



Bulletin

Caribbean Children's Foundation

Fall 2020

From the Director

Thank you to our faithful financial and prayerful supporters! It would be easy to tend to your own needs at a time when all the world is struggling. Thank you for remembering those who have had a difficult life for years upon end. Their need will extend far into the future and you are bringing hope.



Your giving hearts continue to make a difference in the lives of the children we serve. What a joy it is when we have funds to feed hungry bellies, funds to educate children who hunger for knowledge and funds to give medical care to those who would otherwise go untreated.

It was interesting to hear about US grocery stores with empty shelves, huge numbers of people being unemployed, shortage of medical supplies and violent demonstrations. If you never experienced the challenges third world countries face on a daily basis, you now have a glimpse of how difficult their lives have been for so long – compounded by the unknown of when and how things will get better.

While COVID-19 seems milder in Haiti, the effects are still impacting this country. Necessary imported foods and medicines are no longer coming into the country. Food prices are soaring and the value of the gourde (Haitian currency) is drastically decreasing as a result.

Mission teams have stopped coming. Translators, drivers, cooks, and artisans are now facing an abrupt

halt in their income. Unemployment checks are not an option. People who have never asked us for help buying food or money for medical care are now showing up at our doorstep. Hunger is a larger issue now more than ever before.

On the brighter side, schools in Haiti resumed classes in mid-August. The first few months of school are being used to catch up on learning missed in the spring. Online learning is non-existent in a nation that lacks electricity, computers, and good internet access. In all the time I've worked in Haiti, I don't believe I've ever seen a school year without interruptions. Hurricanes, earthquakes, and civil unrest all played a role, and now COVID. Haitian students have always craved what little education they're able to obtain. Education brings hope for a family life where food will be on the table, a roof will be over their heads and future children will receive an education and medical care when needed.

You play an important role in the very survival of Haitian children. You are leaning in, leaning in as described in Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me." You are doing what the Lord explains in Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"



Thank you for being a blessing,

Nora Léon

Nora Léon
Executive Director

Huge Drop in US Exchange Rate Value

Only a few short weeks ago, the money exchange was at an all-time high. One US dollar could buy 107G (Haitian Gourdes). When sending US dollars to Haiti, money sent resulted in more buying power and stretched longer. Immediately, merchants raised their prices to benefit from the increase. The increased costs and no change in the amount of the average Haitian's income, left the population in dire straits, especially when trying to buy necessities (like food).

Now, for reasons unknown to the general population, the exchange rate has been drastically dropped to \$1US for 70G. This is impacting groups dealing in US dollars.

The Haitian banks do not have enough U.S. dollars on hand, so they are only giving gourdes to persons receiving wire transfers. Haitians who receive money from family members in the States are left with less money to buy price-inflated items, as prices were not reduced to equally coincide with the dropped exchange rate. If it's even possible, the financial situation for Haitian families is worse than before.

How does this affect Caribbean Children's Foundation? Many ways! Our funds will simply not go as far. For example, CCF funds that were sent to cover tuition costs, when exchanged to Haitian currency, will not cover the intended cost for the first three months of school. It may only cover two months.

We will have to make up for some lost ground in the previously anticipated "buying power." What may have previously cost \$8000, could easily now cost \$10,000 or more.

The up and down exchange rates are an everyday occurrence, but never have we witnessed such drastic change. The whole country, including missionaries living in country, are struggling. Your continued financial support is needed now more than ever. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able help.

Amazon Donates to CCF

When you shop on Amazon, shop through the AmazonSmile site and a portion of your purchase can be donated to CCF. Same products, same prices, same service. Simply select "Caribbean Children S Foundation Inc" as your designated charity. *Learn more at smile.amazon.com.*

Urgent Need

The car used in Haiti by Nora and Léon is beyond repair. Bought used, their car worked hard over every bumpy mile.

If you've been to Haiti, you know a car in Haiti is not used solely for transportation. Nora and Léon use their car for a myriad of tasks. Used as a landscape vehicle, they transport trees to be planted on Île-à-Vache. They haul chicken feed and sacks of rice/food to the wharf for Grace Orphanage. The back seat gets used as an office for private interviews with people they meet on the street seeking help for their children and family. They transport short-term missionaries. They take sick kids to the hospital, taxi people to funerals and church, and more. Their car has even been used as an "ambulance" for those involved in traffic accidents.

The need for a new vehicle is urgent. We will be shopping for the best vehicle at the best price, as new cars are costly and hard to find. If you can give to this need, please do so using the enclosed pledge card.



Walk/Run Participation Cancelled

With continued coronavirus concerns and state guidelines limiting the size of outdoor group gatherings, the *Amway River Bank Run* organizers cancelled the in-person event planned for October 24. We are not planning to form a CCF team to participate in the virtual walk/run at this time. We look forward to the time when we can gather in-person – we pray that day is just around the corner!