



Rescue One

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Meet Handelsona

Since its inception in 2004, the Rescue One program has emphasized the importance of a local Haitian director and staff. The board values the concept that those closest to the situation have the best opportunity to plan and implement the program. Because of this, our program has become a source of love, hope and joy for many Haitian children.

At the May board meeting, the board reaffirmed this commitment. Since our current director was relocating to the US due to her husband's employment, we began our search for a local Haitian to fill the position.

God graciously answered our prayers in the person of Handelsona Nicolas. She has a bachelor's degree in economics from the State University of Haiti and has been working with the Rescue One program for 9 years. Most recently, she has been managing the Youth Empowerment Program, walking alongside our young adult students and cheering them on to success. Handelsona is spiritually mature and has a passion for social work. The success of each child is her priority.



*Handelsona addresses students
at Summer Camp*

Handelsona states: "The love of Christ motivates me to love my neighbors; to help those who are vulnerable, needy and deprived to have a better life and to help them restore their dignity. Being able to see people from Christ's heart is a gift."



During the transition period, Kerline, our former director, will work alongside Handelsona as she takes on her new position as Program Manager.



Prayer Corner

Give thanks for Kerline's 18 years of dedication to the RO program. Pray for her family's adjustment to their new home.

Thank God for a safe and successful Summer Camp.

Thank him for Handelsona's excellent beginning as Program Manager and pray for her as she grows into her new position.

Ask God for spiritual growth for each of our students and for their safety in a violent, hostile environment.

Pray that students will be able to attend school safely.

*Board of Directors: Jeff Buursma, Dan Rinzema
Nancy Tuit, Jody Vogelzang, Carol Woltjer*

Summer Camp



*"We are excited to be here.
Thank you for this opportunity."*

*Hungry
teens
love the
three
meals
per day.*



*Game time with
a buddy
requires
concentration.*



*Our beloved Dr. Peck
spoke with the students*

Handelsona lost no time in working into her new role. In the short time frame of 3 weeks, in dangerous and stressful circumstances, she found a venue for Summer Camp, gathered a team of leaders and helpers and organized transportation for 43 students from 4 of our Haitian partner churches.

This year the staff decided that Summer Camp would involve only the older students, ages 13 and up, because they are most affected by the violence around them. From August 15-19, students congregated at the vast, peaceful, green space of the Nazarene Camp in Petion-ville where they engaged in worship, Bible study, sports and social activities to further their spiritual growth. The theme, "What have you done with your life?" centered on Luke 16:10, "Be faithful in small things," with a goal of helping students discover their gifts and appreciating their own value.

Students were divided into 6 groups of 6-7 students. Twelve leaders, including 5 graduates of the Rescue One program, kept them busy and organized. Don David, a former student, was in charge of praise. Two pastors brought messages of encouragement and the group was blessed with music from the praise band "Alleluia."

In spite of difficult times, the staff moved forward in faith. We thank God that Summer Camp was a time of blessing and safety. Special thanks goes to the Andreas Family for making this valuable time possible.



*Sports and physical activities
followed morning devotions.*

Neika Pierre

In Memoriam



Sadly missing from Summer Camp this year was one of our YEP students who passed away suddenly. Our condolences go to her family and to her friends in the Rescue One program.

The Rescue One Board **thinks you** for your compassionate and generous support. Rescue One is a small light bringing God's grace into the lives of 85 Haitian children. You may donate by PayPal on our website or 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.