



CHO AIDS—2011



Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2011

End of the Year Summary

A Special Message from Marie:

Dear Friends, I realized this issue is much longer than usual, I ask for your forgiveness in advanced. I decided to write the World AIDS Day event the kids put together for our guests on as a separate issue. Please keep an eye out for it.

In Him

It's already been seven years of actively developing and making a home for HIV+ children in Haiti—

2011 marked our seventh year in operation. Even though we started taking in children in December 2003, we were not able to rent our first home until March 2004. This year, thanks to a church group from Wisconsin who first visited the children in the moldy house that I talked about last June, the kids were able to move into a much nicer, bigger house in August. I will share more later about



these folks. Before moving into this house, this group of people traveled to Haiti and purchased much needed furniture and other household items for the children. There is no way I could

Wisconsin Team

- (1) Refrigerator
- (1) Generator
- (2) Tables and chairs
- (4) Bunk beds/mattresses
- (1) Office desk and chair
- (2) Fans
- Built a swing set
- Built a chicken coop
- (16) Towels; (16) Wash cloths; (8) Hand towels
- (16) Blanket; (10) Sheets;
- (15) Pillow cases
- (1) Motor (water system)

ever afford to buy work by myself. He used me to get it these things for the started, but sent His children from all over children at this point the world (mostly the US) to meet the needs in my life. Below is a of these HIV+ children. The leader of the list of items the folks Wisconsin group, **Michelle**, made sure that from Wisconsin have the group was made up of capable people purchased for the who would not be squeamish about work-children since March ing. Everyone in the group worked hard, of 2011. including the women. The women did

absolutely everything that needed to be God showed me that I done – from cutting wood for the swing to was not to do this caring for the children.

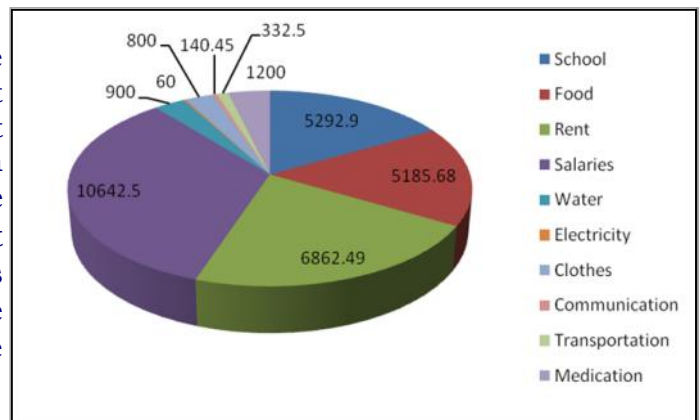
(l) Esther showcasing the refrigerator; (r) the generator



2011 Financial Contributions and Expenses

In 2011 you contributed **\$34,533.86** to CHOAIDS to take care of the 12 HIV+ children. We started the year with 12, however, later in the year welcomed four more children (**Zachary, Jordany, Dania and Wilcar**). We are not sure how many children we will be able to

afford to care for in 2012, but we would not want to turn any away. The pie chart represents where all the funds were spent.



2011 Review in Pictures

Birthday celebrations: Even though a number of our children do not have birth certificates, we celebrate the birthdays of those with birth certificates at the end of that month (sometimes one party for all who have birthdays that month). For the children without birth certificates we celebrate their birthdays on

Christmas Eve. All birthday parties were celebrated with cake other sweets, food and sodas. The kids are often excited to eat cake.



"Jordany's birthday cake before it was all eaten"

Esther and Christelle celebrated their birthdays on the same day. This meant we had to have two cakes



Getting 16 children ready for school

Preparing for school in September -

16 pairs of shoes for 16 pairs of feet. By the way, most of these shoes as well as the backpacks are already gone. We had to purchase shoes and backpacks for all 16 children to start the second school trimester in January.

First day of school – even though the tuition was not paid, the school principal agreed to let the children attend school until we were able to pay two weeks after school started.

“16 pairs of shoes for 16 pairs of feet”



Getting 16 children ready for school (cont.)



Highlights from my November 25-December 3 Trip

I was very excited to be traveling to Haiti with the Wisconsin group. As I arrived at the Miami International Airport, I tried without success to identify the group. Their flight arrived from Chicago just a few minutes before boarding. I began to get nervous that they would miss their flight to Haiti when the plane started boarding and I did not hear from **Michelle**. I called her and thanks be to God she answered. After a while I located her among the large number of people waiting to board the plane. We hugged. She introduced me to the other eight members of the group and we waited for our turn to board the plane. I met her Dad **Mike**, brother-in-law **Kyle** and the other church members – **Shirley, Anne, Cindy, Natasha, Brett and Carol**. This trip was Carol and Anne's second trip to CHOIDS. They've already met many of the children. As we arrived in the *Toussaint Louverture International Airport* in Haiti, I noticed that things have greatly improved from my last trip. For instance, it was

always chaotic to collect my luggage (trust me; you would have to have been to Haiti to understand this). We were greeted with a nice tourist magazine which highlighted some of the tourist attractions in Haiti, restaurants and artisans. I was so excited. Because I was often ashamed of the chaos; now there seem to be some order and decency. Our driver (well, that's at the doing of the group leader, because no one has ever come in to wait for me and my luggage inside the airport) **Pastor Maxeau**



After school
tutoring
session

greeted Michelle and the other members of the group, collected our luggage and we headed for the airport exit. Oh, by the way, he already had a group of men ready to carry our luggage (trust me; again, you would have to be there to understand the whole thing) that way no other porters would touch our items.

Since we arrived in Haiti late, we retreated to our respective lodging locations – the team went to location that is within walking distance to the orphanage and I went to stay with family. This was the first time since 2002 that I stayed with family in Haiti.



Valentina and Thierrytson having fun on the swing

All the fun began the next day – **Fanfan** and I went to visit the children first and then we went to get the others who were nearby. It was fun for the children to see, but when they saw **Mommy Michelle** things got even more exciting. There was such excitement in the house that I was scared we would get in trouble with the next door neighbors. Fortunately, the couple next door loves the children, therefore, she and her husband did not mind the noise. The team got to work right away. They got ready to build the swing set and chicken coop. Fanfan had already purchased chickens with the money Michelle sent from **Angel and Anthony**'s lemonade stand. Oh, by the way, one of the chickens laid eggs before we left and now has seven baby chicks. I will have to say that the swing is a hot commodity at the CHOIDS home. All the children want to get on it – we created a system for them to use it that includes having an adult present at all times when the kids are on it.

CHOIDS first fieldtrip - Beach Day

Michelle made arrangements with Pastor Maxeau to get us two midsize tap-taps for the field trip. Fanfan and I got to the house very early (around 8 o'clock. Public transportation is crazy. It took us over an hour to get the kids which is about a 5-mile drive). When we got there, the live-in staff was

already getting the children ready for the big day, so all we had to do was getting a few other items ready. Nurse **Julie** took care of the proper way to cough and cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief when coughing and when riding in the tap-tap in dusty areas. Each one of the children was given a

new handkerchief for the trip, since many of them could not locate the ones they use for school. Not too long after the education session which took place in the backyard, the guests arrived. All the children ran to greet them. We packed the tap-taps and we were on our way to the beach.



Mommy Michelle, Valentina, Ruth L, and Carol



Anne and Gerline catching some

Upon arrival, Mommy Michelle, **Valentina** and **Ruth L.** testing the water. We all thought Valentina would be more afraid of the water, but she was the one who spent the most time enjoying the water with her Mommy Michelle.



Heading out for sightseeing at beach

All the children except for Venise and Rose-Michelle and many of the adults got on boats to do some sightseeing. That was an interesting story there. Please make sure to get clarity on how much these boat taxi guys will charge before getting in their boats. When we discussed price, we thought they meant Haitian currency, but one of the three guys who took our team sightseeing was hung up on being paid in US dollars and he wanted to be paid more for the white folks who rode his boat. Needless to say, he did not get all the money he demanded.



Heading out for sightseeing

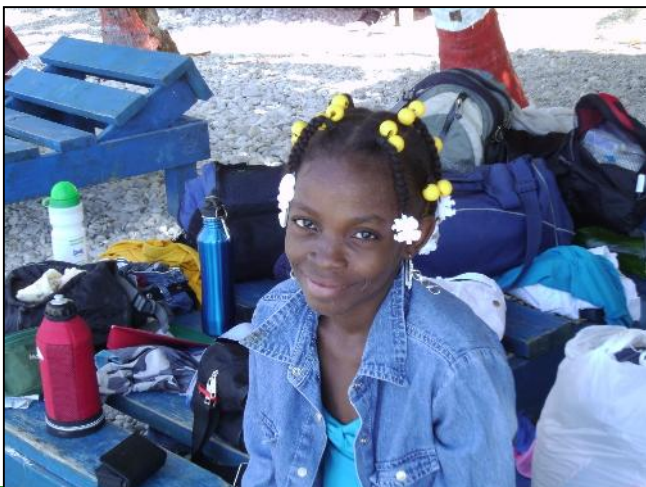


Some of the children resting in between fun



Not all of the children were able to enjoy the beach with our guests. **Venise** and **Rose-Michelle**

were sick; therefore, they sat on the beach enjoying the scenery. Venise suffered with the usual ailments while Rose-Michelle had a painful abscess.



John Hill – How he met Ruth L. and Rose-Michelle and located them at the CHOAIDS home

All this began in 2007, when I first met dear Ruth LaPointe, while she, Rose-Michelle and other children were being treated for TB, HIV, malnutrition, etc. at Grace Children's Hospital, Delmas 31. I visited with Ruth on subsequent trips. The one this February led me to CHOAIDS in Petion-ville. A good friend (Morgan) in Vermilion was able to locate Ruth after the earthquake in a CHOAIDS photo. And now I find myself bringing school supplies, medicine, candy and money from relatives and friends - so that these wonderful children can have a Christmas - dresses, pants, shirts, sandals and backpacks/school bags! How simply right and natural this all feels to me!



I am truly blessed to have been led by Him to CHOAIDS - and the children. I have now seen, first hand, how clean, loving and nurturing their new home is, and to meet Fanfan, teacher Job, and the other wonderful caregivers there. We can never do enough for our children at CHOAIDS, and must do all we can to assure a secure future for them. Please help me to give them love, food, shelter and an opportunity to learn! Make it so that they can grow in God's love always. Know that I will do what I can to make this happen, as I love them all very much! Always remember that the "Gift" is in the GIVING!

**Caring for Haitian
Orphans with AIDS, Inc.**

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**"Changing the lives of HIV+ children
in Haiti one child at a time"**

Visit our website:
www.choaids.org



2011 was an extraordinary year for the CHOAIDS children and staff. People from all over the US represented Jesus in their lives. I'm so happy to know that there are people from all over who are willing to allow God to use them in such a wonderful way. **From the bottom of heart, I thank you for helping care for these 16 HIV+ children. Your work is not in vain.**