

Famine Relief Foundation

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Mission Ranch Child Of The Month

- ✠ Paulina is the apple of my eye. This is the child that I sponsor personally.
- ✠ I stumbled upon Paulina several years ago while walking through Souterre.
- ✠ She was strong yet vulnerable to the harsh life of Citi Soleil. With her parents gone she was being taken care of by her blind grand father.
- ✠ The ingredients to her recovery were love, fresh water and food and heaping doses of more love.
- ✠ Little Paulina has grown up into a tough but loving child. Paulina is remarkably physically strong for her size. She is nothing to mess with and has pounded more than one mouthy young man.
- ✠ She responds quickly to love and attention and is willing to please.
- ✠ She is my little girl.

New year, New Challenges by Mark Dreibelbis

Greetings from Mission Ranch.

We welcome a fresh new year at Mission Ranch. We are recharged and prepared for new assignments. Our future looks strong as we undertake the construction of our new Mission Ranch Worship Center. This project has been delayed several times due to instability in the area from gang influence, cholera and political uprising. This will be our year to build a new house of the Lord.

The cholera epidemic has slowed down dramatically in Citi Soleil. It lightens the load in the medical clinic and allows us time to regroup.

Citi Soleil still remains a flashpoint for violence due to political unrest. Presidential candidate Jude Celestine has flooded Souterre with weapons and ammo so it is just a matter of time until the gangs in that area move into action. As of today there is a lull in the protests and demonstrations while the government prepares for another presidential election in April. All of this will get worse before it gets better. Police and UN presence has dwindled in the last several months allowing the gangs to strengthen. It is like an infection gaining strength. Soon the gangs power will begin to overwhelm the UN Peace Keeping Forces placed there to control it and we will have a repeat massacre like the one in 2006.



The gangs have learned from past mistakes and are well prepared to make a strong defense to protect their turf.

Regardless, we press forward prepared to offer our best for Boston, Citi Soleil.

Art Work In Haiti

Dr Larry Kaplan has created an incredible Haitian Art Work import charity that helps support Mission Ranch and also Haiti Clinic, our partner at Mission Ranch.

Citi Soleil has many talented artists skilled in a variety of artistic venues. Our Director Robinson and Dr. Kaplan have uncovered a small collection of artists who specialize in metal fabrication. Their skills are uncanny and their ability to create quality art from car hoods and 55 gallon drum cans boggles the mind. Most of these artists are within 10 minutes walk from Mission Ranch scattered in various parts of Boston, Souterre and Bele-coop.

The artists work from tiny shacks with rooms barely any larger than your kitchen. They cut and pound out the patterns, shape the metal then paint the final creation. Their work is excellent.

By spending time with Dr, Kaplan the artists have

learned quality control, supply and demand and developed US business skills and expectations in regard to their products. These new found skills and income have helped stabilize their families and create a more secure future for the Haitians involved in this business endeavor.

Dr Kaplan researched the surrounding areas and located more talented artists in an area called Croix De Bouquets located about 40 minutes inland.

This area boasts another cross section of artists producing a fresh flavor of Haitian art. Mr. Kaplan has cultivated a group of artist that creates a selection of popular metal art that is incorporated in the product line that is being offered for sale in the US.





Art samples are displayed along the wall of a small shack in Citi Soleil. All of these items are created from car hoods and 55 gallon barrels. This artist live 100 yards from Mission Ranch and inspired the art program which has grown to include 12 artists within a 20 mile radius.



By Peter W. Adler and Larry Kaplan/guest columnists

Wellesley Middle School

Posted Nov 18, 2010 @ 01:39 PM

Wellesley —

Haiti just can't seem to get a break. Ravaged by the January earthquake, battered by the recent Hurricane Tomas, and now threatened by a widespread cholera epidemic, 1.2 million Haitians live in makeshift tents just trying to survive.

Enter an enterprising group of Wellesley High School students "lighting one small candle" to help this grief-stricken island. In September, the WHS Global Marketing Class, consisting of 25 sophomores, juniors and seniors and taught by Ms. Jane Lord, chose a yearlong project involving the sale of Haitian art in Wellesley. Entitled "Haitian Creations. Rebuilding a Nation," the students embarked on a business venture buying and selling traditional tin art produced in Cite Soleil.

Cite Soleil (Sun City) is an extremely impoverished and densely populated area located in Haiti's capital, Port au Prince. With 250,000 residents, the community has virtually no sewers, stores, electricity, health-care facilities or schools. Most residents of Cite Soleil are children and young adults. Few live past the age of 50, as many die early from disease or violence. With an unemployment rate at 90 percent and an illiteracy rate of 88 percent, most residents live on less than one U.S. dollar per day. The people of Cite Soleil receive almost no essential services from the Haitian authorities, and were largely bypassed by earthquake relief efforts.

Haitian metal art is a unique art form born in Haiti in the early 1950s by a blacksmith, Georges Liautaud, who designed primitive metal crosses for the graves in Croix-des-Bouquets cemetery near Port au Prince. The art is made from scrap tin or recycled 55-gallon oil drums transported to the metal artists' workshop by pushcarts or on top of taxis. After the metal is set on fire to burn off any paint or residue, it cools and the flattening process begins. The drums are pounded into flattened "metal canvases" of approximately 3 feet by 6 feet, and designs are drawn onto the metal sheet with chalk. Using only a hammer, chisel and other simple tools, the artists then cut and pound various shapes and patterns into the metal. The art is either left in its natural form or painted. The finished designs are signed by the artist and coated with a protective finish.

Presently, the Global Marketing class buys art from and supports 12 artists, and these artists in turn provide food and shelter for 120-130 extended family members. In addition, the profits from the sale of the Haitian art are sent to Haiti Clinic, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care in Cite Soleil. Since June 2007, American health-care volunteers have provided medical care to some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere. The charitable organization financially supports a full-time medical clinic staffed by a Haitian physician, two nurses and a pharmacist, and provides the clinic with medications and supplies. A team of 10-12 physicians, nurses, dentists and medical students travels each month to Cite Soleil to provide direct patient care to 600-900 Haitians. Haiti Clinic now also offers medical consultations via Skype. Remarkably, more than 95 percent of the revenue earned from the sale of Haitian art is returned to Cite Soleil for medical care, supplies and nutritional supplements.

The Global Marketing class is giving Wellesley High School students a unique learning opportunity. In addition to putting into practice the business skills of pricing, marketing, sales, ordering and website design, the students are gaining an appreciation for the history and culture of Haiti and an understanding of the difficulties in conducting business in a very foreign country.

Please come and see these unique and decorative works of Haitian art on sale at the Wellesley Holiday Boutique on 102 Central St. through November, and at the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club Market Place at Wellesley Middle School on Nov. 20. They make great gifts, and even small purchases will help support artists, their families, and provide medical care in Cite Soleil.

Peter W. Adler lives on Dukes Road. Larry Kaplan, MD, lives on High Meadow Circle.

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<http://faminerelieffoundation.com>



Images on display at the Wellesley High School in Boston, MA.



**I will not
leave you as
orphans; I will
come to you.**

John 14:18

The Adoption of Daniela

It has always been our quest to have our children adopted into US families. What a blessing it would be to take a child from the harsh life of Citi Soleil and introduce them to the abundant blessings that the US has to offer. What a blessing it would be to introduce a child to a new family of their own, a place where they could be directed and supervised loved and nurtured.

Most of the Mission Ranch Children came to us on the brink of disaster. Several were not expected to survive. Daniela was one of them.

Enter Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Sonya Suttles. Upon a visit to Citi Soleil they fell in love with little Daniela and a deep bond was formed. It was not long after that the Suttles decided they wished to have Daniela in their family and discussions of adoption began.

An adoption for little Daniela sounded wonderful, but it is not as easy as you may think. Daniela does not know her birthday or have a birth certificate making her adoption quite difficult. We have submitted a request to the Govt to create a birth certificate and back track some of the legal documentation that is required to proceed with the process. As you can imagine the paper process in Haiti is dreadfully slow. The Suttles have been very diligent in hiring a Haitian lawyer and following through with background check, home inspection and all the US requirements needed to move forward. At this time we wait on Haiti to come through with the birth certificate so we can move onto the home stretch of unit-

ing Daniela with her new family in Arizona.



It is our hope to have this adoption completed within the next several months.

The Suttles family has been nothing short of a divine blessing for Daniela and we rejoice in their happiness.

The
Whitened
Harvest
Fields
Of
Citi
Soleil

In Deep Gratitude

We would like to send a sincere thank you to Immanuel's Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. You have stood by us faithfully and lifted us up in times of challenge and tribulation. I would like to share a paragraph written to us by Pastor Charles and Pastor Dotty Schmitt.

"I recently read quite a challenging statement-God calls us to go places we've never been to, to do things we've never done, with resources we do not have! That is probable more than true for you as you serve the Lord in the whitened harvest fields!

We here bless you!"

The Whitened Harvest Fields.

Sometimes it all turns into a blur, cholera, malaria, the gangs, feeding and caring for the orphans, the immense needs of the poor, missing payroll because donations have slowed, the clinic, our worship center, life and death in Citi Soleil and the devils stronghold on this land.

I reflect back to:

The Whitened Harvest Fields of Citi Soleil,

the landmark where the Lord placed us to fulfill His assignment.

**Thank You
Immanuel's Church.
You have rescued us
many times.**



Missionary Of The Year Award



It is with tremendous pleasure that we present the Missionary Of The Year Award to Dr. Larry Kaplan. This man is beyond description in service, tenacity, and application when it comes to the impoverished people of Citi Soleil.

Dr Larry Kaplan has a lengthy resume of accomplishments including:

Gastroenterologist, Bridgewater Goddard Medical

President and Chief Executive Officer
Columbia MetroWest Medical Center

Senior Vice-President, Medical Management and Chief Medical Officer
MetroWest Health, Inc. Framingham, MA

Dr. Kaplan was a first responder 5 days after the earth quake ripped Haiti open. His tireless and skilled medical knowledge saved many lives during that time. For days Dr Kaplan was the only doctor at the medical clinic serving hundreds of fallen Haitians.





Dr. Kaplan tends to a women injured from falling debris

Dr Larry Kaplan has been back to Haiti many times since the quake. He created a diphtheria vaccination program shipping the vaccine from Boson, MA. to Haiti in temperature controlled containers. The vaccines were distributed in various locations of Citi Soleil with Larry drawing and preparing each syringe.



The day before, we were working in Souterre doing vaccinations. The next day a woman came to warn us that the gangs had planned on kidnapping Dr. Kaplan and myself. I explained the new threat and said “Well, what do you want to do?” He said : What are we waiting for?” So off we went to Souterre.



Next, on to the tent cities of Citi Soleil.

In the short 12 months time that Dr. Kaplan has been with the Famine Relief Foundation he has done more for Haiti than most people will do in a lifetime.

We are forever grateful.



The Dr. Larry Kaplan & Marty Dreibelbis Scholarship Award.

Every person deserves a chance at a better life but few seldom get that opportunity in Haiti. Marty Dreibelbis and Dr. Larry Kaplan have sponsored two young Haitians from Citi Soleil.

Evans is a young man 20 years of age. He has been an interpreter for Mission Ranch for many Medical Missions and assisted the doctors as they treat the patients. He has shown tremendous promise and caught the attention of both Larry and Marty.

They have created a scholarship fund to send Evans to computer school to learn a new career to help further his placement in life. Evans is also appointed to the art project to place orders and collect the finished products to be sent back to the US.

Dorothy has been a diligent helper with many Mission Ranch endeavors. Her cognitive application to detail and willingness to help has earned her scholarship merit. She is on her second semester of English at the local college thanks to Marty and Dr. Kaplan.

Both Dorothy and Evans live close to Mission Ranch. We find it remarkable that a legendary slum like Citi Soleil houses such talented diamonds in the rough.

With the help and support of Larry and Marty, Dorothy and Evans have new and abundant opportunities laid before them.



A Time Of Worship And Celebration



The Christmas Holiday was filled with gratitude and abundant worship to the Lord for the blessings that He has bestowed upon Mission Ranch and the people of Citi Soleil.



Our congregation size has declined slightly due to the quake and local unrest. The Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated robustly and joyfully at Mission Ranch. The hardships of slum life are no match for the endless blessings and heartfelt knowledge that the Lord is with us, no matter what happens.



Christmas For Our Munchkins

Santa Clause came to Mission Ranch once again. There was face painting, television shows, gifts and a full meal for our precious little children.



Twenty Five & One

Rice

Beans

Cooking Oil

Spaghetti

Sauce

Sardines

Coconut

Oatmeal

Fresh Water

Charcoal

Plates

Cups

Orphanage = Expense

There is no way around it. An orphanage is very expensive to run. Our costs for Mission Ranch are \$2400. per month if everything goes well. Gang fighting, storms and Govt unrest complicate things quickly.



We are searching for 25 churches to donate \$100.00 per month to Mission Ranch to help us with our day to day operations of this Mission.

If you belong to or know of a church that has a heart and passion for international missions would you please have them contact us at

FRF@ faminerelieffoundation.com or 301 990-0976

Pictures Of The month



Citi Soleil

This is an area called Mong. It is located close to the ocean. When the prison broke open during the quake many gang members escaped and came back to this location.

