

CCAI Haiti Adoption Update September, 2011

'Ravet pa janm gen rezon devan poul.'
The roach is never right when facing the chicken.
(Haitian Proverb)



www.haitiadoption.org

Dear CCAI Haiti Families:

I hope that your summer is going well and that you have been enjoying time with family and friends. Our Haiti program has been navigating through the challenges of doing adoptions in Haiti, but we are moving forward confidently and rejoicing in the victories when they happen. I cannot say enough about how great it has been to work with so many incredible families!

Passing of Kiki



We are deeply saddened to report that Kiki Alexis passed away August 26th. Kiki handled most of the adoption related paperwork and much more for our partner orphanage Maison Des Enfants De Dieu. Kiki was a gentle soul and an incredible friend and advocate for countless children in Haiti. He will be profoundly missed by all those that knew him. We ask that you keep Kiki's family and friends in your thoughts, prayers, and meditations.

Update on the Haiti In-Country Process

As many of you know, dossiers are being processed much more quickly these days in Haiti. In large part, this is due to the fact that several European countries have temporarily stopped adoptions out of Haiti. Thus the Haitian government is currently only processing about half of the dossiers that they typically do. Several of our families are benefiting from the low number of dossiers in Haiti and are moving through the steps extremely quickly. In fact, we are very hopeful that a few of our CCAI families will be spending Christmas this year at home with their beautiful Haitian children!

CCAI also received word that three weeks ago President Martelly granted presidential dispensations for roughly 80 dossiers. This is the first batch of dossiers that President Martelly has signed off on since he has taken office. Unfortunately, IBESR has not provided information on which dossiers were signed, so while we are hopeful that a few of our families have received presidential dispensations, we are still awaiting word. All that said, I am hopeful that this is a sign that the newly elected president will be proactive and cooperative in making the adoption process more efficient.

New Additions to Haiti Website

In the past few weeks I have added a couple of links to our Haiti website. You can now find a link titled, "Haiti Resources," that contains resources for learning more about Haitian culture, history, and of course, Haitian Creole. There are also recommendations for websites that keep you up to date on current events in Haiti. Here is a link to the list of resources: <http://www.haitiadoption.org/DownloadFiles/HaitiResources.pdf>.

In addition, I have also added a link called, "Latest News." This is a resource that enables families to learn more about the political and social realities in Haiti, as well as updates on the rebuilding efforts. Here is a link to the current articles that are posted: <http://www.haiti-adoption.org/BlogList.aspx>.

One of the things that I have taken a great deal of delight in is seeing how our adoptive families have embraced the native country of their adoptive children. Haiti is an incredible country with a moving history and a beautiful culture. I would encourage all of our adoptive families to make use of the resources on our website to learn more about the country that will forever be a part of their child(ren)'s life(s).

Eight CCAI Families Travel to Haiti!

There were eight CCAI families that traveled to Haiti in July 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, as well as gaining a broader sense of Haitian culture and the challenges facing post-earthquake Haiti. It was a great trip and I thoroughly enjoyed traveling with the families, all of whom brought beautiful "Caribbean attitudes" with them.



Haiti Program Statistics

Currently we have 44 families in process! There are 36 families that are matched with 49 children. We also have 8 families that are in the pre-match phase.

Upcoming Trip to Haiti

I will be leading several more families to Haiti in early December to meet their children and to file immigration paperwork! As always, we will also find time to see some sites outside of the orphanage and to learn more about this amazing country.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic? Hispaniola was divided between the French (present day Haiti) and the Spanish (present day Dominican Republic) in 1697 with the Treaty of Ryswick. These two colonial powers had been fighting on and off for control of the island for many years before the Treaty of Ryswick was finally signed.

Did you know that Haitian Creole is the most widely spoken creole in the world today? There are roughly 12-13 million speakers of Haitian Creole, including around 10 million in Haiti. Haitian Creole is a beautiful French-based creole with heavy influence from several West African languages spoken by the slaves including Ewe, Fon, Mandingo, and Wolof.

Take care, everyone!

Sincerely,

Patrick

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