



Bulletin

Caribbean Children's Foundation

Fall 2022

From the Director: School Update

FALL! At this time of year, we typically turn our thoughts to school. This also happens in Haiti, but their thoughts are much different. Many wonder, "Will I find enough money to pay my child's tuition, have a uniform sewn for them, buy shoes, buy a backpack and pay for their schoolbooks?" Many families must ask other family members or friends if they're able to help with expenses. This is one way Caribbean Children's Foundation has been able to help. CCF assists students attending one of three schools on Île-à-Vache, one school in Les Cayes, and various colleges the older kids are attending. Your donations make it possible for CCF to help over 550 children join their classmates. Thank you!

These same parents have a second concern, however. "Can my child safely travel to school, and will school take place uninterrupted?"

The 2022-23 school year is facing an extremely elevated time of insecurity. Due to rampant gang activity, many children would need to travel through unsafe areas to reach their school. Because of this, the Haitian government delayed the opening of school until October 3. Unfortunately, October 3 has come and gone, and students are still unable to attend school. There's no gas to transport kids to school and the roads are still unsafe to travel.

The first week of October was also the six-year anniversary of Hurricane Matthew devastating the island of Haiti. So, not only is security an issue, but weather this time of year is always a concern. A hurricane or earthquake can disrupt the school year at any time.



Once school resumes, the school feeding program will be more important than ever. Conditions in the country have made prices soar. Those who could formerly purchase a bag of rice can now only afford one cup of rice at a time. Getting to the local market has also become unaffordable. Most days, the only available gas is being sold on the black

market for \$50 US per gallon. This results in increased boat fares, taxi fares, parked cars with empty gas tanks, and no gas for generators or propane for cooking. Thus, the feeding program is a HUGE blessing as children are receiving fewer meals at home. The feeding program feeds all students at the school. Some children eat a small portion of their school meal and take the rest home to feed hungry family members.

YOU are vital to the work we do! As you face your own personal challenges, please remember to include the children of Haiti in your prayers – prayers for safety, prayers for affordable food and full bellies, prayers for fewer interrupted weeks of education.

Through your prayers, God can change what we ourselves cannot change.

Serving HIM,

Nora Léon
Executive Director



Fun Fact

The game show *Jeopardy* once asked the question, "In what country does everything stop at 8 AM to honor their flag?"



The answer was and still is HAITI. Every school day, at every school, the flag is raised while the National Anthem is

sung by the students and teachers. At the Christian schools, the flag raising is followed by the singing of hymns, a prayer and school announcements given by the principal. In some communities, the cars still stop at precisely 8 AM. In some communities, if the student is late for school, he or she must stop at the nearest school to show respect before heading to their own school.

The National Anthem is played on the radio at 8 AM. At the national airport at 8 AM, all business stops while the flag is being raised. Haitians love their country and, as the anthem states, are willing to die for their country. Such patriotism!

Shine the Light Update



The *Shine the Light* school sponsorship program formerly organized through Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Jenison, Michigan, will now be managed directly through CCF. For those interested in supporting the teachers and children of First Lutheran

Church in Les Cayes, Haiti, you may do so by using the education sponsorship form found on our website at CaribbeanChildrensFoundation.org/Donate or emailing CCFShannon@gmail.com for more info. Your pledge of any amount will be used to bless all children attending this school on the mainland of Haiti.

Giving Tuesday Starts Now!

Giving Tuesday is November 29, 2022. While this charitable day of giving has been largely focused on a single day of social giving (following Black Friday and Cyber Monday), we invite year-round giving through Facebook. When you make a donation to CCF on our Facebook page, Facebook pays the credit card processing fees so the full donation amount can be used to help children in Haiti. Follow and give on Facebook, @caribbeanchildrensfoundation.



Biggest Needs

A list of urgent funding priorities are listed below. We invite you to learn more about these areas of need at CaribbeanChildrensFoundation.org.

- Funding for Grace Orphanage – Providing daily care, shelter, food, medical, and education for eight boys.
- Support for the School Feeding program
- General Child Education support

Checks may be made payable to:

Caribbean Children's Foundation
PO Box 33
Jenison, MI 49429

Or donate online at:

CaribbeanChildrensFoundation.org/Donate

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

– Psalm 107: 8-9