



MANY HANDS  
FOR HAITI



P.O. Box 204 Pella, IA, 50219  
www.mh4h.org | 641.629.6633



## TEAM IMPACT IN HAITI

BY BAILEY ANDERSON

Hosting teams in Haiti is one of the core focuses of our ministry. In 2016, we hosted 218 people through various short-term trips. It has been exciting to watch these teams grow during their time in Haiti, helping us achieve our mission of transforming together.

On each trip, the teams perform similar services for the communities, but these services take on unique experiences. The following four teams share their incredible experiences and give a flavor for what happens when our teams are in country.

### Lutheran Church of Hope - Dec 2016

Many visiting teams contribute to various service projects in our surrounding Haitian communities, including delivering goats, visiting orphanages, pouring concrete floors, and performing food distributions. However, pouring concrete floors was a special activity for members of the Lutheran Church of Hope team. In 2016, the church partnered with Many Hands for Haiti for the Do Something Concrete project, which sponsored the materials and labor involved in pouring 878 floors.

MH4H hosted a celebration on campus for all of those involved at the close of the project. The team was able to personally thank the mason bosses who headed up their concrete crews, the local cement vendors, and the drivers who brought sand, gravel, and cement to each site.

In addition to the party, the team was able to visit some of the homes directly helped through the project. They spent their time distributing gifts of clothing, goats, and food, which included necessities like rice, beans, oil, spaghetti, and bouillon. Being able to provide concrete floors, while bringing much needed food, was a double impact for the team. They saw this as an opportunity to show the love of Jesus through this gift.



Getting ready to pour a new floor



Adding a flair of color to a new home



Preparing for the celebration



Sharing words of thanks at the celebration

### P.E.T. Team - Feb 2017

A unique program to Many Hands for Haiti is the distribution of Personal Energy Transport (P.E.T.) carts. The Leighton, IA, chapter of Mobility Worldwide builds the carts we use to help those with disabilities, ranging from birth defects to diseases to accidents. Because they can't walk, these individuals tend to be isolated from their communities.

Many short-term teams are able to help us in distributing these carts. However, the P.E.T. Team was able to share the unique and joyful experience of distributing the carts they actually made and meet the individuals they work so hard to help. In all, the team was able to donate 62 carts in their one-week trip. They illustrated for us something which simply must be seen.

"We cannot begin to describe the smiles on their faces and the faces of their loved ones. These lives are now changed," shared trip members Marianne Vranek and Don Ridder.



Blessing others by giving the gift of mobility



Praying over a new P.E.T. owner



## Pella Christian Winterim - Jan 2017

Pella Christian Schools have shared a connection in Haiti with us for years, sending students on short-term trips through their yearly Winterim service program. It's been an eye-opening experience for many and has shaped young adult minds to a lifetime of global service.

Students on the Winterim trip enjoy a wide range of heart-opening experiences. This group was able to visit schools and orphanages, transplant plantains, pour concrete floors, and visit homes in multiple communities. These service projects provided an opportunity to interact with many children, seeing the needs that exist, and experiencing how others live in another culture.

The Thrive for Five program gave them a lot on which to reflect. Members of the team enjoyed spending time with the children. During the program, students watched as a woman handed her child to Mr. Anderson. Jaydon VandeNoord and Brett Natelborg remarked, "His eyes lit up and it was a great moment of the day."

Moments like these can impact students forever. Their worldviews are broadened as God shares His global heart through their time in Haiti.



Walking the streets of Sylvain



Climbing Mount Pignon



Visiting a single mother with 5 kids

## Haven Christian Reformed Church - Feb 2017

As a church sending their first team with us, many on the Haven Christian Reformed Church team were able to see Haiti and the impact of ministry with fresh eyes. They noted the openness of the people and especially, the openness of the children.

The team was able to participate in worship services, experiencing the way these services strengthen the Christian bond between believers around the world.

"We were all left in awe of the Spirit's power to break down barriers of race, language, status, and nationality to leave only equal brothers and sisters in Christ, worshipping together as One Body," shared Taylor Kraal.

One amazing story from this team was an unexpected reunion. As a young man, Steve Hagedon lived in Pignon in 1987. During that year, he saw a crying toddler living next to him and asked the aunt why he was crying. The aunt replied, "Because we have no food for him." Steve brought him home and fed him over a number of months and then the child moved back into the countryside with his mother. Steve never saw him again.

Thirty years later, Steve and the team were working on the floor of a house. Steve was unexpectedly reunited with the same boy, Tibens, who turned up to pour concrete with the team. "The utter disbelief in our group member's eyes was a touching confirmation that God has a purpose in every situation we face," wrote Kraal.

Indeed, we've had a busy winter with many teams serving in Haiti. These trips create a life-long impact in every participant, and we see the ripple effects in both Haiti and in the US. We are so thankful for these partners in mission as they make a lasting difference in the lives of many people.



Steve meeting Tibens and his family



The team delivering food to a local family

If you are interested in organizing a short-term trip with us, please contact Marcena Schwab at [mschwab@mh4h.org](mailto:mschwab@mh4h.org) or call 641-629-6633. We can accommodate individuals, small teams or large teams. Bookings fill up quickly each year.

## GOODBYE TO THE MANGO TREE

After much prayer and petition with the Lord, the leadership of MH4H have decided to put The Mango Tree up for sale. The Mango Tree means so much to us, as well as to many others, as we birthed and launched the unique, one-of-a-kind frozen yogurt shop in April 2013.

We know God is asking us to lay it down and let it go for our future because He wants us to focus our efforts on other areas of the ministry. Moving forward, we need to focus on the many other projects we have going in the U.S. and Haiti. With such great beginnings, we don't want to see it go away. We pray someone else sees this need and will purchase it from us.

Right now, The Mango Tree will not re-open this spring, unless there is a buyer of the store. We believe The Mango Tree has a place in each local community and could do very well for a new owner.

If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing The Mango Tree, we would love to meet and discuss. It is a turnkey business, with good potential for the future. Please contact Tim Brand at [tbrand@mh4h.org](mailto:tbrand@mh4h.org) or Ken Landgrebe at [klandgrebe@mh4h.org](mailto:klandgrebe@mh4h.org)





# CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION



Beginning in January, the staff in Haiti began the process of beautifying the campus. With so much construction and growth in the last year, it has been a blessing to start adding more beautiful native Haitian plants and trees. Our staff have been very intentional in this process, buying only from local vendors to help stimulate the economy. As well, they are planting trees and plants in strategic locations to provide shade on campus and protect our land from long-term soil erosion.

Being able to take this step is a great reminder of God's faithfulness in providing this amazing campus to transform lives!

## BUILDING A FUTURE FOR FAMILIES

BY BAILEY ANDERSON

One of the many problems that Haitians face is a lack of safe housing. In many cases, houses are assembled from scraps, which makes them unstable and insecure. The state of their home can even perpetuate health problems. On top of our Do Something Concrete project, we also take it one step further by building entire houses for Haitians in need. These homes are funded by groups in the United States, and some of our volunteers participate in the construction of the homes, working alongside other Haitians and the families that will be living in the house.

Recently, we have helped to build three homes for families in need of safe housing.

The first house was a family of five, consisting of three young children, a mother, and a father named Anosper. The house they were living in was in shambles, with walls literally falling apart from the slightest touch. Anosper and his family devoted themselves to attending church every Sunday, where Anosper played an amazing handmade instrument. This inspired our visiting volunteers to advocate for him to receive a new home. On the side of his new home is painted Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."



Anosper's house before the rebuild



Their new home marked with Psalm 27

The second house was funded by a collection of car dealerships in northwest Iowa and this money provided a home for the Joseph family. The family lost their home in the earthquake of 2010 and had to relocate the two parents and their five children. Mr. Joseph played an active role in the planning and construction of the home, using a new design to stay within a budget for materials. During this house build, the family gave their lives to Christ through the shepherding of the Many Hands for Haiti Chaplain, Lumanes.

The third house we built was for Philanda Blanc, a participant in the Thrive for Five program and 180 for Haiti School Sponsorship Program. Her house was in the mountains in Savanette, and for that reason, was subject to erosion, making the house unstable and unsafe. Her sponsor, seeing the poor condition of Philanda's house, started a Facebook group to raise money to build her a new house. In five months, the money was raised and construction was approved to begin. Although the mountainous terrain proved difficult, those constructing the house met the challenge head-on, with many members of Blanc's family participating. The house was completed in January.



The Joseph Family in front of their new home



Philanda's previous home unstable on a mountain



Philanda and family in front of their new home

These are just three of the homes that we have helped to build alongside Haitian families, but we will continue to strive for a healthier, safer, and more stable standard of housing for Haitians. Truly, God has shown us that these homes change lives.

If you feel led to help us change more lives, you can donate to support our safe home projects. Checks can be sent to MH4H directly to PO Box 204, Pella, IA, 50219. Or you can donate online at [www.mh4h.org/donate](http://www.mh4h.org/donate). Donations are tax deductible.



thanks for giving  
**JOY** to the world!

**\$54,420  
RAISED!**

**4 new houses | food for 100 families | support for 30 new mothers | 83 P.E.T. cart deliveries**  
**training for 17 farmers | 98 bunches of bananas | 5 concrete floors**  
**12 church services | 89 goats | 18 farmers educated | 12 community projects**  
**medicine for 72 children for a year | 94 bibles donated | 3 preschool classes sponsored**

We want to express our deepest appreciation to all of you who donated to our Give Joy campaign in 2016. Know that these donations will certainly go a long way in assisting our life transforming work in Haiti. We are better together!

## LIZ CLARKE TO THRIVE

BY LIZ CLARKE THRIVE FOR 5 ADMINISTRATOR

With the Do Something Concrete days behind us, you may be asking yourself, "What happens with Liz? How will she ever fill her days?" To my delight, I've taken a position as Administrator of the Thrive program! I officially started upon returning from my furlough at the beginning of this year.

I oversee the daily tasks of our cooks and other Thrive staff as they prepare food, serve the children and moms, and keep things clean. This seems to fit well with my many years of restaurant management experience, yes? God knew!

In the past year, Many Hands has been refocusing and refining our Thrive program model. We're working in the short-term by bringing vital, daily nutrition and health education to vulnerable children and their mothers who otherwise wouldn't have access. This is happening in the first 1,000 days of the child's life, which is the most critical time for cognitive and physical development in all humans. Over 90% of our brain development will happen in this time frame. Not only that, we're working for the long-term as well; how can we best prepare these children for a lifetime of learning and work? We can see that the short-term plan complements the long-term goal.

Children who are physically and mentally stunted cannot perform well; they won't do as well in school (if they are even able to go) therefore they won't find good paying jobs. These factors extend the cycle of poverty, keeping people stuck. I believe with this focus on the first 1,000 days, we can have a high impact towards helping lives transform and I'm excited to join the Thrive team!



## HAITIANS LEADING THE WAY

February saw our fifth servant-hearted leadership conference in Haiti. This conference was completely run by our Haitian staff, as they took responsibility for preparation, content, music, and guest speakers. It is encouraging to see our leaders taking ownership of the conference. This is the kind of leadership we are hoping to inspire, and it is wonderful to see the fruits of service growing in these leaders.

The topics were wide-ranging, from discussing the truth of voodoo to taking responsibility for your spiritual development. Participants commented that the conference went very well and it was very informative.



## TEAMS IN HAITI - DECEMBER TO MARCH

**Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, IA**  
December 1-8 , People: 7

**Pella Christian, Pella, IA**  
January 3-10 , People: 15

**Blom Memorial, Pella, IA**  
January 12-19, People: 14

**Sunnybrook Community Church, Sioux City, IA**  
January 19-26, People: 7

**Hope Reformed Church, Spencer, IA**  
February 2-9 , People: 17

**P.E.T. Team, Leighton, IA**  
February 9-16, People: 15

**Haven CRC, Zeeland, MI**  
February 16 - 23 , People: 13

**Cumberland University, Nashville, TN**  
March 3-11, People: 15

**Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, IA**  
March 11-18 , People: 18