



## Our First NEWSPAPER!

### How we began...



As many of you already know – God blessed our family with the call to serve in Haiti in October of 2001. For 9 years, we faithfully coordinated the fundraising for building schools, but always had a vision of being involved more “hands on.” Patience, He said.

In February of 2010, God opened doors to this vision and in June of 2010 our first “group mission trip” was under way bearing the name of our newly instituted organization,

#### Hands for Haiti

During this entire process, the support and encouragement from family and friends has been overwhelming and God’s willingness to guide and challenge us is amazing. We have learned so many lessons along the way.

We have since added a *fabulous* BOARD, *amazing* STAFF, *incredible* TEAMS, *phenomenal* SUPPORTERS, and *dedicated* PRAYER WARRIORS - an *entire* FAMILY !

Wow – this is Christ’s love outpouring on a whole new level and it is beautiful to witness!

Jeff & Debbi Gischia



### Health Clinic Crushes Cholera !!

Cholera is an infectious and often fatal bacterial disease of the small intestine, typically contracted from infected water supplies and causing severe vomiting and diarrhea.

On October 20, 2010, an outbreak of cholera was confirmed in Haiti for the first time in more than a century. This cholera outbreak is the worst in recent history with over 665,000 cases and 8,183 deaths as of the Nov. 7, 2014 CDC reports.

When Hands for Haiti (HFH) opened their Health Clinic in May of 2015, the cholera situation was out of control. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), nearly all persons infected with cholera died in the Barbe region - where our clinic is located. These are the recorded statistics from then until now:

2015 and before - no health clinic. Nearly EVERY person with cholera died

2016 - Patients are brought to us and are treated with oral rehydration fluids until strong enough to be transported by moto down the mountain to the hospital. SOME are saved, SOME die.

2017 - We receive 92 cases of cholera. The MSPP sends us a cholera containment tent and 2 nurses to assist. We treat all with intravenous (IV) fluids and antibiotics. 91 saved! 1 death

2018 - We receive 80 cases. We treat patients with IV fluids and antibiotics. ALL 80 are saved!

2019 - Clinic is open and has been taking care of the people in these mountain communities for the last three years. We have provided much needed medicine, care and education to these patients.

**NO confirmed cases of cholera! Zero! Zilch!**

### Faith in Action joins Hands for Haiti ...a new beginning



Faith in Action International (FAI), an organization very dear to our hearts, has worked to provide assistance in Haiti mainly through agriculture and ministry for many years. We have known and worked with them on a number of projects and witnessed first-hand the incredible impact they have had on the sustainability of the Haitian people.

In 2019, because of unfortunate challenges, Faith in Action voted to dissolve their organization but wanted to keep the spirit of their work alive. Because of our strong ties to FAI coupled with being located in the same area, they chose to “merge” with Hands for Haiti.

This is very exciting for us and enables us to reach out to more people and increase the affect we can have on spreading this amazing mission we have in common!

We believe God is bringing us together in a new and exciting way!

This is not the end of Faith in Action. It is a new beginning... a way to put your beloved *Faith* in Action by now using your *Hands* for Haiti.

[www.handsforhaiti.net](http://www.handsforhaiti.net)



# MAY TEAM To Build Latrines

If you look up “latrine” on the internet, you may find many definitions. Most basically say that it is a toilet or outhouse usually outside and for use for many people. Many of us in the US have never used one or maybe have never even seen one. When we think of a “latrine” or “outhouse” our first thought is... ugh, is there anywhere else I can go??? But in the remote mountains of Haiti, this is a luxury. Can you imagine that? A luxury that most do not have. But this luxury has a far more importance than we think.

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"A latrine keeps flies away from human waste so that fewer germs are spread from place to place. The result is that there will be fewer diseases – less diarrhea, less worms, less cholera, and less typhoid fever."

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As one walks these mountains and sees the people that inhabit them, you look at their faces, in their eyes. They always smile and greet us. We work with them, play with them, sing with them, worship with them, cry with them. They are our friends. It is our hope to help the people in this community become healthier so they have a chance for a good life. Latrines in this community can help make that happen.

With each latrine, a hand washing station will also be installed. We are very excited to be a part of this project! Go TEAM MAY!



*Farmer, Olios, proudly sits with his crop for this year*

## Beans, Beans, Beans Farmers Bring in Crop

Our TiJaden Farm Program is flourishing! We currently have 8 of the 9 farms in full production. We are looking for a new location for our 9th farm and hopefully will be back to one hundred percent soon. Our farmers just finished growing BEANS! When we arrived in February, most of them were smack dab in the middle of their harvest. We were able to visit the farms to see the fruits of their labor first hand. Their proud smiles on their faces told of their successes.



*Crop of beans right before harvesting*

The farmer first has to show he has need. Then he is given a small parcel of land (approx. 1 acre), and \$100 as a start-up small business loan. This loan will give him funds to purchase needed supplies, seeds and to hire workers for his first planting and harvest.

There are three growing seasons in Haiti. Our farms grow beans, corn and rice. After each of these harvests, the farmer keeps some of his crops for his family and takes some to the market to sell. From the proceeds from his sale, he makes a loan payment to HFH and purchases more seeds for the next crop. After three years, the farmer should have his loan paid off. For the next two years, the farmer continues to make payments to HFH until he reaches the cost of owning the rights to the land. At this point, he is finished with our program. He now has enough money saved to pay for the rights to farm the land. He is now on his own and HFH will move to another farm with another farmer. This usually takes five years.



[www.handsforhaiti.net](http://www.handsforhaiti.net)

[handsforhaititeam@gmail.com](mailto:handsforhaititeam@gmail.com)



## New Home Garden Program off to a Bumpy Start

We started last November with high expectations for our newly created TiJaken Lakay Program (Home Gardens) in the mountains. You see, it is VERY difficult to grow any vegetation in the mountains, but we were confident we could change that. So, armed with supplies, seeds and two new employees (former Faith in Action), we set out to do just that. We began wonderfully! Our test nursery garden was beautiful! Then it came time to distribute the plants among the 25 farmers in this program. This is where the bumps begin. Coupled with the difficult terrain, roaming animals and lack of water (it was now the dry season), we were unable to keep the home gardens going.

**But, never fear! If you are going to fail,  
FAIL FORWARD, Jeff always says!**

Now that we have learned what the problems are, we can work at fixing them. We had a brainstorming session and the 25 farmers all came out to a meeting where we came up with a new plan. The farmers all started talking about how they can work together to help each other – it was pretty amazing! So, armed with a NEW plan, NEW supplies and a RENEWED spirit, we are set out to begin again! Isn't this what learning is all about...



# TiMANJE PROGRAM NEEDS UPDATE

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## WHAT IS THE TiMANJE FOOD PROGRAM?

The TiManje Food Program feeds kids so they can stay in school and don't have to drop out to feed themselves. Haitians believe that the only way for their children to gain a better lifestyle is through education. Many of these kids come down from the mountains to go to school. It is important for them to have a consistent option for food. When they have no food, it is difficult to concentrate at school, stay healthy and literally survive. The light is gone from their eyes.

Hands for Haiti wants to help bring that light back in their eyes with their bellies full!

## WHY DOES IT NEED TO BE UPDATED?

It has been an amazing experience watching these kids grow. The fruits are more than we expected. We have seen more hope in the eyes of these children each year as this program continues to flourish. The children are very appreciative of the support they receive.

Since 2011, we have kept the support amount the same, but with the increasing costs, we have been finding it difficult to find food to purchase with the budget we have. Therefore, we need to increase the support amount to \$35/month per child. This will insure they will receive the stipend of food they need to keep their bellies full and to continue to provide the necessities they need for school.

### Our monthly stipend now includes:

1 mamete beans • 2 mametes rice  
1 mamete corn • 1 litre oil  
Herb & spice pack • vegetables

\* 1 mamete = an overflowing coffee can

### Your \$35 per month provides:

Monthly food stipend,  
a uniform, a good pair of shoes,  
books and a backpack for school.

Go to [www.handsforhaiti.net](http://www.handsforhaiti.net)  
to sponsor a child.

**We are in need of more sponsors.**

# FUTURE PROJECTS

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## UTV WORK VEHICLE PURCHASED!

We received a very generous donation last fall for a work vehicle to be used in the mountains. This is a necessity to continue the work in the mountains. The roads are just too difficult to travel. We have finally found a way to transport the vehicle to get on a ship in Florida that will go to Haiti. We are very excited for this and will keep you posted as to it's arrival.



## YES... MONEY

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This is a hard article to write but a needed one. Hard especially because I personally don't like asking for it. Up until now, we have run our entire organization on faithfully waiting for donations. And we will continue in faith because that's who we are. Faith has brought money to start a health clinic, it has brought us a truck, it has brought us the resources to rent an office. God has been so faithful to us. And we have been very blessed throughout the years from YOU, our amazing donors and supporters! We cannot thank you enough!

## AMAZING...

But God has put so many new things in place for us that our programs are growing at an incredible rate. With this **amazing** growth comes **amazing** new costs. Imagine that! It is because of these **amazing** costs (because they truly accomplish **amazing** things), that we reach out to you. We would love for you to be a part of this **amazing** mission God has for us. In this issue, you will find an envelope with ways that you can contribute. Please prayerfully consider where you are being led.

## LEGACY DONORS

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We would also love to find some donors that would be willing to give on a regular consistent basis. If you would prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to be one of those. You can donate monthly quarterly or annually. You can set that up on our PayPal to be automatically deducted. Or you can indicate that on the envelope, and our staff will send you an invoice to remind you :-). Leave a LEGACY...

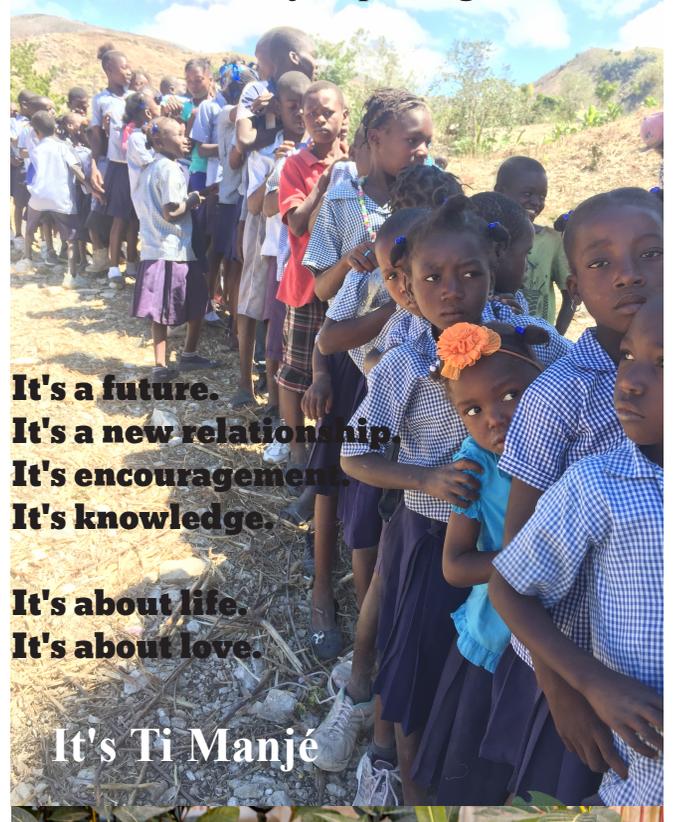
Have you seen our new website?

We made some big changes and added great information! Check it out at  
[handsforhaiti.net](http://handsforhaiti.net)

We see a future for Haiti's children.  
Help that future come to life.



It's more than just passing out food.



**It's a future.**  
**It's a new relationship.**  
**It's encouragement.**  
**It's knowledge.**

**It's about life.**  
**It's about love.**

It's Ti Manjé

- STAY TUNED -

On our last business trip in February, Rachel Gischia interviewed several staff members and program participants.

Keep a lookout for future content on Hands for Haiti's social media to see the outcome!





Hands for Haiti Office  
7421 W. Blue Rd.  
Lake City, MI 49601  
Donation address:  
P.O. Box 171  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

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# Hands for Haiti **INSIDER**



## Our very first newspaper is here!!



Christ's love outpouring on a whole  
new level.

VOLUME 1 Issue 1



First Edition



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**Open for exciting information and to see  
what we are all about...**

**including our relationship with *Faith in Action International.***