

ON THE ROAD AGAIN IN HAITI

Your Donations Will Continue to be Tripled

BY PIERRE BARBEAU
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are very pleased to inform our loyal supporters that Help the Aged has signed three new contracts with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for Haiti and Congo. This will mean that all of your donations for our projects in developing countries will continue to be tripled by matching government grants. This newsletter focuses on our new program in Haiti and future newsletters will describe our two new projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These



The pig in this photo seemed to enjoy my company when we first met at l'Asile Communale in Cap Haitien. I was lucky he didn't sneeze at that moment. He was one of 70 pigs purchased by Help the Aged to support our Adopt-A-Gran program in this home for 160 destitute seniors. What a great way to recycle garbage from the Asile!

countries are two of the poorest in the world which means that your generous support will be helping those who are the most destitute. Also, our dollars can provide more products and services to the poor in these countries when compared to other developing countries where the cost of living is higher. For example, the average full-time registered nurse in Haiti receives an annual salary of only \$2,000. We will, therefore, be able to recruit more nurses to help the elderly poor. On behalf of the needy seniors we support, we thank you for your encouragement and assistance!

What would I do if I were in their shoes?



For destitute seniors who can't be involved in development projects, we provide wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, medications, food and shelter through our Adopt-A-Gran program.

BY PIERRE BARBEAU

I often ask myself that question when travelling to countries like Haiti. If I were an elderly person who couldn't work because I was disabled physically and/or mentally, who would take care of me? Certainly not the government since there is no pension system, health care services, unemployment insurance or welfare system. If I had children, would I be fortunate enough to have one of them willing to take care of me despite their own poverty? If the answer was no or I had no children, my chances of survival would be very poor. The ability to work is equivalent to staying alive in

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Able bodied and able minded seniors can participate in development projects such as agriculture and animal husbandry. The man in this photo is skilled at basket weaving which helps to increase his income.

How Your Gifts Will

The focus of our new project in Haiti is to provide the following

WATER RESERVOIRS AND WELLS

We will be installing ten potable water reservoirs and two wells. The water reservoirs collect rain water from the roofs of buildings such as schools. The water drains to the reservoirs through an eaves trough system and goes through a sand and charcoal filter. The average reservoir will hold more than 9,000 gallons. These reservoirs are the ideal solution in mountainous areas where the cost of digging a well would be too expensive.

The water reservoir in this photo was recently completed in Vital by Help the Aged. In the photo, Father Augustin Chôlet is checking the water level with Help the Aged volunteer Joseph Lambert.



REPAIR OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES FOR ABANDONED SENIORS

We will be installing new latrines, repairing leaky roofs, improving kitchen facilities and showers and installing mosquito screens in homes for the destitute in Les Cayes, Camp Perrin, Aquin, Dillaire, Ouanaminthe and Bonneau. All of these facilities are managed by catholic nuns and other religious organizations.

These latrines at the Camp Perrin home for destitute seniors are in obvious need of repair and funds have been reserved for this purpose.

HEALTH CLINICS, NURSING AND PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

Local nurses and physiotherapy technicians like the one in this photo were trained by our Canadian volunteers and will be treating elderly patients in long term care homes and in neighbouring communities supported through our Adopt-A-Gran sponsorship program. Our volunteers will carry suitcases full of donated medical supplies and we will also be shipping three 40-foot containers of donated medical equipment and supplies from Canada.



Be Spent in Haiti

basic health care services to the elderly poor in ten communities.

CATARACT SURGERIES AND DENTAL CARE

In Dessalines, we will be working with the Free Methodist Church to complete cataract surgeries and offer basic dental care to seniors living in poverty. As depicted in this photo, elderly Haitians who are blinded by cataracts are often seen being led with a stick by one of their grandchildren. Dental care in rural areas is often non-existent and seniors in particular are victims of serious inflammation and infections from untreated cavities and abscesses. Volunteer nurses, doctors and dentists from Canada will assist and train local doctors and nurses. Our project will provide the basic medical/dental equipment and supplies needed.



ASSISTANCE FROM OUR CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS

Twenty-four of our volunteers planning to assist in Haiti recently completed a pre-departure course offered by CIDA in Quebec City. (photo) During the three year term of the project, 30 field trips by volunteers will be organized. Many volunteers have a medical background and most of our volunteers previously travelled to Haiti to assist with other projects. Our “average” volunteer will be in Haiti for six weeks but certain volunteers are there for much longer periods. For example, Laurian Saint-Amour from Mont Laurier has been a resident of Haiti for the last eight years and continues to be one our key volunteers. For safety reasons, most of our volunteers travel in teams of two or three and work together at one location.

LOCAL INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

We encourage all of the local charitable organizations we work with to become more financially independent through projects such as agriculture, small businesses and animal husbandry. For example, this pharmacy in Ouanaminthe is managed by Sister Eliane Roy (photo) who is also a registered nurse. It is located on the property of Le Bon Samaritain where most of our sponsored grans from this area live. This is a community pharmacy and the profits from the medications sold to the public are used to help pay the home’s operating costs.



What would I do ... (continued from page 1)

this country where survival of the fittest applies. This is the situation that faces most elderly people to varying degrees in many developing countries.

The two photos at the bottom of page one reflect the situation Help the Aged faces in these countries since some destitute seniors are completely handicapped and must spend the rest of their lives in wheelchairs or beds. Although the man in the photo with the basket is destitute, he is able bodied and able minded enough to work and produce income to

meet his basic needs. Seniors like him can become involved in our development projects like the ones described in this newsletter. However, the man



in the wheelchair is completely dependent and our Adopt-A-Grand sponsorship program is his only connection to survival.

This is why Help the Aged has always been involved in both development projects and humanitarian aid. Both types of programs are very important and we, therefore, cannot abandon the poorest and weakest of seniors in order to focus all of our efforts on healthier elderly people. Many of the crippled and handicapped we care for would certainly die without your kindness and caring.

THANK YOU TO CIDA FOR SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT!

Look Carefully!

This bed mattress at the Immaculate Conception

Hospital in Les Cayes gives you a good idea why your generous support is needed in Haiti. HTA volunteer Laurian Saint Amour is standing next to the mattress holding his key chain on top of the large hole going completely through the mattress in the middle of the bed. Help the Aged has provided hundreds of mattresses to public hospitals and to seniors living in the different homes we support.



Thank you for caring!

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