



# Bulletin

Caribbean Children's Foundation

Spring 2020

## From the Director

In January and February, we were blessed with two mission teams. They came during a window of time when the civil unrest had eased somewhat and before the events we're currently facing began. It was a huge blessing to have a medical team. The people of Haiti have even less access to health care during this crisis. Doctors have closed their doors, as well as hospitals. There are no in-coming supplies.

The medical mission team saw about 600 patients in just a few days. Most were general complaints, but some cases were of a more serious nature.



*Dr. Neal Uitvlugt treating a little one at Grann Plaine in February.*

Can you imagine waiting 3½ years for medical treatment? One of the patients was a little boy with a crushed ankle. He has been enduring this injury since October 2016 when his house fell on him during Hurricane Matthew. Finally, this family has some hope. The little boy will be having surgery in May to improve the condition of his ankle.

The Les Cayes area has returned to a somewhat "normal" state. However, because of increased food prices, people are purchasing less food and trying to make their money stretch longer between meals. There is a definite increase in the number of people suffering from malnutrition. Thanks to donations to our Emergency Relief Fund, we have been able to serve several community meals, distribute rice to schools for their students, and assist those who have no income or means to buy food.

When it seems that Haiti can have no problems worse than has been endured during the last year, we find that indeed it can get worse. During the month of March, the State Department changed their travel warning to RED... meaning "no travel to Haiti".

Kidnappings and other violent crimes are escalating, especially in the Port-au-Prince area. Missionaries living here are committed to staying here to support the people who don't have any choice but to stay. Food banks are even more crucial now. Medical care continues to have its challenges with some of the hospitals on strike. The needs do not stop just because the country is in turmoil.

Our hope and prayer is for this situation to end...and soon.

Please do not stop praying for Haiti! Your prayers are needed now more than ever.



Grace and love to you,

*Nora Léon*

Nora Léon  
Executive Director

## Giving in 2020

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the US recently enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This act includes an incentive to encourage individual giving to nonprofits in 2020.

If you don't itemize your 2020 taxes (the taxes you file in 2021), the bill makes a new deduction available for up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) in annual charitable contributions. This benefits people who take the standard deduction.

If you do itemize, individuals can elect to deduct cash contributions, up to 100% of their 2020 adjusted gross income, on itemized 2020 tax returns. This is up from the previous limit of 60%.

Corporations may deduct up to 25% of taxable income, up from the previous limit of 10%.

The new deduction is only for cash gifts that go to 501(c)(3) public charities.

*Please note, this information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor for federal and state tax regulations.*

## Communiqué

For additional news from Haiti, please visit our blog at [caribbeanchildrensfoundation.org/blog](http://caribbeanchildrensfoundation.org/blog).



*From the March 6, 2020, Communiqué: A construction vehicle laden with wooden school benches was overloaded with excited students going to the [fifth grade] competition.*

## Walk for Haiti at the Riverbank Run

On the island of Île-à-Vache, Haiti, children who are fortunate enough to go to school often walk two, three, even five miles a day to get to school. This distance is doubled when you factor in the walk home at the end of the school day.



CCF is forming a "Walk for Haiti" 5K walking team to participate in the Amway Riverbank Run on Saturday, October 24, 2020, in downtown Grand Rapids. (Postponed from May because of COVID-19.) During the 5K Community Walk, our team will walk 3.1 miles to give thanks for the children we are blessed to serve every day.

Join our WALK team and save:

1. Register for the Amway Riverbank Run / 5K Community Walk.
2. During the registration process, JOIN the Caribbean Children's Foundation team.
3. When you join our registered team, you will save \$5 on the registration fee. Plus, you'll get to enjoy all the Riverbank Run perks!

For additional registration info or to support the team, visit @CaribbeanChildrensFoundation on Facebook, or email [CCFshannon@gmail.com](mailto:CCFshannon@gmail.com).

## Emergency Relief Fund

We are seeing an increase in the number of people asking for our assistance in Les Cayes and Île-à-Vache. We try to help when and where we can, and we hope to prepare for additional, individual food distribution.

The need is great! If you're able to help, please consider supporting our Emergency Relief Fund. Your gift today, will support children and families in Haiti.

Donate at [caribbeanchildrensfoundation.org/donate](http://caribbeanchildrensfoundation.org/donate).