



Friends of SJF

Fall 2022 Newsletter



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The highs and lows of Haiti

By Renee Dietrich

Director of Communications & Development, SJF
Board Member, Friends of SJF

In March of 2020, I left Haiti for what was supposed to be a 10-day trip for a family wedding. Then COVID hit, and the political situation in Haiti severely deteriorated. Suddenly it was almost 2 1/2 years before I was able to go home to Haiti. I was so happy and excited, and a bit apprehensive, when I returned to Haiti for a month-long visit in August and September. I was happy to see all my friends. Excited to be back in the place I love. But apprehensive to see and experience all the challenges currently taking place in Haiti.

Returning to Wings of Hope was completely wonderful. There has been so much individual growth and development of the residents since the last time I saw them. They are more mature, and more independent, but still filled with the same absolute joy I remembered. New classes in life skills were amazing to watch. They are learning not only self-care and how to do things around the house, but also developing so much self-confidence and independence. I was able to get out the iPods again for music Saturdays and provide snacks on Sunday, two traditions I missed as much as the Wings residents did.

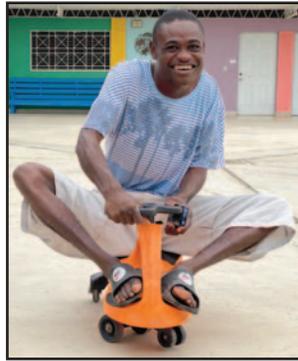
As much joy as I experienced within the walls of Wings, what was happening on the streets outside was, and continues to be, very hard for the Haitian people. The country started a "lockdown" a few days after I arrived, and the situation has only gotten worse. Protests and violence are a daily occurrence on the streets. This makes it difficult for employees to get to work, for the Wings staff to buy items the residents need, and it has delayed the start of school at Lekòl Sen Trinite

indefinitely. Banks and businesses are often closed. Communication is often cut off because there is not fuel for the cell towers.

With the roads blocked and the gangs ruling the streets, it is increasingly difficult to find food, water, and necessary supplies. When they can be found, the prices are astronomical. The Wings leadership is doing all they can to provide the same high standard of care, but it is increasingly difficult.

One of the hardest things for me to see while I was there was the look of fear, hopelessness, sadness, and desperation in the eyes of my friends. It is something I haven't seen before. They are tired and scared. I keep them in my prayers every day. I ask you to do the same.

Thank you for your on-going support and friendship. Especially at times like these, the St. Joseph Family, and all who we support, need our friends more than ever. It is comforting to know you are in our corner.



Art and beauty come to life at Wings



A new butterfly mural at the Wings entrance.



A communication wall helps non-verbal Wings residents have their wishes known.



A new mural on the outside wall of Wings of Hope provides beauty for the neighborhood.

Daily challenges mount for the SJF

The multiple political, economic, and social crises now present in Haiti are bringing new challenges daily to the SJF.

The country has been in "lockdown" for weeks, making it dangerous to be on the streets. This stops the transportation of goods and fuel, which has led to severe shortages and extreme price increases when items can be found.

The start of school has been delayed indefinitely. Banks are often closed or will only release limited amounts of funds. Communication lines often don't work because there is no fuel for cell phone towers.

The SJF is forced every day to find new ways to cope with these ever-increasing challenges. Food, water, and other daily necessities are in short supply or extremely expensive.

At Wings of Hope, just two of the challenges are the lack of safe drinking water and propane fuel.

Wings uses about 35 gallons of drinking water a day. Since mid-September, there

has been no drinking water available for purchase in Jacmel. Wings had to borrow a home water filtration system and is now purifying its own water, 5 gallons at a time.

The stove used for cooking three meals a day at Wings runs on propane. There hasn't been any propane available for purchase in Jacmel since late September. The leadership had to purchase a charcoal stove and charcoal to be able to continue to provide hot meals for the Wings residents.



Give a gift with meaning this holiday season

The needs for Wings of Hope are great and on-going. With the economic and social crises of the past few years, and especially in the past few months, the needs have continually increased as prices have gone up and supplies have become less available. Meeting the basic daily needs at Wings is becoming more and more challenging. Your donation can help Wings of Hope face these challenges. **This holiday season give the gift of goodwill when you fill the stockings of your friends and family. Your donation in their honor will fill their hearts with joy and will provide for the residents at Wings of Hope.**

Cost for 100 meals a day: \$120

Three nutritious meals are provided every day at Wings of Hope. This means 36,000 meals a year are served to the residents.



Open camera app on your smart phone and point it here to access our giving page



Cost for 1 tanker of water: \$60

Non-potable water has to be purchased for bathing and cleaning. Each week Wings uses 4 tankers of water.



Daily diaper cost: \$30

Because of their disabilities, many Wings of Hope residents use diapers. Multiple diaper changes a day is a large expense.



Weekly medicine cost: \$140

Daily medications are a major expense for Wings of Hope due to the complex medical needs of the residents.



Weekly cost for drinking water: \$70

In Haiti, clean and safe drinking water isn't readily available, so each day Wings of Hope must purchase multiple 5-gallon jugs of water.

Giving Tuesday ~ November 29

We are participating in the **GIVING TUESDAY** movement again this year. This worldwide day of giving is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving — November 29.

We will have special posts and information on our Facebook page all day on Giving Tuesday to spark your generous spirit.

All online donors to Friends of SJF on that day will be eligible for a drawing for an original Christmas painting by Felando Noel, a student

at Lekòl Sen Trinite, which will be used by FoSJF for our Christmas card this year.



Shop with a purpose this holiday season

The St. Joseph Family has set up a store on Etsy to offer unique hand-made items that celebrate the beauty of Haiti and the talented artists of the SJF.

Shoppers can choose from photographs by the Wings of Hope photo students, paintings by the young artists from Wings of Hope and Lekòl Sen Trinite, jewelry from Walnes and his artists, books, note cards, Christmas cards, and metal work from Haiti.

There is something for everyone on your Christmas list!

After paying the artists for their work, all proceeds go to help support the mission of the St. Joseph Family.



Shop our Etsy store:
www.etsy.com/shop/lmajhaiti



Friends of SJF has partnered with CauseTeam to offer our custom design on several articles of apparel, coffee mugs and canvas totes.

The design features the Haitian Kreyol word “degaje”. Degaje means “do the best you can with what you have” and is how Haitians survive.

CauseTeam will donate 40% of all sales of our design to Friends of SJF to help support the St. Joseph Family.

CauseTeam also has many more great designs and products available on their website. You can choose Friends of SJF as your designated fund when you are buying those products and we will also receive 40% of those purchases.

Shop our CauseTeam store:
<https://www.causeteam.com/cause-pages/detail/friends-of-sjf>

Be a Sponsor Change a Life

One way to be connected to the St. Joseph Family on a deeper basis is to become a Wings of Hope sponsor.

In addition to the knowledge that your contribution is having a direct impact on the life of a

young person in Haiti, sponsors get to know their sponsored resident through crafts, letters, pictures, school reports, and bi-

ographies thoughtfully and regularly prepared by the St. Joseph Family and sent to them

throughout the year.

Sponsorships can be done by individuals, families, church groups, civic groups, etc.

Donate online to sign up for regular monthly sponsorship payments or give the yearly amount.

Wings of Hope sponsorships are \$35 a month (or \$420 per year) per resident





Donate now to help us continue to support the programs of our mission partners

Donations can be made by:

Check to Friends of SJF at P.O. Box 317, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Give online at www.friendsofsjf.org

Give through Fidelity Charitable at: <https://www.fidelitycharitable.org>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Here is my donation for general operations at SJF

\$ _____

I want to sponsor a Wings of Hope resident.

Here is my donation for \$420 for a yearly sponsorship.

I will sign up for monthly recurring donations online

I want to sponsor (resident's name) _____

Choose a Wings of Hope resident for me

Other ways to support Friends of SJF and the St. Joseph Family:

Send us USPS Forever postage stamps so we can communicate with our sponsors and benefactors.

Send us gift cards to Staples or Amazon to purchase items not available in Haiti.

Sign up for AmazonSmile and designate "Friends of SJF Inc" as your designated charity. A portion of your purchase will be donated to Friends of SJF

Friends of SJF is a 501(c) organization, established in 2015.

All donations are fully tax-deductible. EIN: 47-4712188