

## OUTREACH TO HAITI

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**C**hristelle Jerome was all smiles when she recently updated members of Outreach to Haiti's Board of Directors on the progress she was making in school and in life. The 21-year-old joined several other post-secondary students at Outreach's mission house in Haiti to add faces, names and voices to the discussion of the ongoing impact of Outreach's education sponsorship program.

Christelle is in the second and final year of vocational school where her course work focuses on administration in Haiti's resurgent and growing tourism sector. While still attending classes, she is one of the 15 students who have been selected by area businesses for internships in their chosen field of study. Having been prepared for this opportunity by Outreach's in-house workshops Christelle approaches the assignment with confidence and poise. Based on her performance her employer has already promised her full-time employment upon graduation.

The goal of Outreach's education sponsorship program is to create life changing opportunities. Christelle has seized upon those presented to her and is most grateful for them. In her annual sponsor letter she writes: "You cannot imagine how extraordinary your support is for me. You allow me to have a better future and to be an asset for my country. I can only say thanks. I cannot return to you what you have done for me. But I am sure God will. Please never stop because you are saving many lives and because of your support many dreams are coming true. You inspire many people in my country to do the same thing that you are doing, helping each other!"

Christelle, you deserve it!



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## Gift of HOSPITALITY & PRESENCE

**O**utreach to Haiti has maintained a 30-year presence to the Haitian people. As seen in these pages Outreach has consistently met needs in the critical areas of education, health care and nutrition. These programs, staffed exclusively by Haitian nationals, provide needed services and offer hope and opportunity.

Over the years we have also hosted countless international travelers who come to serve, learn and stand in solidarity with the Haitian people. A dental group from Connecticut runs a clinic each year often working with Haitian dental professionals. Doctors and nurses from other organizations support the work of mobile clinics and visit regularly to work with their Haitian counterparts. U.S. parishes are there regularly to work hand in hand with Haitian parishes and to support schools, clinics and economic development programs in urban and rural settings. Over the years, US engineers have assisted their Haitian counterparts in construction and water projects. Art therapists and psychologists were present after the 2010 earthquake to help people cope with the trauma of loss. Immersion groups experience the culture and realities of Haitian life and remain committed to the mission.

These are the guests who sit at our table and rest in the beds of our hospitality program and who make it an integral part of our mission.

Our beds are not always full. Consider putting together a service or an immersion trip with your group. Or make a donation of any amount to offset the fixed costs of maintaining a permanent presence to our brothers and sisters in Haiti and a solid link between our two countries.

American team on volunteer mission is assisted by a Haitian dental student.



## Gift of NUTRITION

Like most days, a young mom brings her weak and listless child to the Ann Weller clinic. After taking height and weight measurements Rose Laure knows that she has a new patient for Outreach's nutrition program. Unfortunately she's seen cases like this many times. Over the next four to seven months, the child will make regular visits to the clinic to be examined and to receive a supply of food and supplements, needed prescriptions and vaccinations. Our health agents will make home visits to identify and correct safety and environmental issues. The clinical goal is to bring the child to normal weight and height for age. But Rose Laure is more than a clinician. Passionate about her job and a second mother to all the children in the program, her other goal is to see the child laugh and play. On average 100 malnourished infants and children graduate from our nutrition program each year.

One month of food and supplements for one malnourished child	\$25
Sponsor one month of home visits by health agents	\$450
Provide nutrition education and best practices training for 50 mothers for one month	\$500

### It's a fact

24 percent of children under 5 suffer from moderate malnutrition. Malnutrition is a leading cause of death for this age group.

## Gift of EDUCATION & OPPORTUNITY

An important goal of our education program is to help our students lift themselves out of poverty. With the unemployment rate at a staggering 60 percent, supporting oneself and a family in Haiti is a life-long challenge. As our relatively new post- secondary program matures, one measure of success is how many students obtain jobs in their field. To that end we offer seminars in leaderships, public speaking, resume writing and interview skills. Each student takes an aptitude test to identify interest and skills and receives counseling using the results. Over the last two years, 15 students held intern positions. The nursing student intern featured last year is now working full time at a major hospital in Haiti. One medical student graduating this year will begin practice. A language major is now teaching English at a secondary school and another young man works as a mechanic. Christelle, whose letter is shared on the front panel, will add to this growing list of success stories after graduation from her vocational school.

Cudgensley Dhonneur, pictured here, is 11 years old and one of our highest performing students. A soccer player whose class won the primary school championship, he aspires to someday be a pediatrician. We want that for him and he can take encouragement from the success of Christelle and others who have gone before him.

Textbooks for a primary school student	\$50
One month stipend for student intern	\$100
Laptop and basic software for our computer lab	\$750
Average annual tuition for a university student	\$2,000

### It's a fact

65 percent of school-age children attend school in Haiti and fewer than 2 percent complete the secondary level.

40 of Outreach's 200 scholarship program students are enrolled in universities or post-secondary vocational schools.

## Gift of HEALTH CARE

Progress in our maternal and child health clinic continues while we wait for our new building to be constructed on the Christ Roi campus. The modest structure will only improve the level of service our Haitian medical staff provides and will better reflect the dignity of the people being served. In a country where scarce and largely unaffordable health care is the norm, patients choose our clinic for the compassionate care they know they will receive. Children are vaccinated at a rate much greater than the national average and our physicians can rely on the skills of our laboratory technician, and coverage by our health agents who walk the neighborhood identifying medical needs.

In October we began to expand the services provided to expectant mothers, by offering a program of nutritional assistance in addition to existing comprehensive pre-natal and post-natal care. We have just received a grant that will allow us to introduce an economic development component that will give the moms start up resources and training to better position them to care for their child.

Provide peanut based supplement for one child for 2 months	\$50
Prenatal care for an expectant mother	\$250
Fund prescription and over-the-counter medication for one month	\$600

Health Agent Telemaque conducts a class for parents on healthcare best practices.

### It's a fact

At 77.8 per 1000, the mortality rate for children under 5 in Haiti is the highest in the western hemisphere. About 60% of people lack access to basic health care and fewer than 44% receive recommended vaccinations.