

Village of Hope, Inc.
300 East Yamato Rd.
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A Message from Principal Clovis Elias

Every school year at Village of Hope is a challenge, considering the population and the community we serve are exposed to all kinds of vulnerabilities. However, thanks to the committed spirit of the VOH staff, coupled with the VOH Board and Sponsors' generosity, we are reaching our goals. 95% of the students at all levels are successful. We are still awaiting the scores on the national exams for this year's graduating class.

In the last school year, VOH registered in the National exams the largest group in our history: 41 students have completed their studies. Also, by decision of the Haiti Ministry of Education, last school year ended the former school program of more than 80 years. Now our students will have to face to more challenges in the next high school's exams session specially in Music, Art, Computers, and Citizenship. This new program is requiring more structures and facilities and I thank the VOH board and donors for not having hesitated to give me the full support while setting up in the campus a computer lab, and a biology, chemistry and physics lab. We also have an equipped music room. During the recent completion ceremony, the VOH band made a great performance. Thanks to those new facilities and structures, we are planning to be more efficient in our teaching practice and to obtain even more satisfactory results.

VOH school has completed the registration process with 22 girls and 18 boys are admitted for the new kindergarten Class. As for further improvements, my next priority for improvement is electricity in the secondary school building.

On behalf of students and staff, special thanks to the VOH Board, Sponsors, and donors for their unconditional and continuing support. My staff and I are more than ever motivated and committed for a new successful school year.

May God bless you all. Clovis Elias



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A Message from Rob and Trish

Hello from HOT and sunny Haiti! We pray that you have had a blessed summer. It has been a different kind of summer here in Haiti. The riots that happened in July caused a bit of quietness and uncertainty. It was kind of like everyone was waiting for the other shoe to drop. The travel advisory went up to a Level 4 on July 9 but on July 17 it was returned to its normal level 3! For just over a week traffic was nonexistent but after that it went right back to its chaotic "Normal". Life has now resumed to Haiti normal and we go about things as we always have.

How about the school and clinic at Village of Hope? We were not physically damaged in any way. For this we give all praise to God! The clinic was closed for several days to ensure the safety of the staff. Fortunately the school year had finished not more than a couple weeks before. The decision was made to not make the teachers come for several days. We were able to have registration for Kindergarten on one of the planned days. The other day of registration was cancelled. I am happy to report that we have 40 sweet 3 year olds ready to start school in September! This summer enrichment week and Professional Development were both cancelled due to our travel and evacuation insurance. We missed spending that time with the students, staff, and teams. Please be in prayer for some of our staff who were caught in the middle of riots and experienced things that are hard to forget. Praise God everyone and their families are safe.

We plan to resume teams in October. We are excited to welcome back to back mobile medical teams. The need is so great here. The gourds rate is high causing cost of living to rise and in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere this is quite tragic. The average salary in Haiti is 250 gourds a day or \$3.75 and a bag of rice costs over 1000 gourds or \$15 and we all know you need more than rice to cook it. This has caused hunger and malnutrition to skyrocket. The malnutrition clinic on Tuesdays is to the point that we stop signing in patients when we are to our maximum for the day. We feel blessed to help more than 70 children in our program by providing rice, corn, oil, beans, formula (only for nonproducing mothers or babies who lost their mother) antibiotics, vitamins, medical mamba (Plumpy nut or sup), medical care, training, love, and support. Keep all these people in your prayers!

In HIS service, Rob and Trish Low



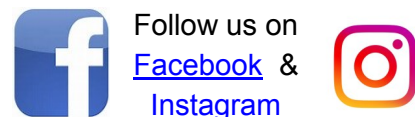
Village of Hope's Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors continues to create, reflect, and enact a strategic plan that looks ahead a minimum of five years. It is a joy to see these activities, projects, and ideas take root and enhance our mission and ministry. You have a Board of Directors that works diligently to catch the vision that God has for this ministry. Each year the Board of Directors chooses 2-3 major initiatives. For the academic 2018/2019 year the three major goals are:

1. Hire a Development Director. We want to ensure we have financial resources to sustain this crucial mission and ministry.
2. Establish a Haiti Advisory Council. We plan to enlist key Ganthier community leaders and several parents to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community.
3. Enhance our database information. With additional congregations getting involved, new sponsors, and continued mission teams-- coordinating of addresses, phone numbers, student sponsor information, etc. is a requirement.

Financial Funds are like Feeding of the Five Thousand

The Board of Directors is always monitoring the necessary funds to sustain this \$650,000 annual budget. Some months the income is low and makes our Treasurer uneasy. Then God seems to provide strong months to alleviate the concern. The hundreds of students, hundreds of patients, and 75 teachers and staff depend on the financial support of people like you. Each one of you is like the little boy who brought the fish and a few loaves and together makes miracles a reality. Thank you for your continued and regular support. Without you, there would no way to sustain this crucial ministry.



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Every bit helps!

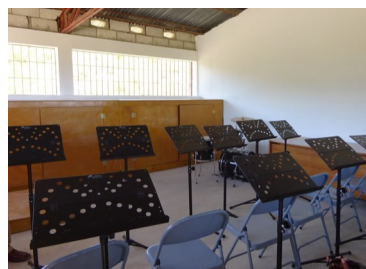


Kate Krull, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna, VA, donates results of her "Passion Project" to Village of Hope, Haiti board member Bill Larson. A "Passion Project" is a year-long effort required by Kate's seventh grade teacher at Langston Hughes Middle School. The assignment: choose a topic you are passionate about; research it; learn what is

needed; develop a project to help meet the need; execute your plan. Over the school year Kate wrote papers, read books, did research, and developed materials to raise donations for her passion: improving health of students in Haiti. The result: 162 toothbrushes, toothpaste, and \$90, all contributed by classmates and neighbors. She said she learned "there are a lot of nice people out there willing to help. All you need to do is explain the need and ask for help." Thanks, Kate, for being passionate about the health of students at Village of Hope!

It was Just an Empty Building

For over a decade a building that Carol Herget had built was standing empty because it was not near the immediate campus of Village of Hope. It has been refurbished and houses three student activities now required by the Board of Education in Haiti. One room houses a science lab. With the assistance of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Vienna, VA, lab equipment has been donated to equip students for lab work. A second room is a music/band room and has been equipped with donated instruments. A third room is the art center where students can develop art skills. Who knows what budding artists this center might produce? What a fantastic building transformation!



Mission Teams Touch Surrounding Communities

We are thankful for the many Mission Teams that travel to Haiti. We maximize that number each year to 26 teams. Not only do Mission Teams engage themselves at the school and Health Center, they also spend a day in a local community. There they teach a Vacation Bible School program and offer medical assistance. It is not unusual to touch the lives of hundreds of people each day. Many children do not attend any school so this provides a way for them to learn about who we are and the God we serve.



Join the Christmas Mission Team!

For the last several years I have had the privilege to be a member of the Christmas mission team to VOH. The team helps to sort, organize and deliver the gifts provided by donors from all over the USA to the children and staff at VOH. This is one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences I have had and one I will never forget after seeing the smiling faces of the 600 plus students receiving their gifts. The team is not only rewarded with the gift of giving but also by the performances by the children of each grade. After this, our own Santa (Papa Noel) arrives to kick off the gift giving! There are still a few openings on the team so you could experience this Haitian Christmas celebration! If you have ever thought about joining a mission team, this is a good one to start with since you see almost all the children, staff and the facilities at VOH. The team also does a Bible story, a craft and food distribution at a local Haitian village so you can see first-hand how many people live in Haiti. The dates of this trip are Dec 8-15. Please contact Marni Maree our team leader at mmaree@cox.net if you can join us. You will be a blessing to our team and to many others as you work as Christ's hands and feet in Haiti. Ron M.

2020 Will be our 25th Anniversary

You will be hearing about some exciting plans to celebrate this significant milestone. Imagine the lives that have been touched by the ministry at Village of Hope. Imagine the lives that have been changed because mission teams experienced firsthand what it is like to live in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Imagine the churches who have found this ministry enhances the work they do as a congregation. Imagine the heart of Jesus that is touched because He knows, "I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was naked, I was sick AND....." Thanks for making the "AND" possible.

THANK YOU!
Your generous donations, mission teams, and prayers make a difference in the lives of everyone at Village of Hope. All of you make it happen. Thanks to each and every one of you. Thanks be to God!

Our donors January 1—June 30, 2018

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