

OUR PARTNERSHIPS - ROTARY



Promise For Haiti and Rotary partnered together in May hosting a Gala Fundraiser to help raise funds for the construction of the pediatric wing and supply of the medical equipment for Hospital Bienfaisance of Pignon, Haiti. The event took place on May 9th at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in Belmont, North Carolina. The fun filled evening included strolls through the gardens, a silent auction, music by Caleb Davis and special guest speaker Brooklyn Decker. Whitney Norton, pictured with Dr. Guy Theodore was instrumental in the collaboration and in bringing several local Rotary chapters together for an evening of success.

The Hospital has served the Northern Plateau of Haiti since 1981 at the direction of Dr. Guy Theodore, the mission founder. Since the inception of the hospital, there has been a need for the children to have a wing dedicated to their healthcare. Currently, children are placed in wards with adults and there is a very small nursery for infants.



The Pediatric Gala helped to raise nearly \$100,000 and the grant was submitted to help reach Promise For Haiti's goal of \$200,000. We are grateful to all who participated in this wonderful event and appreciate the continued dedication and support to the Promise For Haiti mission.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POOR?

*"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."
Proverbs 19:17*

I first visited Haiti in 2008. I have been blessed to be able to return to Pignon, Haiti many times since then. Over the years, I have met many people and have learned about the struggles associated with living in rural Haiti. One of the people I remember most was a 10-year old boy. I'm not going to share his name for privacy reasons. This boy lived with his mother, brother and baby sister. His dad had passed away in 2007. While visiting this young boy's home for the first time, I received an education about the meaning of the word "poor." The house consisted of scavenged cement blocks, stacked together without mortar. The walls were short so they wouldn't fall down. The roof was an unsupported plastic tarp that sagged in the middle from rain, sun and wind. The floor was dirt, but had been recently



swept with a coconut leaf broom. The family slept on the ground. Inside the hut were two buckets for carrying water and a few sticks of charcoal for fire. No food. No electricity. No beds. No books. No money. Our mission team was given the opportunity to help this family rebuild their house. We raised \$4,000 and asked some leaders from Promise for Haiti to oversee construction of a new home. When our mission team returned a year later, the boy was excited to show us his new house. He led us up the hill, eagerly running ahead, unable to contain his excitement. His family had a new, 200 ft² house with a tin roof, hand-sawn wooden door and concrete floors. The brick exterior was painted bright blue. They even had a bed to share. As our group

was getting ready to leave, we were asked to sit in the shade of a nearby tree, so that this 11-year-old boy could present us with a gift to show their gratitude. He went into the house and returned with a handmade toy truck. The boy had built it himself out of an old soup can, chicken wire, a banding strap and some rubber tubing. The tin had been cut with a chisel. The nails were hammered with a rock. This truck was his only toy. His source of escape from poverty. I considered the cost to him to offer such a gift. At the same time, I weighed the benefit to him for giving thanks. I accepted the gift in the name of Jesus Christ.

During our inspection of the house, I had spotted a paper towel with clay cookies wrapped inside. Clay cookies are just what one might imagine. They are dirt, mixed with a little cooking oil and then dried in the sun. Clay cookies have no nutritional value, but sometimes mothers in rural Haiti feed them to their children to curb hunger pains at night. I asked the boy's mother if we could purchase the cookies in order to show people back home the level of poverty in Haiti. It was a pleasure to pay her enough for those clay cookies, so that she could afford real food to feed her family.

I don't want to discount the financial needs of people who live in the United States; but at the same time, I think we need to be awakened to the level of severe poverty that exists around the world. For more than 40 years, Promise for Haiti has worked with the people of Pignon, Haiti to provide quality healthcare, clean drinking water, elementary education and economic development. 85% of all funds donated to Promise for Haiti end up in the hands of Haitians who serve Haitians. If you want confidence in knowing your hard-earned contributions will make big differences, then give to www.promiseforhaiti.org.

Doug Grunder, Board-Vice President

An Arkansas Connection to Water Wells in Haiti

Access to safe, potable water has always been a challenge for Haitians. This is especially true for those living in the Central Plateau Region where Pignon is located. According to The National Center for Biotechnology Information, "Haiti has the lowest rates of access to improved water and sanitation infrastructure in the western hemisphere."

In 1985 this crisis was brought to the attention of Jay Lawhon, a business man from McCrory, Arkansas, who was introduced to then Dr. Colonel Guy Theodore, Chief of Surgery Little Rock Air Force Base. Dr. Theodore shared with Mr. Lawhon his "Promise" and desire to build a medical facility in his home town of Pignon.

The two partnered to build a hospital, which included the drilling of over 700 water wells, many of which are still functional today. This tradition of "water welling" has been carried on by another Arkansan, Walter (Bubba) Smith. While hand pumping is still the most common form of getting water out of the ground, solar pumping systems are gradually replacing the older mechanical wells. Bubba and his teams have begun modifying existing wells to accommodate solar operation.



A solar water well includes a solar water pump, 4-100 watt solar panels, a control panel and access to sunlight. This allows for water on demand as long as the sun is shining. On a few of his water wells he now installs a water tank that can store up to 500 gallons of water, allowing access to water even when there is no direct sunlight. The system he uses does not require batteries or an inverter and cost around \$2000. A water tank can cost up to \$800. You can contact Bubba Smith for additional information and to sponsor the modification of a well at drbubbaque@hotmail.com.

DONATE TODAY- MAKE AN IMPACT

Promise for Haiti exists to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Pignon, Haiti and to practically demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ by providing health care, education, and community development.

Donate by check: Promise for Haiti, PO Box 664, Belmont, North Carolina 28012

Donate via credit card: <https://pfh.kindful.com/>

Donate a gift of stock: Email us for details promise@promiseforhaiti.org

Donate through your company offering matching gift program

CUT HERE

Please consider making a contribution towards one of these funds today! We thank you and appreciate you for your continued support and generosity throughout the years.

GENERAL MISSION _____

HELP PROGRAM _____

SOLAR/GREEN ENERGY _____

PEDIATRIC WING _____

DENTAL FUND PROGRAM _____

HEALTH PARTNERS _____

Promise for Haiti, Inc is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 71-0552025

DONATE ONLINE:
promiseforhaiti.org

More Giving Options
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PLAN A MISSION WITH US!

Are you interested in traveling to Pignon, Haiti with Promise for Haiti? Promise for Haiti has the capacity to host medical teams, church mission trips, professionals, and training teams in Pignon.

We coordinate teams and interested individuals for short term trips, and also have the ability to coordinate longer-term stays. A typical trip lasts for roughly a week and can take many shapes and forms. From working in the Hospital Bienfaisance, hosting a Vacation Bible School, working at our schools, or helping to support a variety of work projects in and around Pignon. A trip can open your team's eyes to a new culture and give the opportunity to serve our neighbors in Haiti!

All missionaries raise their own funds for travel, dorm fees/living expenses and project supplies. If you have any interest, please reach out to our Travel Coordinator to begin the process at travelcoordinator@promiseforhaiti.org.

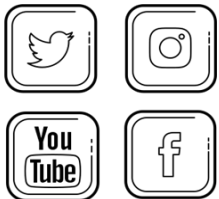


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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I always find it hard to believe how quickly a year goes by. I also find every year in Haiti we have similar challenges, but many answers to prayer, and positive change within the Hospital Bienfaisance and schools in Pignon. Amazingly, despite how difficult the political landscape is in Haiti, the Hospital is still open treating patients, and our schools remain open educating the children around Pignon. I am daily reminded how the Lord uses our provisions to continue to meet the needs of the poor in Pignon. Incredibly, Haitians continue to support *their own* hospital and schools through continued financial participation.

Promise for Haiti provides additional support, though the hospital could not possibly operate with only PFH support. I thank God, that despite all the hardship in Haiti, the people of Pignon continue to support what they know the Lord provided for them. This separates our Mission in a country where most missions and their benefactors rely completely on the assistance of outside financial support which is an unsustainable model.

In fact, PFH from inception and with the wisdom of Dr. Theodore has promoted local participation in the mission, to bring community ownership and to avoid a model to totally free healthcare and education. This is in fact, a biblical principle from Genesis (2:15) to Paul's letters (1 Timothy 5:8) and a common theme throughout the scriptures. We are also reminded that Jesus was a laborer as a carpenter. That is one of the reasons why Jesus could say, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

While PFH continues to work towards a completely independent and self-sustaining hospital and schools in Haiti, we still have a long way to go and continue to need your support. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and provide the gifts which are so crucial to keeping the facilities open and operating.

Omer L. Shedd, MD
PFH Board President

May God Bless You as you continue to Generously Support PFH.