

THE ESPWA FOUNDATION Annual Report

2017



A BETTER TOMORROW STARTS WITH HOPE

Activities and Accomplishments

Making Connections

One of our driving forces at Espwa is to empower those we serve by connecting them to other individuals, leaders, and organizations serving in Haiti. We want each person to reach his or her full potential, and building positive, meaningful relationships is key to this process. Throughout 2017, starting with our January trip, we connected people and projects in meaningful ways.

First, our friend Pastor Benjamin Fleurant of EBAC Church, who ministers to the Peace & Joy families, shared his congregation's vision of ministering to sick and hurting patients as part of a hospital ministry. We took this opportunity to connect the Pastor with New Hope Hospital. Now, he holds a service each Wednesday night at the hospital for anyone to attend, as well as prayer gatherings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for the doctors and staff. After devotions, he's able to visit with patients, pray with them and share the hope of Christ. He often follows up with patients and new mothers



through home visits. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this faithful ministry as time goes on.

Next, Dr. Eugene Maklin, Espwa's in-country Medical Director, shared his vision for using a two hectare plot on the New Hope Hospital grounds for farming, so we connected him with Agrolide's Jovenel Kenold, who was more than happy to assist. Over the summer, with help from local farmers, Jovenel and his team weeded the area. They later rented a tractor for plowing, and worked to soften the soil to make it easier for planting.



With the ground ready, Jovenel enlisted Joel as his apprentice twice a month to learn planting and farming techniques. (See more under "Spotlight Projects" on page 2.) Potential plans for the land include supplying hospital workers with fresh vegetables, setting up farmer's markets, and even conducting educational farming clinics.



In June, as part of a trip to deliver the \$6,000 he helped raise for an ambulance for New Hope Hospital, Espwa friend Mike Cillo shared his love of sea glass jewelry with several EBAC students. Mike has built a business, DKC Creations, around discovering sea glass on beaches and turning it into unique jewelry pieces. His idea was to teach Rosie, Guetcha, and others the craft so they could turn it into a small business with growth potential. Along with Frantz from Haitian Creole Tour, and even Pastor Benjamin, the group hunted for sea glass at various beaches, and spent many hours in "Jewelry-Making 101" workshops with Mike. During one of the workshops, a different group observing decided to purchase the girls' creations – netting them \$120 in less than two hours. Not only did the girls sell something created with their own hands, but with the average Haitian living on less than \$2 per day, this was a mind-boggling sum of money for them. We encourage them to continue to pursue this endeavor.

Peace & Joy Community Projects

If you've followed our story with the Peace & Joy families over the past several years, you know that since we removed the children from the rundown orphanage and returned them to stable families, they have flourished. Since then, our long-range vision has been to collaborate with the adult family members on areas of basic need.

Through this network, we've become aware of basic quality-of-life enhancements that could help prevent



disease, add dignity, and inject life into the community. In 2017, we were able to pursue one such enhancement by securing home toilet service for fifteen families. For about the cost of a cup of coffee, a family receives a portable toilet unit that can be placed in the home, as well as regular waste removal service for an entire month. The organization, called Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL), employs Haitians at waste treatment centers and uses the recycled compost to help restore Haiti's heavily deforested landscape. This is a game changer for the families and an excellent business model for SOIL.

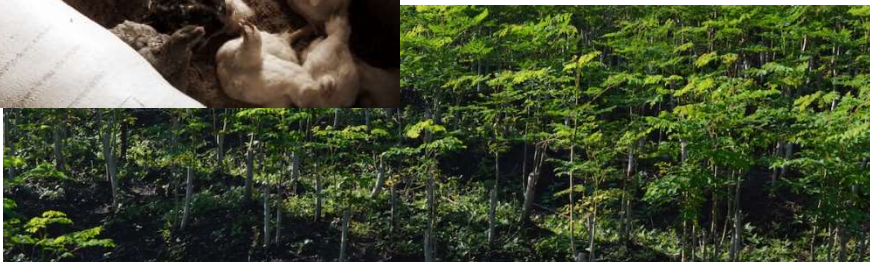
Jovenel's Chicken Farm

Our friend and farming partner Jovenel Kenold has already demonstrated a talent for building farms in Haiti and empowering communities by traveling and teaching methods for sustainable agricultural development.



In mid-2017, we worked with Jovenel to devise a way to better support his family and build a business. Jovenel suggested a modest chicken farm, and we wholeheartedly supported the plan. Jovenel's team procured cages and other supplies, and just a few months later sent pictures of over a dozen young chickens growing fast and healthy.

The long-term vision of Jovenel's Agroglide initiative is to promote self-sufficiency and share the gospel through farming. Agroglide's next step is to purchase a large tract of land in the rural community of Phaeton.



SPOTLIGHT PROJECTS



EBAC Church Revival

EBAC Church's faded steeple and crumbling concrete walls seem to tell a story of hopelessness, neglect, and poverty. But those in Christ know that a church is much more than just a building. The real story of this congregation of 300 is one of hope, joy, and service to others. We've agreed to work with EBAC's Pastor Benjamin Fleurant to initiate a series of outdoor, music-based preaching events that could lead to many changed lives.



Joel and Sony's Family Home

Joel and Sony hold a special place in many of our hearts. We first met Sony several years ago, gradually learning his family's difficult story, and ultimately supporting his education. Unbeknownst to our team, Sony's brother Joel had been slowly working to build their family of ten a modest home. In the summer of 2017, we devised an arrangement whereby Joel became an apprentice for our farming project lead, Jovenel. In exchange for Joel's assistance, we agreed to provide funds toward the completion of his family's home.



Anne's Education Update

Our dear friend Anne Lormeus is pursuing an accounting degree in Port-au-Prince. When we asked Anne if she was on track to finish the degree in four years, she replied, "I don't believe I will finish in four years. I believe I can finish in three." With optimism like that, it's easy to remain committed to Anne and her success.

Developments at Home

Another Great Showing at the Pittsburgh Marathon

With fourteen marathon relay runners and two half-marathoners, Espwa was very well represented in the Steel City on May 7, 2017. The evening before, runners and their families met at Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church for carbo loading and fellowship. Race day started cloudy and brisk, but eventually the sun came out and the temperature turned out to be ideal. This was one of our biggest single fundraisers for the year, and we're pleased and humbled to announce we were able to raise over \$10,500 for our general fund. Many thanks to our runners and their sponsors!



Espwa Website Upgrade

You may have noticed our website has a new back end, including a Donor Portal and secure donation capability. Among other things, you can log in to the Donor Portal to review your donation history and set communication preferences. Check it out and let us know what you think!

Dayton Poverty, Inc. Screening and Q&A

On August 18, 2017 in Dayton, Ohio, we partnered with India Gospel League and Apex Community Church to host a screening of the film *Poverty, Inc.*, followed by a Q&A session with the movie's producer, Michael Matheson Miller. The event was a great success, with over 230 people in attendance.

Poverty, Inc. shows what can go wrong when individuals and governments try to intervene in third-world economies without thinking of the long term implications. We've learned a lot at Espwa (and are still learning), but we firmly believe paternalism does not work in the long term. We will always seek ways to build partnerships and relationships, rather than just handing out money and moving on.

Raising our Profile: CNN, Great Nonprofits, and more to come...

In late March 2017, Espwa was featured in a CNN opinion article highlighting innovative ways Christians serve in Haiti. In particular, two of our projects, Jovenel's farm and Haitian Creole Tour, were identified as empowering Haitians through relationships built on mutual trust and dignity. To read the full article, follow [this link](#), or go to CNN.com and type "what Christians are really doing in Haiti" in the search box.

We're working to expand our public profile. If you have an Espwa story or experience you're willing to share to help others learn what we do, please visit [our page at GreatNonprofits.org](http://our.page.at/GreatNonprofits.org).

And stay tuned for more. Among other things, in 2018 we plan to pursue non-profit accreditation with the Better Business Bureau.

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Espwa exists to develop projects that empower the people of Haiti, alleviate poverty, build relationships, and ultimately encourage hope through Christ's love.

In carrying out this mission, we observe the following values:

1. We are Christ-focused.
2. We are committed to the poor.
3. We believe everything begins with relationships.
4. We act as good stewards.
5. We recognize partnerships are critical to accomplishing our mission.
6. We work with local leaders and indigenous churches.
7. Our goal is to create sustainable solutions for poverty alleviation.
8. We strive for excellence in all we do.



Medical Project Updates

On Friday, March 24, 2017, we sent a group of three medical professionals with six suitcases of medicines and other supplies to Cap-Haïtien. On Saturday and Sunday, the team worked alongside Haitian providers and nurses at New Hope Hospital. Espwa's Medical Director, Jen Schmidt, relayed the story of a patient who evidenced signs of cholera, a terrible water-borne disease that ravages the digestive system and can lead to severe dehydration and death. The patient had traveled very far just to get to the Hospital, where the team was able to support him with fluids and antibiotics, before transferring him to the nearest cholera treatment center. To Jen, "New Hope Hospital saved that man's life."



On Monday, the team returned to the site of one of Espwa's first projects, St. Anthony's Clinic in the Fort St. Michele community. St. Anthony's is only twenty miles from New Hope, but worlds away technologically. Without labs for testing or an extensive pharmacy, the team had to rely on their experience in the field, coupled with Dr.

Maklin's knowledge of common Haitian illnesses. The team's last working day was spent at a makeshift clinic at the local school building in the Blue Hills community.

In all, the Espwa team saw over 600 patients, deepening relationships with our Haitian medical counterparts and the communities we serve. A highlight of the trip was working at St. Anthony's alongside Dr. Rodlin Paul, known to us as "Roro." Over the years, Roro has served our medical teams as an exemplary translator. With a financial sponsor in the U.S., he was able to attend medical school, graduating in late 2016 from the Universite Lumiere in Port au Prince. The Haitian Ministry of Health requires new physicians to volunteer in a medical facility for the first year post-graduation. Once Roro finishes his year of volunteering in February 2018, he will take on a more integral role in Espwa's medical relief work: we're committed to raising the funds St. Anthony's will need to employ him full-time.



ESPWA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

\$75,270

Gross income in fiscal year 2017

FISCAL YEAR 2017 EXPENSES

PROGRAM: \$57,784

ADMINISTRATIVE: \$7,258

FUNDRAISING: \$2,568

\$30,553

Net assets in fiscal year 2017



OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER PFEIFFER

MEDICAL DIRECTOR: JENNIFER M. SCHMIDT

CREATIVE PROJECTS & FARMING DIRECTOR:
JOSEPH SHAFFER

TREASURER: GARY MOLINARO

SECRETARY: KRISTIN RUMCIK

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR: BRADY CILLO

ESPWA

THE ESPWA FOUNDATION

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