



Rescue One

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Calvary chapel students with Handelsona

cooperation with Haitian churches in Port-au-Prince, would make it possible for very poor children to continue to live with their own families while receiving food, healthcare and a Christian education.

The ministry became known as Fondation Michee in Haiti and as Rescue One in the United States. It began with a board in the US to oversee the ministry and with a director and board in Haiti who ran the program with 15 students through one church. Kerline became the first Director in Haiti.

The concept was simple: encourage Haitian churches to reach out to vulnerable children, the poorest of the poor in their neighborhoods and make arrangements for them to have access to health care, food and a Christian education while continuing to live with their families. The role of the Haitian churches would be to form a committee of volunteers to manage the program and to contribute at least 10% of the cost.

In 2012, the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) was added to help young adults develop additional skills beyond high school. Two years ago, Handelsona Nikolas replaced Kerline as Director in Haiti when Kerline moved to the US for her husband's work.

Today the program continues. Eventually it grew to 3 churches, then to 6 and now encompasses 4 churches. As the hands and feet of God through the ministry, the Haitian people continue to minister to their own with love and compassionate care. Our philosophy is that the people closest to the problem are the ones most able to understand the problem and carry out a solution.

Our Vision

All children living in Haiti
will be raised and educated
in a safe, wholesome
Christian environment.

The US board supports our Haitian friends with encouragement, suggestions, and by passing on your financial gifts to them. We vow to support as many of these students as we can for as long as God enables us.



A Bit of History

As we celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Rescue One program, we look back on its history. The program was born in 2004 when Kerline Jules, a young Haitian woman, was staying in the home of Ted and Jan Boers. Dinner table conversation revolved around the topic of how to help the children in Haiti.

To the accompaniment of hearty food and stimulating conversation, Kerline explained the Haitian Restavec system, a system that literally enslaves children. The idea of a new kind of ministry evolved. This ministry, which would be implemented in

*Board of Directors: Dan Rinzema,
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Meet Andrew

Today, we share with you the touching story of little Andrew, a 10 year old boy who joined the RO-Bolosse church program in 2023. Andrew and his younger sister were abandoned by their mother and now live with their father, a man broken by life, emotionally distant, often violent, and unable to offer them the love and support they need.

This family lives together in a tiny room under very difficult and inhumane conditions. The father, overwhelmed by hardship,

struggles daily to feed them. There are days when there simply isn't enough food, and Andrew often goes to bed hungry.

Silently, he endures this suffering, neglect, and verbal and physical abuse. He doesn't play like other children. He rarely smiles. He experiences frequent headaches, often caused by fear, anxiety, and malnutrition. For a time, he would vomit nearly every time he ate the meals provided by the Foundation. At home, no one tends to him. He survives in the shadows, left to fend for himself. Sometimes, kind-hearted neighbors offer him a piece of bread, a comforting hand, or a compassionate look. But Alex has no proper clothing, no safe space in which to grow.

His sadness is visible in every gesture, in every silence. Then, one day, the Michée Fondation entered his life. It marked a quiet but crucial turning point. Through our intervention program, Andrew received regular meals and close care. Most importantly, he was surrounded by people who looked at him with dignity and compassion, who told him he matters, that he has the right to dream. Gradually, Andrew began to smile again. It's not yet a full, carefree laugh, but it's already a meaningful victory.

Andrew still has difficult days, but now he is not alone. At school, he is slowly regaining confidence. At the Fondation, he knows a team is watching over him with love. And little by little, he is beginning to believe that the future can be different.

And all of this, dear board members, generous donors, and devoted local staff, is thanks to you. Your support brings light into the life of a child like Alex. Every donation, every act of care, every prayer is a hand extended toward a gentler, more hopeful future for him.

Thank you for being that light in Andrew's life.



Prayer Corner

There are always so many prayers that should be offered for Haiti, foremost of which is a prayer for relief from a disfunctioning government, a broken economy, violence in the streets and the poverty, hunger and malnutrition of the populace.

- There are many students like Andrew, each with similar needs. We pray for the love of God to touch their lives.
- Our friends in Haiti live under insecurity and stress. We are thankful for their relentlessness and pray for their safety and stamina.
- The older students in the YEP program are harassed as they travel to their universities. Young women feel threatened by the police as they conduct searches on the public transportation and are accused of being girlfriends of the gang members who live in their neighborhoods. Young men are perceived as allies of the gangs. Thus, all of them fear venturing out of their neighborhoods where they are known but many of them choose to take this daily risk for the sake of their education. They push through with determination to achieve their dreams.
- Handlesona and her team will be planning Summer Camp for the younger students for the first week in August. They are planning a retreat for the YEP students for the following week. Pray for the planning team as they seek safe places and enriching opportunities to help the students grow. The students look forward to this gathering time with their peers.



Summer Camp will be a place of enrichment physically, spiritually and emotionally.

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.