



# January 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Special Words to Our Friends

Friends, as we start the New Year, we have new expectations, we are looking forward to new and exciting adventures, at CHOAIDS we are starting the 2012 year with 16 HIV+ children whom you have grown to know and love. I hope and pray God will bless you financially so that you can continue to help us meet their needs. From the youngest to the oldest, all 16 children came a long way. They have been through so much in life that many of us could never imagine. On behalf of the children and staff, I thank you for choosing to walk this journey with us. **This year I'm hoping for God to bless CHOAIDS with its own house** - I will share the need for this immediate needs later in this issue. I thank you for reading and of course, sharing the work that we are doing at CHOAIDS with your friends, family and acquaintances.

Blessings and peace, *Marie*



Marie and three of her girls (l to r) Dania, Rose-Michelle and Ruth L. before lunch



Fanfan took this picture of Venise on 1/28

## Our children's Health

- **Venise** is still hanging in there. Earlier this month, her doctor at *Grace Children's* changed her ARV medications. **Venise** is on her way to becoming healthy again. She no longer coughs and returned to school the last week of this month. She is now smiling again and enjoying the company of her brothers and sisters.

- **Christelle** was referred to the General Hospital for surgery on a cervical abscess she has had for a long time.

- **Alexandra** had her menses for the first time this month. However, her doctor told our staff that her CD4 level has decreased. We are not sure what is going on with her health, but we are following the doctor's advice to ensure the best care possible.

- All the other children are doing well, but they continue to have skin conditions and colds.

## Our current struggles

In December the Haiti project director, my brother, Fanfan contacted me to let me know that the landlord came to the house to ask for more money for the property he's rented us. This is what I found out - Fanfan said the landlord stated that he did not rent the property to have a business and that we must pay him an extra \$4,000 on top of the \$6,500 we have already given him. Fanfan told him that he would not be getting any more money from us since there was nowhere written in the contract that we could not have more than a certain number of people in the home. The landlord got nasty at some point and began to threaten him. I asked Fanfan to go seek the advice of a lawyer. He located an attorney who told him that in the eyes of the law the landlord has no right ask us for any more money at this point (by the way, this lawyer has not yet asked us for any money).

Fanfan has been dealing with the landlord since that first conversation in December. This man has had others in the neighborhood to stalk him to call to tell them when Fanfan comes to work so that he can come and harass him. Fanfan met with him at the house last Friday. In this meeting he learned that the landlord learned that we have white people coming to the house - and in his eyes, this means we must have money. According to Fanfan the landlord is still waiting for an answer from him about the \$4,000, but Fanfan is steering him to our lawyer.

I will have to say that I'm not surprised with this man's behavior. It is almost impossible to do work in Haiti and other countries like it without encountering shady characters. However, we have God on our side. We will not be part of this corruption. This is God's work; therefore, He will make sure to get His children a stable home where we will not have to have people trying to extort money from us. The landlord is now asking \$10,000 with \$2,000 deposit for the new contract, if we decide to renew. That's a 3,500-dollar increase on what we currently pay on the home. By the way, when you rent a home in Haiti, the landlord is not responsible to fix anything. If something breaks, you must fix it yourself or use it as is. So, I don't see what he would need a \$2,000 deposit. His rationale is, since we have white people coming to the house, we must have a lot of money coming in.

Our dream is to have the children to move into their own house in August 2012. We do not know how, but where there is a will there is a way. I'm counting on God to make this happen. Fanfan has already begun the search. He is spending 2-3 days a week looking.

## January visitor

- **D. Lyons** came by to visit our children this month. Mr. Lyons is the person who started to donate nutritious rice to our children more than three years ago. His efforts have brought us a lot more funding and exposure which have increased the support for the children. During this visit **Mr. Lyons** brought some hygiene supplies and toys for the children.



The CHOAIDS reception area

## Prayer Requests for our children and staff

• **Our children and staff need your prayers** - with this landlord showing aggression toward our staff especially my brother, we are in dire need of your prayers. We want him to leave our staff to do their work to please God.

• **We need prayers for God to send the money to buy a home for the children.** It's disturbing to have Fanfan be hounded by this man for a house we have already paid to be in for one year. I believe we have the right people caring for the children; I want them to be safe doing their jobs. Fanfan is very dedicated to the CHOARDS children; we have to make sure he has safe place in which to do his work. In addition of our staff's safety **we need to establish stability in the house and school for the children.** They can't keep changing school every year.

• God needs all of us to do this work for these HIV+ children in Haiti. Please pray for God to **help you see what you can do to help us purchase a home for the children.**



"Our children enjoying the presence of our guests last month."

## Earlier and current pictures of Ruth L. and Rose-Michelle

This picture was on one of my FaceBook friends pages who met **Rose-Michelle and Ruth L.** before they moved into the CHOARDS home in 2009. Both girls were abandoned at Grace Children's for two years before they moved into the CHOARDS home. It's amazing to see how much these two little ones have grown. Their journeys have not been easy, but they have the support of their CHOARDS family now to make sure they will get all they need to live well while fighting against HIV.



(top) Rose-Michelle and Ruth L at GCH (2009); (left) Rose-Michelle taking a break from doing the puzzles to color (2011); and (right) Ruth L. checking out the chicken coop (2011)



Caring for Haitian Orphans  
with AIDS, Inc.

Please write to us:  
CHOAIDS

P.O. Box 145  
Statesboro, GA 30459-0145

Phone: (813) 843-0038

E-mail: flojo2634@gmail.com

CHOAIDS is changing the lives of HIV+  
children in Haiti one child at a time"



Caring for Haitian Orphans with AIDS, Inc., where HIV+ abandoned children get a second chance at life. A **501(c)(3) charitable organization** that provides comprehensive care to HIV+ abandoned children in Haiti. We employ HIV+ women as "mothers" to deliver direct care to our children. These children depend on us to meet all their basic needs. We are committed to this population of children in Haiti and look to **YOUR** support to continue this great work.

**Vision**

- To create a safe and friendly home environment for HIV+ children
- To make sure the HIV+ children in our care receive stellar treatment
- To eliminate stigma in care delivery to persons living with HIV infection especially children
- To promote CHOAIDS as the standard of care for HIV+ neglected and abandoned children

**Make a difference in the life of an HIV+ child today!**

## The kids call her—"Mommy Vrosse"



Yvrosse combing Valentina's hair before  
the field trip in December

Yvrosse is Ghislaine's niece, one of the two full-time staff. Before working at CHOAIDS she would come visit her aunt and spend time bathing and combing the children's hair. After volunteering for CHOAIDS for six months, she gained enough confidence to ask to us for a job. During my visit to Haiti last month, I spent some time talking to Yvrosse and learned that she uses the money she makes to pay for her school. Yvrosse is 27 and is still working at completing high school. I'm happy to say that CHOAIDS is assisting her in meeting her dream of completing her high school education.

Yvrosse loves the children and their hair has never looked better. Yvrosse walks the children to and from school as well as takes them to church. With CHOAIDS she makes \$90/month. As funds become available, we seek to increase her monthly salary. We are so thankful for her because she is very loving toward the children.