

Haitian Hope Inc_{sm}

2020 Annual Meeting Report

January 10, 2021

Philosophy.

“We don’t GO as Programs, we GO as people.” In February 2018, Bishop Robert Wright summed up the mission purpose of Haitian Hope at the GO! Conference in Macon, GA. Father Bryan Hinson further said, “St. Marc’s doesn’t need Haitian Hope to save them—they have the same Savior we have in Jesus Christ. Our call is to walk with them.” Since our inception in 2004, Haitian Hope has tried to do just that: walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ and give them not only the financial support to continue, but also the gift of relationship and encouragement. And we have learned so much about living authentically without the encumbrance of excessive material goods.

Mission Statement

The purpose and mission of Haitian Hope is to enhance the educational program of St. Marc’s Church-Trouin through the Episcopal Partnership of Haiti and through relationships with other organizations that assist in aiding our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ.

The goal of the mission is to help the children become more productive and self-sufficient citizens upon the realization of specified educational requirements established by the Haitians for the Haitians. We solicit donations and otherwise raise funds for mutually agreed upon projects and materials, including crisis aid, lunch programs, and the training and support of leaders, teachers, and students.

Background

- Begun in 2004 in a Sunday School class studying the Acts of the Apostles, we heard God’s call to go out into the world ministering to others.
- Became a 501©3 in 2016, allowing for opportunities to unite with all Episcopal churches in a common effort to support St. Marc secondary school in Trouin, Haiti. Churches involved include: St. Paul’s, Christ Church, St. Francis, and Glad River all in Macon; Church of the Holy Family in Jasper; St. Peter-by-the-Lake in Denver, NC. Our Episcopal friends in Virginia (FOSMTH) continue to expand the Trade School as a means of training students to become economically secure. Haiti Education Foundation, HEF, continues to pay for the primary school teachers’ salaries.
- No paid staff
- Board of Directors meets 3-4 times per year to determine all financial matters
- Anyone who donates to Haitian Hope or who shows interest in Haitian Hope is considered a voting member.

Activities in 2020

March - December, three Zoom meetings replaced usual monthly meetings.

Board of Directors with Charlie Brogdon as president and Tom Hinson as chairman determined to broaden the lunch program by providing funds throughout the months when school was not in session. The board also approved paying the salaries of the secondary school teachers, even while school was not in session because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, because the Haitian government changed the exchange rate of the Haitian gourde in relationship to the US dollar, the board gave teachers in the secondary academic school program a two-month increase of 50% US dollars. This barely covered the decreased value of the US dollar in relationship to the gourde and the Board of Directors will meet again Monday, January 4th, to discuss this issue.

Fund-raising

As with all fund-raising, changes had to be made. Listed below are the means by which Haitian Hope has been able to raise enough money to meet our goals.

1. Golf Tournament was canceled.

The golf committee encouraged multiple donations in lieu of the tournament and kind-hearted people donated generously.

2. Boston Butts were canceled, but virtual butts were successful

From North Carolina throughout Georgia, an extraordinary group of people designed and executed a virtual Boston butt campaign soliciting donations. People were very generous and kind hearted yielding \$6,000.

3. Christ Church designates one month of focus on Haitian Hope. Irene Marxsen has successfully educated people to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Once again they showed great generosity.

4. St. Paul's outreach committee agreed to pledge enough money to pay the salaries of 3 teachers.

5. St. Francis continues to supply us with fantastic volunteers who print our annual newsletter, brochures, and many other mailings.

6. St. Peter-by-the-Lake in Denver, NC., provides several volunteers and many beautiful donations. They also would like to be the venue for our annual meeting when we again meet in person.

7. Church of the Holy Family continues to financially support the efforts of Haitian Hope through a generous spirit that inspires us to work harder and more diligently.

8. James Caldwell had several outdoor gatherings of fewer than 10 people/gathering at which the goals and needs of St. Marc were discussed. People were moved by James' compassion for the Haitians and they generously wrote checks to Haitian Hope.

9. Glad River Church is a non-denominational gathering of dedicated Christians from Mercer University who meet monthly and determine a monthly focus. They also provide multiple volunteers, who encourage us to continue to work hard.

10. Alternative Christmas cards. This year Caroline LaBorde and Gail Moulton designed and executed an effort to turn our focus away from the commercial aspects of the season toward giving to those in need. Their short video explaining the "reason for the season" interested many people who generously "bought" these cards.

11. Myriad donors and supporters comprise the majority of fund-raisers. Without the incredible generosity and compassionate hearts of so many, Haitian Hope would not and could not survive.

Hopes for the future

1. Provide textbooks for all the students and teachers

2. Institute a 13th grade for all students to be able to sit for the university exam

Budget for 2020

\$72,070.00

31,200= 27 Teachers' salaries, including principal, disciplinarian (2600X12 mon)

27,500= 300 children receive lunch (2750X10 months)

4,000= uniforms for 300 students

1,000= supplies

6,370= Episcopal Partnership fee

2,000= operating expenses for HH (bank fees, paper supplies, printing)

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Aldridge