

between



FRIENDS

November 2004

News from Friends of the Children of Haiti

## Volunteers forge on despite devastation

CYVADIER, Haiti— As political violence and natural disasters continue to wrack Haiti with unprecedented fury this year, Friends of the Children of Haiti forges on as a constant beacon of hope.



This year was supposed to be a celebration, the bicentennial of the world's first black republic. Instead, 2004 first brought deadly political upheaval necessitating an incursion of United Nations peacekeeping troops and more recently hurricanes and tropical storms have buffeted the island, killing thousands in the southeast and more recently up north, in Gonaives. In the aftermath, with police and military stretched thin, political extremists have renewed violent uprisings.

Fortunately, most of those problems have stayed clear of the Friends clinic. Still, for the families of Friends volunteers, headlines of devastation in Haiti have made for troubled moments.

“Our families back home were worried for our safety, some not knowing the exact location of the clinic,” says Dr. Kent Bryan, one of the co-leaders of the September mission. “We experienced intermittent rain, winds and thunderstorms throughout our time in Haiti, but none of the horror of Gonaives.”

The September mission consisted of 17 volunteers who served nearly 2,000 patients during nine clinical days in Cyvadier. In addition to the anticipated maladies such as tuberculosis and acute infection, the teams treated several unusual diseases, including tropical spastic paralysis and elephantiasis.

Perhaps most hard rending of all, the mission repeatedly treated children who had been orphaned during May flooding. Though their immediate medical needs were addressed, most suffered malnourishment and face an uncertain future.

Undoubtedly, the November mission team will encounter similar situations suffered by children from the tropical storms and hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne. They would do well to recall the motto of the September team: “Be flexible and improvise.”

*“Our families back home  
were worried for  
our safety”*

Go to: <http://www.fotcoh.org/gallery.html> to view a photograph of Friends' September 2004 Mission Team



# Mores in need of scholarship assistance,

*November Team prepares, Chicago area benefit announced, Coffee Available*

Colson Mores needs your help now so he can help others later. Colson, 26, a long-time translator for the Friends clinic in Cyvadier, is now enrolled at Illinois Central College.

Right now, Colson lives with two other international students at a rental house in Peoria. This year, he's taking general studies classes and has proven to be an excellent student. Plus, he's been contributing as a member of the ICC soccer team.

Next fall, Colson will begin the two-year nursing program. After graduation, he plans to return to Cyvadier to work at the clinic as a nurse and translator.

Colson treasures his educational opportunity for its economic and altruistic promise.

"It would give me an opportunity to take care my family and my future family," he says. "And it will allow me to help the people of Cyvadier."

Colson is depending on Friends for his tuition, housing and all related costs. Many Friends volunteers have worked closely with Colson in Haiti and know his dedication to helping his fellow Haitians. Please consider assisting Colson now by contributing to his educational fund as Friends will not be able to continue sponsoring his stay in the U.S. without significant additional financial help. His success at ICC will be a great investment in his and the clinics' future! *Please call: 309-699-3707 or e-mail: email@fotcoh.org for further details.*

## Just updated:

- November '04 Mission team leader Bob Hoy reports that his team is making final preparations before departing on Nov. 8th and that, "We have dedicated our medical mission to the memory of Mironda Heston" the daughter of Friends volunteer Linda Heston. Mironda, a 24-year-old graduate of Brandeis University with a master's degree in sustainable international development was working in Haiti when she contracted a fatal case of dengue hemorrhagic fever. "We share her mother's grief and hope that our contribution to the health of the people in Haiti may provide Linda with some comfort," says Hoy. Bob Hoy can be reached at: *bobhhoy@aol.com or 309-663-6539.*

### Chicago area benefit

- Please join us at "Friends For Friends" an afternoon of wine, food, art and music in a Chicago wine-lounge loft setting on Sunday November 14th, 2:00-5:00 PM at *The Tasting Room*, 1415 W. Randolph St. Your \$75 per person donation will go directly to supporting Friends work in Haiti. For advance reservations please send your check to:

*Friends of the Children of Haiti*  
P.O. Box 146593  
Chicago, IL 60614

*For credit card reservations and more information please call 708-524-1390*

### Haitian coffee available

- Friends is pleased to offer gourmet Haitian coffee for the first time, expertly fresh roasted in whole bean or ground to your order. Supply is limited, so please call now: *309-369-3792 or e-mail: email@fotcoh.org for further information.*

**BETWEEN FRIENDS** is distributed quarterly to inform supporters about the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH) medical missions. Submissions for BETWEEN FRIENDS are welcomed for consideration and should be sent to: *email@fotcoh.org* If you would like this newsletter emailed to you please send your email address to: *email@fotcoh.org*

The Friends of the Children of Haiti is a non-profit organization.

## CALENDAR

November 14, 2004, 2-5 PM

### FRIENDS FOR FRIENDS BENEFIT

The Tasting Room  
1415 W. Randolph St.  
Chicago, IL

November 8-19, 2004

### MEDICAL MISSION

Cyvadier, Haiti

February 1-15, 2005

### MEDICAL MISSION

Cyvadier, Haiti

May 16-27, 2005

### MEDICAL MISSION

Cyvadier, Haiti



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