

Maison Fortuné

orphanage news

Sep 2015

Hinche, Haiti

The Orphanage Loses A Friend

A tribute to Carrie Wortham from MFOF President and Chairman, Ryan Kenrick

My fellow friends and family of MFOF, it is with a saddened heart that I write to inform you that this past September one of our own---Carrie Wortham---passed away after being struck by a car while riding her bike in Hanover County. Carrie was only 26 years old, but during her short time with us she had already made a huge impact on this Foundation, the kids of Maison Fortune and Haiti in general.

Carrie first came on to the Haiti scene as a volunteer with our friends at the Midwives for Haiti. While volunteering for the Midwives and living in Haiti, Carrie would often visit the Orphanage. During those visits Carrie made a deep connection with the kids that would stick with her forever. After Carrie returned to the States and began working for the Midwives full-time she didn't forget the Orphanage and would go out of her way to help our Foundation whenever we asked. When Bro. Cosmas stepped down as the secretary of the Foundation, Carrie immediately stepped up. Filling Bro. Cosmas shoes was no small feat. Most of us would have shied away from the huge responsibility, but not Carrie. In typical Carrie fashion, she quickly asserted herself as a force to

be reckoned with. Her hard work, "no-nonsense" attitude, and most importantly, her compassion for the children of Haiti rejuvenated the Foundation.

Carrie served on our board for a little over a year, but her presence is still being felt.

On a Friday evening in mid-September a ceremony was held to celebrate Carrie's life. The church was packed with hundreds of Carrie's loved ones. In talking with some of the other well-wishers it became clear, Carrie's impact on our Foundation was status-quo for her in all of her endeavors.

Whether working with an organization or helping out a friend---Carrie was fully committed to the causes and people she loved. We will miss Carrie very much at the Foundation, but we feel honored to have known her for even a short time. Thanks for everything you did for us, Carrie.



Thank You to All our Generous Donors

MFOF Board Treasurer Richard Martin

We really love all our wonderful donors, but from time to time we must highlight those donors who go above and beyond to support the Maison Fortune Orphanage Foundation. Over this past year we have received extra generous donations from three organizations or individuals that have truly helped us meet our expenses. Let me highlight them individually to show them a small piece of our gratitude. First, the Beaver County Saint Vincent De Paul Society who puts on a golf tournament every year to raise money for their organization and Maison Fortune Orphanage Foundation is one of its beneficiaries. This year the Saint Vincent De Paul Society donated \$15,000 to the Foundation from their earnings. This Society has donated over \$150,000 in the many years that they have supported Maison Fortune and have made a direct impact on the children of Maison Fortune. The Foundation also received a \$50,000 donation from the estate of Monsignor Pitt who was especially close with our MFO Founder and Director Lefort Jean Louis. Because of this generous donation, the Foundation was able to paint the orphanage buildings and repair some of the facilities that were long overdue. And finally, we recently received a wonderful anonymous donation of \$20,000 that will go towards the ongoing operations and maintenance of the Orphanage campus. The Foundation would like to thank these wonderful donors and those involved in supporting these individuals or organizations. Their donations will go a long way to improving the lives of our children who were once impoverished and now have hope at Maison Fortune.

We recognize that not everyone can provide large sums of money, all regular contributions help the Foundation meet its monthly expenses. The Foundation encourages everyone to pray for God's grace over the children and that God continues to give us the resources to bring hope to those at Maison Fortune.

Donation information can be found at www.mfofoundation.org



A new generator for the girl's campus!

A Visit of Thanks

MFO Founder and Director, Lefort Jean Louis

Thank you to everyone who made my recent stay in the US a success. It was wonderful to reconnect with so many of you and to participate in the first Tap! Tap! FUNdraiser. I hope that each of you had the chance to learn just a little more about our kids in the process. I was especially thankful to be hosted at St. Mark's parish in Virginia Beach for their annual picnic and to attend mass with them that same morning. My trip also included a "road trip" with MFOF Executive Director Mary Kwasniewski to visit our partners at Penn State and Seton Hall. It was wonderful to return to both PA and NJ and see how the campuses and their support of our mission has grown. It is through partnerships and relationships that we will continue to provide the best possible future for our children and for Haiti! Thank you to all and if I missed you this time – please come and visit us in Haiti!



Penn State visit



The school building, freshly painted and ready for the new school year.



First TAP! TAP! Craft Beer Festival Results in Success!

MFOF Board Secretary Julie Thomas

On August 29th the MFOF Board held the inaugural Tap! Tap! Beer Festival on the beautiful grounds of Greenbrier Farms in Chesapeake, Virginia. The event was a resounding success with all 2000 tickets being Tapped! out. The weather could not have been nicer and the excitement that was in the air came free with the tastings of over 30 beers. On stage throughout the afternoon was JuJu Drums, Jesse Chong, and Seth Stainback & Roosterfoot. Food was available for sale from local food trucks. The Executive Director from Maison Fortune Orphanage Lefort Jean-Louis was in attendance from Haiti as well as Xavarian Brother Harry and Brother Bill who served at MFO for years. It was easy to strike up a conversation with anyone. The intimate lawn party was a great way to bring awareness about the orphanage and Haiti! Thank you to everyone who came out for some big fun! The MFOF Board wants to give a shout out to all of the event sponsors. We could not have done the event without them! We are ecstatic that this first year we made a profit for the kids. Thank you to all who spread the word, attended and who sponsored the Event!



Fit Realty TAP! TAP! Ticket Sponsor enjoy the day.



Enjoying the company of friends and a shade tree at the TAP! TAP! Festival.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors!



International Scouts comes to MFO

MFO is excited to bring news of our newly formed International Scouting Troop, "Catherine Flond", named after the woman who was the first to sew the Haitian Flag. Our troop is co-ed per the international scouting standard. We have over 90 boys and girls participating. This project is being made possible thanks to the support of Venturing Crew #824, led by Mr. Jim Wheaton who visited with MFO this past

year. It is with their support and dedication the vision of scouting for MFO has become a reality. The Scouts participated in formation training this past July and were officially recognized as Hinche District 1. Pictured here the Scouts are departing for their first overnight camping activity in Saut D'eau, sixty miles from Hinche. During this trip the troop will be involved in team building activities, cultural

events, and an introduction to the Scouting Standards. This is the first time that many of our children will be away from the Orphanage. This great activity will inspire them to look beyond MFO and into their communities and their futures. The troop is divided into two groups based on age, the older group has some responsibility over the younger. Our Girls Campus Director, Veronique Joseph, is the Scout Troop Mentor. We are thankful for the experience this provides for the MFO children.



MFO Scouts prepare for their first overnight outing!

2015 Combined Federal Campaign

MFOF Board Treasurer, Richard Martin

For Military personnel or Federal Employees who are currently Maison Fortune Orphanage Foundation donors or those new potential donors looking for a place to generously donate to a good cause, the Federal Government is starting its 2015 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The Maison Fortune Orphanage Foundation is an approved charitable organization by the CFC governing board. Your federal organization, command, or unit has the necessary information to donate through the campaign, all you need is the **CFC number for Maison Fortune Orphanage Foundation, 12234**. Your generous tax deductible donation will go directly to the operating budget of Maison Fortune to provide food, clothing, education, and a solid roof over the 216 children in Haiti. Your consistent donation would allow the Foundation to meet its monthly budgetary needs for our children. Please consider donating. Please send questions to donate@mfofoundation.org.

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