



HAITI - Children of Haiti Project



The Children of Haiti Project (COHP) was founded in response to the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake, which leveled Haiti. Just three months later in May 2010, the COHP school opened its doors to 50 children ages 4-5 that were living in a Delmas tent city next to COHP. On July 5, 2010, the program expanded its enrolment to include 36 students, ages 9-14, for a half-day literacy program.

Camp Cineas where the children originally came from was closed in July 2013. The inhabitants were displaced to inadequate housing and several of our students still live in unsanitary conditions. Some of them now travel (mostly on foot) 2 - 2 ½ hours each way; yet they arrive on time and enthusiastically to school.

The only nutrition, health care and sense of stability the children receive is through the school. COHP provides a full educational program, two hot meals day, regular healthcare checkups and daily vitamins. Most of the children come to school hungry each morning and COHP understands that addressing their nutritional needs is the first step in providing a holistic education for its students.

The COHP children are thriving academically for excellence. This academic year 2014-2015, we are fully immersed in the French language as the language of instruction. However, Creole remains an important language in our curriculum. It's used as an alternative to reinforce

comprehension, creativity through poetry, and their culture. From outside evaluation results, the majority of our children are above or at grade level in the basics.

The French language remains an area of concerns in terms of the children expressing themselves and in general, usage. An optional reading enrichment program is offered on Saturdays.

In May 2013, COHP launched an after school literacy and sewing program for parents. In its future the program will aim to make alliances with buyers overseas. This program aims to make the parents financially independent.

COHP's mission is to continue to provide learning opportunities for children in Haiti with limited or no access to formal education. Their goal is to nurture each child's intellectual, ethical, social and physical growth, so that each may become a positive, contributing member of the Haitian community.

Purple Cake Day funds have been crucial in keeping the school and its mission on target. The funds have gone directly into the canteen program, healthcare, didactic materials and the purchase of medicine.



For further information on COHP visit their website: www.childrenofhaitiproject.org

