

CCAI Haiti Adoption Update February, 2012

'Kay koule twompe soley men li pa twompe lapli.'
A leaky houes can fool the sun but it cannot fool the rain.
(Haitian Proverb)



Dear CCAI Haiti Families:

Our Haiti program continues to truck along. Every day we experience both the joys and frustrations of working with this unique country. On the one hand, we celebrate as families complete a step of the in-country process. On the other hand, nothing in Haiti seems to move as quickly as we would like it to. As someone who once lived and worked in Haiti, it is a place that continuously humbles and teaches me patience. I am thankful to work with so many great families who are in support of one another and who are determined to make a difference in the lives of the incredible children in our partner orphanages despite the challenges and frustrations that are inevitable in the adoption process. Keep the faith! One day soon your beautiful children will be home!

Haiti Commemorates 2nd Anniversary of Earthquake

On January 12, 2012 Haitians remembered the second anniversary of the devastating 2010 earthquake. Many Haitians observed the anniversary in small ceremonies that took place in neighborhoods, churches, and schools. Despite the billions of dollars donated from various international donors nearly 500,000 people are still living in tent cities in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas. Please keep Haiti in your thoughts, prayers, and meditations as the nation looks to rebuild and move forward.

CCAI Children Receive Finalized Adoptions & Passports!

In the past few months five CCAI families have finalized their adoptions in Haiti! Two of these families have also received Haitian passports for their adoptive children. They are now waiting for their children to receive U.S. visas, which will be the last step in the process. We are incredibly excited to see such progress and are hopeful that these families will have their little ones home soon!

New IBESR Director Meets with Crèche Association Delegates

On January 18, 2012 the new director of IBESR, Madame Arielle Jeanty Villedrouin met with delegates from the Haiti Crèche Directors Association to discuss adoptions in Haiti. Several items were talked about and various proposals were made by Madame Villedrouin to help make the work at IBESR more efficient. Madame Villedrouin called for increased communication between IBESR and licensed crèches, as well as new requirements for birth parents wanting to put their children up for adoption. Perhaps the biggest piece of news to come out of the meeting was that IBESR will be making internal changes that should result in IBESR approving dossiers more quickly.

Eight CCAI Families Travel to Haiti!



In December eight CCAI families traveled to Haiti to meet their children and file immigration paperwork with the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince! Families adopting from both Lifeline Ministries and Maison des Enfants de Dieu spent time getting to know their children and learning about the beautiful country. It was an incredible experience for me to see families meet their children for the first time. It was a great trip!

During this trip I was also able to meet with the director of an orphanage in Port-au-Prince and begin conversations around establishing a new relationship with them. The initial meetings went very well and CCAI is hopeful to begin matching families with children from this orphanage next summer! I will keep you posted.

Lifeline Adds New Classroom and English Classes!

A few months ago our partner orphanage, Lifeline Ministries of Haiti, built a new school classroom for the younger children at the orphanage. In addition to providing classes to the 100 plus children living at the orphanage, Lifeline also opens its school to roughly 200 children in their community!

The director of Lifeline also reported that the orphanage has hired a new English teacher to work with the children two times per week! This will be a huge gift for both the children and their adoptive families!

New Lifeline Classroom



Haiti Program Statistics

Currently we have 53 families in process! There are 43 families that are matched with a total of 57 children. We also have 10 families that are waiting to be matched.

Did You Know?

Did you know that roughly 90% of primary schools in Haiti are run by local communities, church groups, or non-profits? These groups are filling the void left by a government that has failed to provide free public education to the nation's children. As education is highly valued in Haiti, many parents make decisions every day whether they will feed their family or send their children to school. This is an enormous national problem that current Haitian President Michel Martelly is well aware of. President Martelly has placed public education at the heart of his rebuilding plan for Haiti and he is working with The Interim Haiti Reconstruction Committee led by former U.S. President Bill Clinton to prioritize education and make it available to the impoverished masses in Haiti. As part of his plan to fund public education President Martelly has implemented a tax on all international money transfers and phone calls that will go directly into the newly created National Fund for Education. This tax has been met with heavy disapproval from the Haitian Diaspora. In addition, there are reports that nearly 26 million dollars is missing from the fund. President Martelly denies this accusation and claims that over 900,000 children have been able to attend school this year because of the new tax.

Did you know that the word *barbeque* derives from the Taino word *barbecoa*? The Tainos were the indigenous population native to Haiti. While there are on-going debates as to who invented barbeque, the English word definitively comes from Haiti. Yum!

Take care, everyone!

Sincerely,

Patrick

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