

The International Village of Hope

A 501.c.3 Non-Profit organization founded by Carole Herget.

A non-denominational Christian organization dedicated to helping the children of Haiti.

6252 Commercial Way PMB 163 Weeki Wachee FL 34613

www.tivoh.org

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Dear brothers and sisters in the Work of Christ,

Many of you know about the work of Sue Witt. We first met Sue when she was in charge of the Christianville guest house, where our mission teams stay in Haiti. For a time, Sue was the director of the Lamb Center, an orphanage and school located between Gressier and Leogane, which Sue converted from a defunct resort hotel. Several of our teams worked there, doing painting and repairs on the property, and playing with the children, who were delightful. It was always a deeply rewarding experience to see the work Sue was doing at the Lamb Center. The International Village of Hope helped support her work financially for a number of years, for which she has been very grateful.



Pastor Bill Roen with Sue Witt.

Last year, however, Sue lost her major support for the Lamb Center and had to close it. She took the youngest children with her to Port-au-Prince, where she is now living. Over the next several months, she succeeded in placing several of the children in adoptive homes. At the time when we last saw her, during our mission trip last January, Sue had two children remaining, and she was looking for a house

in which she could start another home for orphaned children. We left her a significant financial contribution to help with her expenses, and that gift was very welcome.

Now Sue has informed us that she has rented a very nice house in Port-au-Prince and begun another orphanage licensed under the name "NEW LIFE."

"I want to help children that are being adopted in the States," she writes. "The new mission's main objective is to lead children into a personal relationship with Jesus, while strengthening their bodies and minds through proper nutrition and education."

She wrote me several days ago that she has two new children—ages 5 and 1-1/2. She seems very excited and happy.

Sue needs some work done at the New Life Mission—painting and repairs again—and I am considering taking a small work group down shortly after the first of the year for that purpose. The weather is dry and relatively cool at that time of year. The dates have yet to be finalized---sometime in January or February.

You can send financial gifts for her work through the International Village of Hope. We will make sure they are put into her hands. Be sure to mark them clearly "New Life Mission."

"When you touch a life, you touch the heart of God," Sue writes. Remember to pray for her work as she touches lives in the place of beauty and tragedy called Haiti.

Yours in the Lord's service,

Pastor Bill Roen

UPDATES AND NEWS BRIEFS

Treasurer's Report. As of June 22, 2009, the International Village of Hope had a balance of \$21, 912.33.

Nativity Lutheran Church of Weeki Wachee Florida once again helped our organization with a donation of \$4,050.00 from their Junk-tique Sale. We are so very thankful to all the members of Nativity for their thoughtfulness in supporting our mission in Haiti.

Water for Heroes of Savannah School. Pastor Gasnel reported that the Heroes of Savannah School could have water via a pipeline from the nearest well. One of our sponsors has donated the funds necessary to go ahead with this project.

Marechal School Graduating Class. Marechal School will have its 3rd graduating class in June. No children in the graduating class were left behind.

Vacation Bible School at Marechal School is scheduled for June.

The Lutheran Church of the Ascension of Savannah, Georgia is planning a yard sale for September to raise funds to build a new classroom at the Heroes of Savannah School. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

HELP WANTED. Our organization is looking for someone with experience in applying for Grants. We hope to apply for a grant to build several new classrooms at the Heroes of Savannah School. Please contact Pastor Bill Roen at 1-912-232-4151 if you can help.

HEROES OF SAVANNAH



Children of the Heroes of Savannah School wearing balloon crowns and beads made by International Village of Hope volunteers, January 2009.

The Heroes of Savannah School is named in honor of the ***Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint Domingue***—the 545 free men of color from what is now Haiti—who, as part of a joint French-American force, fought to free Savannah from British occupation during the American Revolution.

The British had captured the Savannah in 1778. To free the city, a French-American force laid siege to Savannah from September 16 until October 18, 1779. Although the effort to free Savannah failed, the efforts of the ***Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue*** are remembered in Savannah with a statue and with annual commemorations. Henri Christophe, who later became king of independent Haiti, is thought to have been one of the ***Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue***.

President Obama recognized the Heroes of Savannah in his Statement on Haitian Flag Day (May 18, 2009):

The United States and Haiti share a deeply intertwined history and a long standing friendship. In 1779, freemen from the French colony of Saint Domingue, now the Republic of Haiti, came to the aid of American patriots fighting for freedom at the Siege of Savannah... On this Haitian Flag Day, I am proud to send my warm wishes and those of the American people to the people of Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora as they celebrate during Haitian Heritage Month.