



The Bunney's share on their time with Haitian Children's Aid Society

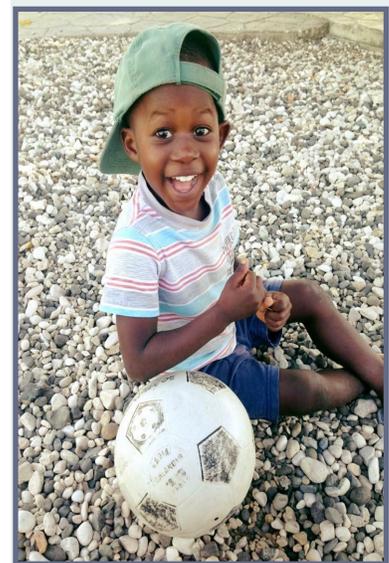
We have been involved with HCAS since before the beginning. When we adopted our kids, we adopted Haiti Children's Home as well. Kristina remembers conversations with Patti Vold (HCAS board member) about the creation and naming of an Alberta charitable society to work with HCH and adoptive families. All 4 of our children are actively involved in raising funds and donating to HCAS. Each week, they set aside a portion of their allowance money. On several birthdays, they collected money in lieu of gifts. We took on a more active role after we moved back to Alberta in 2010. From the time Jerod and Jessica were 4, we have all helped with set up of venues, organizing Silent Auction items, and as Liam and Mima got older, with child care. As well, Dave has loved his time serving on the board.

We are truly amazed by how much things have changed over the years. When we picked Mima up in 2004, HCH was still located on the old property. They had no running water and the 'good' truck had broken down. The old truck couldn't make it up the mountain road, so it took over 6 hours to get to Port Au Prince via St Marc (instead of 2 hrs up the mountain)! The third floor of the home was not yet completed so when it rained (like every day), water poured down the stairs into the second floor bedrooms and nursery.

When he was 13, Liam (along with Dave) was part of the 2012 missions trip to HCH that started the construction of the security wall at the new property. Liam met 3 kids living alone in the neighbouring sugar cane field and felt the need to leave behind his souvenir money with Lori (HCH Administrator) to help them. We are excited about the new property and what it means for the future. Dave had lobbied hard to make sure that HCH had clean water - not only for the orphanage itself but for the surrounding community, especially since they are near the epicentre of the 2011 cholera outbreak and the whole area is infested. It has been amazing to see the kids in the new family houses, to see the gardens, the honey, the chickens and the eggs and to hear about the sense of community and family that is being cultivated. We have seen a huge difference in the children and their development. The new micro businesses are very exciting, along with the school sponsorship program and the continued development of community health and feeding programs. The next phase of development looks to establish long-term volunteer housing and possibly a medical clinic.

HCAS has been instrumental in helping our family maintain a connection to Haiti and to HCH. Our children have grown up with a knowledge and understanding of social justice and our responsibility. Over the years, it has been exciting to see how God has been working in Haiti and how HCAS has allowed us to be a part of that. We look forward to the next months and years as we continue to seek God's leading in the community in Haiti and how our communities can join in His work.

The Bunney's—Mima (15), Jerod & Jessica (12), Liam (18), Kristina & Dave (HCAS Board Member)



Jean-Marc is excited for you to read our newsletter!!!!



Local mother brings her children to HCH weekly to receive checkups and food packs.



KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

—COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM— THE NEED HAS SPIKED IN 2017

Community Outreach sponsorship is available for \$50/month through hcas.ca/sponsorship

The Community Outreach Program program focuses on the core belief of keeping families together. In addition to educating caregivers on the importance of quality nutrition, HCH provides qualifying families with nutrient dense food packs, medical grade peanut butter & formula. Haiti Children's Home is making a profound impact on the surrounding community while allowing parents to continue to care for their children when they do not have the means to do so. In 2017:

- 317 files in the program, most of which serve families of 4-12, of which 244 were new in 2017
- 49 infants under 1 year in the milk program, of which 37 were new in 2017
- 14 seniors served in the Seniors Nutrition Program, which is a new focus of 2017 due to the drastic increase in decimated crops from weather events and drought.

This community outreach program is serviced right at Haiti Children's Home and funded through generous donors of Haitian Children's Aid Society.

"You will find, as you look back on your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." ~ Henry Drummond



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIPS

Each year, Haiti Children's Home looks for additional sponsorships for the children at HCH to specifically cover the cost of back packs, school fees, uniforms, supplies, etc... Thank-you to those who helped send 20 children in Full-Time Care & 6 children from the Nutritional Program to school. We were even able to send pre-schoolers this year!



Tire Shop installed

SMALL BUSINESS VENTURES

In 2017, Haitian Children's Aid Society has been working towards its goal of self-sustainability for Haiti Children's Home. Along with the Bee Hives installed last year, we have been moving towards a tire shop. The Tire Shop has now been installed, and we are prayerfully waiting for the right volunteer to come to Haiti Children's Home to run this business.

In January of this year, we had 100 chickens delivered to site and an Egg Business was initiated. Half the eggs are used for consumption, which saves HCH \$100USD per month, the other half are sold at local markets and to staff to make a profit of \$100USD per month. These chicken houses are located on the far wall and the eggs have been such a great provision for HCH!

Babydson—ready for electrician apprentice training!



MEANWHILE AT HCH IN 2017...

21,000 EGGS produced by 100 Chickens in 8 months

54,000 Manna Packs given through Community Outreach

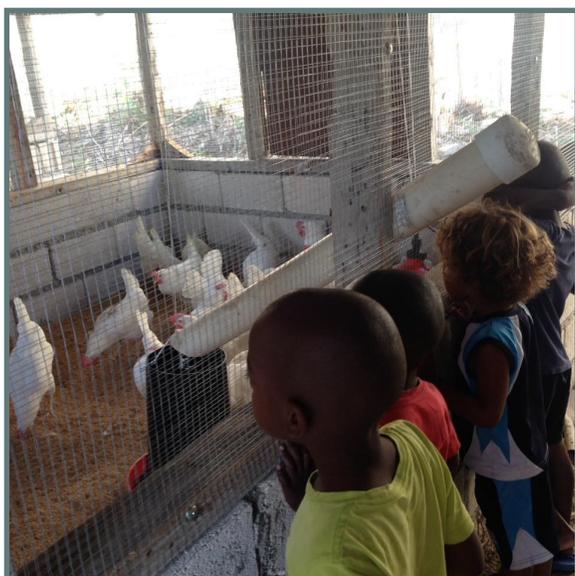
3850 KGS of Rice and

3256 LBS of Beans eaten by

40 full time children at HCH

3 children home with their forever families in Alberta

4 more children very close to being home with their forever families



There are a total of 4 chicken coops

ADOPTION STORY—JASON & MARCIA PETERS

Micah & Madeline at HCH



We are the Peters family from Edmonton, Alberta. Jason and I (Marcia) have been married for 12 years and we have three children, Olivia (8 yrs old), Gavin (6 yrs old) and Micah (5 yrs old). We wanted to share a bit about our adoption journey that ended in Micah coming to Canada and our home on April 5th of 2017. I have always had a heart for adoption and Jason and I discussed this when we got married. We started the process of adoption in February 2013. At that time, Haiti

still allowed families to work directly with orphanages. We knew of Haiti Children's Home because another family from our church had adopted from there and we decided to pursue an adoption with this orphanage. Not long after we had finished our home study, we learned that Haiti had decided to join the Hague convention and because of this we could no longer work directly with HCH. We instead had to find an agency that had been approved by Haiti (there were 10 at the time in Canada, but none in Alberta) to take our file and submit our dossier for us. We ended up going through Sunrise Family Services in Vancouver, but we were fortunate that we were still allowed to choose our orphanage because of when our dossier was submitted. Our process included a lot of waiting as the Haitian government got used to this new process.

In August of 2015, we finally got the call we were waiting for, and learned that Micah would be our son. Jason and I flew out a week later to meet Micah and spend 2 weeks in Haiti for our socialization visit (a requirement under the new procedures). The orphanage had just moved to the new site (which is beautiful) and we were able to stay with our friends Joy and Shane Trusz on site. We had an amazing time getting to know Micah and the wonderful staff. Although, it was heartbreaking to come back to Canada and leave Micah behind. We were told that after this visit we should be able to bring Micah home in 6-8 months; however, 6 months passed and our file had not even gone to court.

Finally, in June of 2016 our file was released for court and Micah became legally our son on October 27th, 2016. We had to wait a little bit longer for his passport and visa to come through but on March 27th, 2017 Jason and I flew to Haiti to bring Micah home. We were fortunate and felt that God orchestrated it so that we could travel with another family (The Sutcliffe's) who were adopting Micah's best friend Madeline and we were able to fly to Canada together. Because of all the changes with the adoption process, Micah and Madeline are the first children to be adopted from HCH in over 3.5 years.

It has been 7 months since Micah joined our family in Edmonton. The transition has been one of many joys and tears. Micah was almost 5 when he left HCH and leaving everything he knew and loved behind has been a hard process of grief and loss and has taught us a lot about grace and love. Micah has adapted really well to the culture and climate in Canada. A few of his favorite things in Canada are: SNOW!!! sledding, pizza, ice cream, timbits, bike rides and the mountains. He started French Immersion kindergarten in September and loves his teacher. It feels like Micah has been a part of our family for much longer than 7 months, and yet we are still in a process of adapting and attaching that just takes time in adoption. We are so grateful for the amazing love and care that Micah received at HCH from the staff and volunteers.



LETTER FROM LORI WEST-LOUIS HAITI CHILDREN'S HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Lori & Sadrack along with their children and foster children

It's been 2.5 years since we moved to the new site and we are still so thankful every. single. day. Honestly, it is not lost on us the privilege that we have to live on this beautiful facility, where the children are safe, thriving and loved.

Prior to moving sites, so much of our time was spent ensuring that we had enough water and electricity for the day, and were constantly dealing with the same basic quality of life challenges day in and day out. It was hard for us to improve in any areas as we just did not have the adequate space, time, or resources to be efficient.

Since moving, even 2.5 years later, our staff as a whole regularly remark on how much more we are able to accomplish each day. This remarkable change has allowed so many good things to happen at HCH, which has had the biggest impact on the children we care for. As the children have settled into family-focused care, we continue to see wonderful improvements with challenging behaviors, and a sense of rhythm that allows the children to really thrive. Visitors often remark on how close-knit the children are, and how they sense that the children know where



The list of the wonderful things about our new home is seemingly endless, from the running water, solar power, classroom space, kitchen and dining room (which also doubles as our preschool space), new chicken/egg houses (which the kids love), green space, playground, garden, beautiful homes, etc etc etc. But what we love most of all, is that these children are being raised by people who

“For those children who have no alternative but to be cared for within our walls, we are so thankful to be able to offer a loving home with a team ready to provide them with the tools they need to grow and thrive.”

home is and who their family is. Our foster parents have had a significant learning curve over the past two years, having to not only take on caring for a group of children 24/7, but also learn how to do all that in a community with its own unique culture. We are so thankful for them and their willingness to work through the numerous changes and challenges, both as part of the HCH organization, and as parents. One thing is for sure, our kids have never been healthier! There's nothing like having a mama to cook for you each day!!!!

love them, in a place that is actively working to raise the bar for what orphan care looks like in Haiti. For those children who have no alternative but to be cared for within our walls, we are so thankful to be able to offer a loving home with a team ready to provide them with the tools they need to grow and thrive.

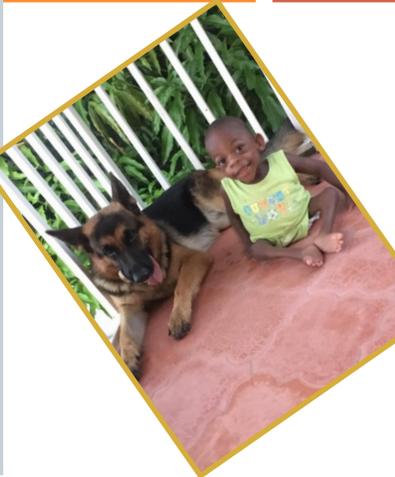


Field Director Needed

Haitian Children's Aid Society is looking for a Field Director to serve at Haiti Children's Home. The ideal candidate would commit from 3months-1year and oversee the maintenance of Haiti Children's Home as well as business ventures. This position requires self-funding as well as strong support from church family and friends. If interested, please email your resume to info@hcas.ca.



HCAS can now accept **e-transfer donations**. If you are looking for a convenient way to send your donation - while avoiding fees for HCAS - send your e-transfer to info@hcas.ca. Please also send a separate email to the same address with the e-transfer password and mailing information for your tax receipt. **THANK-YOU FOR SUPPORTING HCAS AND THESE AMAZING CHILDREN!!**



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DONATE ONLINE @
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Phone: 1-855-588-4227 (LUV-HCAS)

E-mail: info@hcas.ca

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2017 TAX RECEIPTS will be issued mid February. To qualify as a 2017 donation, please ensure mailed cheques are postmarked by December 31.

FUNDRAISER



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, April 21, 2018
CrossRoads Church in
RED DEER, ALBERTA



HCAS
HAITIAN CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY