

## Rescue One

PO Box 8174 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49518 www.rescue-one.org

## Images in My Heart



Scarlet

bougainvillea tumble over cement block

walls, colorful tap-taps bump along the streets, red Digicell umbrellas shelter street vendors, feral goats and dogs scrounge for food. . . so many images remain in my mind after a visit to Haiti. All meld together into an unforgettable picture.

But even more enduring are the images of people and especially of those whose lives are entwined with Rescue One. Most endearing of all are the images of the children. Like God's children everywhere, they differ: some have mischievous smiles, some have soulful eyes, some have drawn faces, some are quick to embrace us, others not so much. But all of them welcome us with open arms, singing with gusto, reciting Scripture with emotion and expressing their thanks.

At the Bolosse site, Carol, Jody and I joined the children for their daily meal. Patient, orderly children gather around the table awaiting their bean sauce mixed with meat and vegetables over rice. Not a morsel is wasted and as I watched, I thought,

"Surely this is the Table of the Lord."



After the meal, each child carefully washes his own table service

Each trip to Haiti heightens my spiritual sensitivities. A lingering image from this trip touches my heart and remains in my soul, strengthening my bond with the Rescue One program. On our final day in Port-au-Prince, we met with the church committee members. Cement block walls echoed as we sang, in Creole, *Blest be the Tie that Binds*.

May God strengthen these ties and multiply our gifts to benefit these children.

Quotes from the children

"Thank you.

When I consider all these children in Haiti who are in need and I am the one who received the blessing of the program, I am blessed. All of these children have the same feeling of Thanksgiving in their heart (they are shy). I will do my best."—R

"Since the beginning until today I see so many other organizations start but they do not finish. From grade 5 through 13 you stay with us. It is unbelievable. All the children want to replicate the program when they grow up." —D.

"Thank you. You are here for us. We wouldn't be in school without you. You buy your airline ticket and leave your country where it is safe to come to our country. You didn't quit like so many programs. We are praying for you." —B

Board of Directors: John Nielsen, Sue Sweetman, Nancy Tuit, Jody Vogelsang, Tom Waalkes, Carol Woltjer





## Top Ten Reasons for Giving to Rescue One

- 10. An estimated 300,000 Haitian children live in the restavec (child-slavery) system.
- 9. Three of ten Haitian children are malnourished.
- 8. Fifty percent of Haitians can neither read nor write.
- 7. All US personnel donate their time and pay their own expenses.
- 6. Rescue One is run by Haitians in Haiti.
- 5. Each Haitian church partner pays a percentage of their cost of the program, from 20-43%.
- 4. As much as possible, the program purchases resources in Haiti, such as food, school uniforms and backpacks.
- 3. You have a heart for children and for education.
- 2. You have a heart for the poor and the disadvantaged.
- 1. You take seriously God's call to do justice and love mercy.

The Haitian churches request your prayers for students who live in difficult home situations: fatherless homes, promiscuous situations, and homes where the values do not support the values of the schools.

Rescue One Found Me

A Graduates's Story

"I share where God has brought me. There are not many children that get this opportunity. I was born in a poor family and when I was in 5th grade, my father died. God planned that at the right moment Rescue One found me. I always wanted to go to Maranatha school and now I had the opportunity to go from grade 6 through grade 12. The people of Rescue One spoke to me of spirituality and of the things of God. They always encourage the students. After the earthquake, they talked with us and had activities like songs and Bible stories to keep our mind off the earthquake. They teach us how to act, how to speak, and how to seek for God."

 E. is a graduate of the RO program and is training for a career in telecommunications.

With gratitude, the Rescue
One Board acknowledges a
gift from the Andreas Family
Foundation to fund Summer
Camp, uniforms, shoes, and
an amplification system.

The Rescue One Board **thanks you** for your compassionate and generous support. Rescue One is a small light bringing God's grace into the lives of 85 Haitian children. Your check can be made out to the Rescue One Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations can be sent to PO Box 8174, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49518. All contributions except for printing and mailing costs go directly to Haiti.