



HOME



EDUCATION



LOVE



OPPORTUNITY

HELO NEWS



Building and Rebuilding

2017 has been a year of rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. It was also a year of building both new structures and new relationships. Our family continued to grow, welcoming

new children who lost parents in the hurricane, and watching all the children grow taller, stronger, and more confident. We are so thankful to our donors, especially our sponsors, for their love and support for our children and our programs!

Hurricane Matthew destroyed two of our three homes. Home 3 rebuild was completed in December 2016, painted by our December team. Construction of a new Home 2 began in January, a second story structure that offers tremendous views and a very nice breeze. That home is now complete, and we now hope to replace cisterns and solar panels lost in the hurricane. Slowly but surely, thanks to our generous friends and donors, we rebuild stronger and more beautiful than before. Praise God!

Magda Chery was the second HELO child to visit the United States, her February visit sponsored by Orphaned Starfish Foundation. Magda experienced her first snowfall, spoke at an event in Manhattan, and was delighted to also visit Las Vegas. We are very proud of Magda for speaking so well and for being such a beautiful ambassador for HELO. We thank everyone at Orphaned Starfish for making her visit possible, and for all of the



Home 3 under construction

support they give to all of the children at HELO through our computer center.

A small team from Orphaned Starfish Foundation (“OSF”) returned to Haiti with Magda. We were thrilled to host Andy and Dilia of OSF, music producer Tony Black, and actress/singer Margot Bingham who worked with some of the children to create a music studio and taught them to record their own music. Watch for some of their music on i-Tunes.

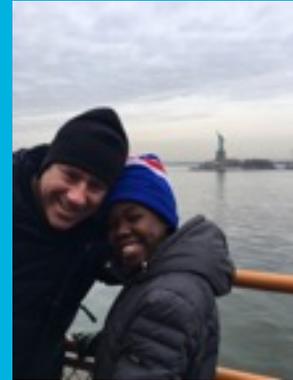
A team from Trevor Day School in Manhattan also visited HELO in February and, in addition to painting our new home, helped record some music. The Trevor students enjoyed a day at the beach with the children and staff at HELO, always a favorite day.

Another partner in mission, Samasta Health Foundation, visited HELO in March. Samasta has brought telemedicine to HELO and generously supports a nurse on staff at the orphanage. Guerta has a wonderful rapport with both the parents and the children and provides wonderful care in addition to periodic health seminars. We are so proud and grateful to partner with both Samasta and OSF and thank both foundations and their donors for their support of our sweet children.

The Spring brought more music to HELO with the addition of classes for accordion, drums, saxophone, french horn, trombone. We have been fortunate to continue to expand our music program to include keyboard and guitar lessons. We are looking for donations of trumpets and flutes further expand this program.

The children did well in the 2016-2017 school year, with Jean Michel scoring second highest on the state exams in all of les Cayes — our teachers are doing a tremendous job! We offered several vocational programs during the summer break. A cosmetology & hairdressing class was jam packed with students creating beauty. “Art Plastique” or the art of painting on glass was also offered, and our homes are now adorned by beautiful works of art. We have two students enrolled in a carpentry apprenticeship, and Ronaldo continues his gardening with the help of Harvesting for Haiti who visited in August.

Thanks to team members in July and August, we have a beautiful mural on our gate and the children received new backpacks for school. School reopened in September with new classrooms for both the primary and secondary schools. We are now teaching from Pre-K through 10th grade and we hope that with the help of our generous friends and donors, a second floor will be build on the secondary school so that our students can complete their high



school education at HELO. We have also build a small infirmary so that our nurse has designated and private space to exam patients. This has been a dream come true — the addition of regular healthcare will help our children grow into strong, healthy adults, who will complete their high school education and have a trade to support themselves and one day their families. We hope and believe that the children will become future leaders of Haiti. We are so tremendously grateful to our mission partners and every one of our donors who share our vision and support our children and our programs. Without you, we would not see this progress.

It has not been a year without challenges. We are so grateful that the major hurricanes did not impact Haiti (and pray for neighboring islands who suffered devastation similar to what we experienced in 2016). Major flooding has been an issue throughout the hurricane season this year with the loss of crops in many areas. Our gardens are not greatly affected, and that food source is a blessing.

HELO has reached a major milestone in 2017 — our tenth anniversary! From humble beginnings in 2007, ten small children in a tiny rented house. Those children are now tall, strong, and talented and are still in that small house, but we were blessed to be able to purchase it this year. Thank you all who made that possible.

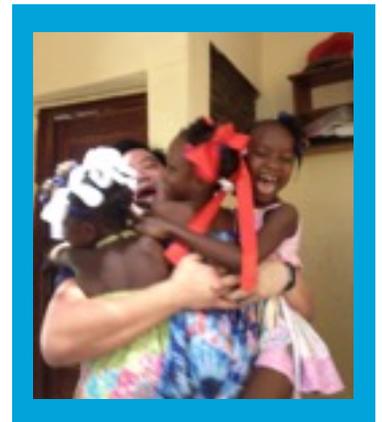
2007 - 2017, 10 children to 65, one home to three, we've gone from children learning on slate boards to learning on lap top computers, operating music studios and complicated 3d printers. Ten years of Home Education Love and Opportunity — and we have been blessed to watch the children grow from frightened little ones to strong, self confident young adults. We have a lot more work to do, and we are excited at the future — our first graduating class from high school, students going off to college, and going out into the world to create change as leaders of their communities. Imagine what the next ten years will bring! We hope you will be right here beside us, supporting, cheering, enjoying it all.

Teams

There are many opportunities to visit HELO. For more information on joining a team, please contact elisabeth@helohaiti.org

New Website

We are thrilled to announce that HELO has a new website, same address, new look. Special thank you to Dilia Stein who created the new site, which is mobile friendly — check it on on your phone or your computer — www.HeloHaiti.org



Thanks

Thank you all who shopped on Smile.Amazon or bought alternative gifts this holiday season. If you haven't already signed up, please consider it — every time you shop, Amazon will donate to HELO, it's easy and does not cost you a thing. Support our precious children each time you shop (<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0776557>).