle in order to turn it into \$20,000 or more!"** I boldly responded that I thought HMI could do it. (I know we can!)

Here's the plan.

We'll put that cash up as the grand prize for the raffle. (Another donor furnished the other cash prizes). We raised \$ 22,160 with the ATV last year but there were lots of people who couldn't use an ATV or didn't want an ATV. **Everybody can use \$10,000!!!** We are counting on having a successful raffle this year which will help tremendously towards our goal of building at least to **Home # 130 by the end of our construction cycle in April 2018** - homes that are desperately needed by families whose shanty shacks were made further uninhabitable by the hurricane. Our construction crew has already shown us that they are more than capable to build two or three homes in a month so it is up to us to try our best to let God's plan unfold.

The tickets will be \$30 each or four for \$100. In addition to the \$10,000 grand prize there will be a second place cash prize of \$1000 and third place cash prize of \$500.

What can you do to help? Obviously purchasing a ticket or multiple tickets would be great. Recruiting others to help sell some tickets would be even better. **Again this year we will give a \$500 cash award to the individual selling the most raffle tickets.**

The drawing will take place on December 9th, 2017 at the "Chicken for Chickens" fundraiser dinner at the Peltier Park Pavillion in Thibodaux sponsored by our HMI youth team. (The kids want to help re-stock the chicken farm that was devastated by Hurricane Matthew.)

Martha Verdin will handle the distributing and tracking of the tickets so please call her at 985-209-2048 or mverdin@uwsla.com for tickets. As always, thank you and God bless you for your support of HMI.



Mrs. Clarisse Louis, her granddaughter and great granddaughter have been existing here since Hurricane Matthew. This is just one example of what your support of our raffle and Home construction project will do to restore hope and health to so many families in similar situations by the gift of a new home.

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

December 9th – "Chicken for chickens" dinner sponsored by the HMI youth group – 11 AM to 1 PM. Peltier Park Thibodaux \$8 per ticket – dine in or take out – drinks and desserts will be available. Call Joseph Schonacher 985-209-3990 or joseph.schonacher@gmail.com (all proceeds go towards restoring the chicken farm and restocking the chickens in Haiti)

December 9th – Cash Raffle Drawing at 12:30 PM during the "Chicken for chickens" dinner

My Experience at Vacation Bible School

Our Young People's Mission trip this summer by all standards was a great success. This was the first time an HMI team put on a VBS but a team of young people was the perfect setting for such an event. Over three hundred Haitian kids participated over the two week period. Here is a particularly moving reflection written by one of the team members, Brooke Bethancourt, regarding her experience.

"I sat on the cool cement floor of the school down the road from the compound, surrounded by kids. Three girls were braiding my blue hair, and several boys were quietly babbling in Creole that I strained to understand. Despite these distractions, I was focused on a little boy in the corner of the room. He sat with wide eyes and colored delicately on a coloring sheet with an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He glanced up at me expressionless, and turned his eyes back to the page, switching colors. Immediately, my heart broke. This child was exhibiting the core characteristics of being special needs. As a cause that I hold incredibly close to my heart, I was filled with a desire to be able to do more, and I felt Christ's eyes staring back at me through his. I asked him questions repeatedly in broken Creole, and was met time and time again with wide eyes and silence. He reached up and touched my face, which was wet with tears and sweat. As the class got up and followed my friend Ann Claire out of the doorway, I stayed behind and quietly spoke to this child. My words were nonsense (since he couldn't understand English), and I was met with that same endless silence. My heart poured out in my words, and I found myself praying the rosary. The little boy reached over and grabbed my hand. His eyes spoke volumes of understanding and a desire for love that I had never known before. Together, we walked outside and were welcomed by the joyful noise of the children surrounding us yet again.

Some smiling faces enjoying VBS with Adele Labat.



A happy group of families leaving the HMI distribution with groceries, plants, seeds for the sowing, a little CASH, and most importantly, hope for the future. It was a good day.

Seeds for the Sower

One of the other long term tragedies of the October 2016 Hurricane was that virtually all the gardens were destroyed. As soon as the emergency needs were met, people began to replant their gardens as best they could but they were faced with the challenge of finding seeds and then the problem of how to purchase them. Fr. Joe asked that we bring whatever seeds we could, so we sent down with the Spring and Summer groups about \$500 worth of various type of seeds. Another phenomenon that occurred after the Hurricane was the influx of aid agencies to the Jeremie region to help in various ways. Since Fr. Joe has the only place in the village with decent rooms available, many organizations have been contacting him. One aid group has rented a room to use as an office and has been there for the past few months. After the family distribution during the first week of the summer mission trip, one of the agents in the office inquired as to what was going on. The group explained what happens at a family distribution and somehow mentioned our need for more seeds to give out. (Here comes one of those God-incidences! Are you ready!) The guy says that they just were contacted that there was a surplus of seeds that had arrived and they could get what we needed for the next group of families. WOW! They came with a truck full of various seeds and each of the 75 families coming to the following distribution received as much as they could carry – several thousand dollars worth if we would have had to purchase them. Talk about amazing grace! And as all of the group will testify, that's just one of the numerous miracles that occurred on this special trip.

FAIE'S FACTS

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. May God bless them with help, comfort and the strength they need to go on with their lives."

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families receive the miracle of a new home one day. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

_____ \$3750 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.” (Our new home design is keeping the cost of constructing the homes \$7500 with the \$3750 matching money for each home provided by funds raised from the annual silent auction)

_____ Raffle tickets to help get decent houses and lots of hope for a family.

\$30 each or 4 for \$100. Please mail them to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

_____ \$12 annual membership in the “Woman-to-Woman club of Haiti that helps poor women get the medical treatment they need who otherwise would go untreated.

Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

This monetary gift is made in memory of _____
please send an acknowledgement card:

to: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Send me envelopes to be a monthly "helping hand":

_____ I will be a prayer partner and pray for the Haiti Mission.

_____ Please put me on your email/info list. email: _____

_____ I am interested in going on a mission trip.

Call me @: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Haiti Mission Inc. is a 509(a)(1) tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID#14-1861365

Haiti Mission - Caring with Generosity and Joy

THANKS FOR HELPING!

No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!

Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.

*“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his good deeds.” Pvb 19:17*

“No One has ever become poor by giving”

The hand written words of Anne Frank (1929-1945)