

# CCAI Haiti Adoption Update April, 2011



**“Men anpil, chay pa lou.”  
With many hands the load is not heavy.  
(Haitian Proverb)**

[www.haitiadoption.org](http://www.haitiadoption.org)



Dear CCAI Haiti Families:

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you doing well. Our Haiti program is moving along and there is lots of exciting news to report!

## **Families Travel to Haiti!**

Four of our adopting families took a trip to Haiti in March. Our families had the opportunity to meet their children for the first time and to file immigration paperwork with the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

The trip was wonderful as families were able to get a feel for life in Haiti, visit the orphanage where their children have been staying, and most importantly spend quality time bonding with their beautiful kids! It was a privilege to lead four such wonderful families to Haiti! I look forward to being able to take more CCAI families to Haiti soon.



In addition to escorting our families, I was able to spend time meeting and planning with staff at two of our partner orphanages. I was thrilled to also have the chance to get to know the amazing children residing in the orphanages.

## **Haiti Elects a New President**

On March 20 Haitians went to the polls to vote in the second and final round of the presidential election. The two final candidates were former first lady Mirlande Manigat and musician Michel Martelly. On April 4 the preliminary results of the election were announced and Martelly was declared the winner in a landside receiving nearly 68% of the votes. Barring any issues with the final vote count president-elect Martelly will enter office on May 14.



## **Orphanage Updates**

While in Haiti I was fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time at two of our partner orphanages. I walked away feeling really good about the care that the over 155 combined children in these orphanages are receiving. While it is certainly true that both orphanages have needs, the overall love and support that these children are immersed in is incredible. CCAI is fortunate to be partnered with two organizations that have such wonderful staff that are committed to nurturing and providing for the needs of these remarkable children.

## **Haiti Program Statistics**

At this time we have 19 families matched with 26 children. We have 10 families that are in the pre-match stage.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that Haiti had the first and only successful slave revolt, which led to the birthing of a new nation? The slaves gained their independence from the French on January 1, 1804 after a long drawn out fight for their freedom that began in 1791. Haitians are very proud of their long and storied history.

Did you know that Haitians celebrate their independence every January 1 by eating pumpkin soup? Pumpkin soup was a delicacy that the French withheld from the slaves during colonial times. The eating of pumpkin soup is symbolic, as well as quite tasty. For a good pumpkin soup recipe go to <http://www.food.com/recipe/haitian-pumpkin-soup-soup-joumou-soupe-giraumon-117705>.

Take care, everyone!

Sincerely,

*Patrick*

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