



FREDDYLINK

FREDERICTON HELPING HAITI

November 2010

FreddyLink – The Fredericton-Haiti Community Development Partnership

Linking caring individuals in the community of Fredericton with children and families in need in villages in the Cobocol Area Development Program in the central plateau region of Haiti through World Vision. Together we can:

- give the children of Haiti a sense of hope for the future
- help families in Haiti break the cycle of poverty
- help communities in Haiti to become self-sufficient
- respond to the needs of the world's poor and vulnerable through acts of compassion and justice
- enrich the lives and strengthen the sense of community among FreddyLink partners in Fredericton.

Making a connection with Haiti

It was a beautiful autumn afternoon. The sound of the drums drifted down the hillside, carrying with them the Caribbean rhythms of Saa Andrews, and drawing us towards Odell Lodge. As we approached, the smell of barbecued burgers floated filled the air. People came with a sense of anticipation to this, the first gathering of the FreddyLink community at the FreddyLink BBQ.

The vision of FreddyLink is to connect people in Fredericton with people in the Cobocol Area Development Project in the central plateau of Haiti. Connection means communication. And communicate we did!

How wonderful to hear first-hand from Paul-Émile César just how community development projects work, and to hear specifically about Cobocol, our sister community. To hear about the Hope Child program, how children from families ravaged by AIDS are given support. How wonderful to ask the questions that are on our hearts and to receive thoughtful answers. Suddenly, Haiti was so much closer and so much more real.

Then, the real treasure of the afternoon. We were able to link directly to sponsored children in Cobocol through Skype. We had a poor connection, but as people communicated directly with their

sponsored children, the quality of the connection did not matter. We listened to a beautiful song sung by a
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Nicholas and Liam Coughlan try their hand at the drums with Saa Andrews

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little girl in Haiti. I did not understand a word, but it did not matter, it pierced my heart regardless. We heard a message from the manager of the Cobocol Area Development Project, and in that message we heard hope and thankfulness.

I come away from the experience deeply moved. Cobocol, which seemed so far away in distance, in culture, in language, and in conditions, now seems so much closer. Sponsored children changed from photos to voices and images. I come away from the experience knowing that Fredericton and Cobocol, which are so far in apart in so many ways, are now much closer thanks to FreddyLink.

What you told us about the BBQ

I can't believe I got the opportunity to talk to my sponsor child through a Skype call today at the Freddylink BBQ. When I walked into the lodge and heard that we were going to be able to talk to people in Haiti, I never in a million years thought that we would get a chance to talk to the children. On top of that, I never thought that out of all the children in our community in Haiti would my boy be one of the many on the other end of the call. I remember asking Bernie if by any chance Kenama was there and also praying that by some miracle he was. As soon as I saw his face on that screen, everything around me stopped and all these emotions were running through me. Being able to see him, hear his voice and know that he is okay, I don't have words to describe how powerful and amazing it was. It hit me in that moment, how special it is to have a connection like this to these children. To know that we are making a difference one penny at a time. As I watched him wave and say goodbye the tears started running down my face. I remember saying over and over again "Thank you God, thank you for everything, you're so awesome!" Even from the other side of the world this young boy has changed my life."

~Taylor Newman, 16



Taylor Newman talks to her sponsored child while Paul-Émile César of World Vision Haiti translates

It was probably the best Sunday afternoon I have spent in awhile and hearing news directly from the field really put a face to all our efforts, I think the Skype connection was a perfect end to a great day.

~Dana Coughlan, Freddylink volunteer.

Did you know...

- World Vision has worked in Haiti for more than 30 years and assists over 300,000 people annually in 20 Area Development Programs in five regions of the country.
 - In agricultural areas in Haiti, 89% of people live with less than \$2 per day
 - Haiti has a very young population: 44% are less than 15 years old; 66% are less than 25 years old.
 - Haiti's most serious underlying social problem is the huge wealth gap between the impoverished Creole-speaking majority and the French-speaking minority, 1% of whom own nearly half the country's wealth
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Cobocol Area Development Project

The Cobocol Area Development Project (ADP) is located in the central plateau of Haiti. The area lies in the mountains, but heavy deforestation has caused extensive soil erosion and leaves the community susceptible to landslides, flooding and scarcity of water.

The project has four main programs: Community Leadership and Organizational Reinforcement; Agriculture and Economic Development; Integrated Education; and Reduction of Vulnerability (which includes health, HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness).

Working Toward a Better Life

Thanks to our sponsors, here are some accomplishments achieved last year:

- 1,600 families were able to produce their own flour close to home, saving the time and money to transport millet for grinding in another town;
- New harness units enabled farmers to plow their land more efficiently;
- The irrigation system in one community was repaired, boosting agricultural production;
- 63,000 fruit and forest tree saplings were distributed to farmers to diversify production, improve diets, boost income and reduce the effects of erosion;
- 540 families participated in 24 savings/credit mutual groups where they received training as well as small loans to start or support income-generating activities; and



A goat farm



Children receive immunizations at a clinic

- Farmers involved in the market gardening initiative experienced a major increase in household income.

Healthier Children, Happier Future

Last year, sponsors' generosity helped us to:

- Provide medical check-ups for 3,552 children with the help of the Ministry of Health;
- Support 1,489 pregnant and lactating women with medical check-ups and supplementary food supplies;
- Build a community water fountain to provide 500 families with access to clean water;
- Respond to the threat of HIV by teaching 4,372 students, youth, community and religious leaders about HIV and AIDS; and
- Train selected youth as peer educators, and support parents to take an active role in raising HIV awareness in children.

Education Opens Doors

Last year, the compassion of Canadian sponsors helped us to:

- Provide access to primary and secondary school for more than 3,500 children by subsidizing school fees and the cost of uniforms and supplies;
- Train 94 teachers and school directors in new teaching methodologies and school administration to improve the quality of education; and
- Train 70 youth in sewing, tailoring and woodwork.

Source: <http://www.worldvision.ca/ADP/Haiti/Cobocol/Pages/Updates.aspx>

You asked us...

How much of the \$40 that I give each month actually goes to my sponsored child?

It is valuable to know how any charitable organization uses their funding. No organization can be effective without some funding to cover the costs of administration and fund-raising. The key is to balance these costs against the funding that goes to programs.

World Vision is very efficient in how they use their funding. In 2009, over 80% of their funding was used to deliver programs while only about 6% of their funding was used for administration. This means that most of your monthly donation goes to support your sponsored child's community.

The money you give goes to support the community your sponsored child lives in, rather than directly to your sponsored child. This community development model allows a more holistic approach to be taken where the entire community is supported. This helps the community to become more self-sufficient and to break the cycle of poverty. In this way your sponsored child, their family, and their entire community benefit from your support.

Expenditures as a percentage of revenue



Source: World Vision Canada Annual Report 2009

www.worldvision.ca/About-us/financial-information/Pages/2009-annual-report.aspx

Remembering January 12

Please mark your calendars and join us on Wednesday January 12, 2011 to commemorate the one year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti. It will be a special evening with food, music, updates and an opportunity to reconnect. Let us come together and remember this tragic event that has touched our hearts so deeply.

February, 2011: Our team returns to Haiti. Follow our team's progress through updates and photos posted on our website.

March, 2011: Join us as we share our experiences in Haiti in photos and words. Hear first-hand accounts of how World Vision community development programs are making a difference.

Children sponsored under FreddyLink

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Contact us

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