

A Vision of Hope for Godet, Kenscoff

In January 2010, just a few days after the earthquake, some members of a remote community high above Port-au-Prince reached out to FERHA to seek assistance for a small group of orphaned children. Since then, the community as well as the small orphanage, Un Coeur pour les Enfants under the directorship of Pastor Justin Valeus, has been receiving regular assistance such as supplies, food and medical care from FERHA. This assistance has made a small impact in the community and has greatly helped keep the orphanage afloat; however, there exists still much suffering and a lot more work is needed to provide this community with the necessary resources they need to survive.



In the past, classes for the orphanage children were held in the community church for a few hours at a time. But eventually, Pasteur Valeus could no longer afford to pay the schoolteacher, classes were stopped and children now attend public schools in neighboring towns, if at all, and many have to travel long distances to get to the public schools.

In 2010, FERHA began to envision building a small classroom on the church grounds with plans to send qualified volunteer teachers to

conduct classes. It became apparent however, that much more was needed. Local children were far behind their purported grade levels. Additionally, many other children in the community could not afford to go to neighboring schools and ended up in the church school (before it shut down) following along in class with orphanage kids. Most children in the community face an hour-long walk each day to get to schools in other communities in the area, and many youth therefore don't have access to education. Godet has no schools and no health clinics to serve its 3,800 residents, 1,300 of whom are children and adolescents.

FERHA realized that for children at Un Coeur pour les Enfants to overcome the challenges they face, it would require greater and broader investment than initially thought. FERHA concluded that the organization couldn't focus only on the orphanage children but must serve the entire community to truly effect positive change in the area.



After much planning, and in conjunction with locals and the Pasteur, FERHA has embarked on the process of establishing a socio-educational complex in Godet. During the research and planning phases, it was very important to include residents of the area in the various focus groups with the goals of identifying the needs and determining how the community could be served best.

Plans for the complex include a school facility; a health clinic; a Women, Infants, and Children Center (WICC); and a farm school. This integrated complex will help meet the community's needs related to education, healthcare, and agriculture.



Classes will be offered for children ranging from pre-school to high school. Health services will include prenatal courses, preventative dental care, and vaccinations and immunizations. Additionally, the WICC will focus on reproductive health and family planning, child growth and development, and nutrition. The agriculture school will provide children and adolescents training related to integrated development of the commune, environmental conservation, and agricultural production.

The project will be implemented over the course of three 2-year phases. During Phase I, the core structures for the school, health center and Women, Infants and Children's Center will be built.

FERHA looks forward to continuing to work with the Godet community and build relationships with its residents for years to come through the new initiative.

For more information on the Godet Socio-Educational Complex or to support any of FERHA's projects by making a donation, please visit our website www.ferha.org or contact us at 770-573-3680.