

## Orphanage report collage...

### From: Nichol Krupp (via FB)

(Niki did a FB "shout out" from Haiti asking her friends and connections for on-the-spot donations to help fund the orphanage assistance. It was hugely successful! Here are some quotes from Niki's reports/requests)

Over the next few days we will be visiting four different orphanages. Here are a few of children we will be treating today. We finally got them to smile after giving them each a tennis ball. They are hungry. When we went to give them deworming medicine we were told they have not eaten and that they really have no food left. Once we are done treating them we will then go with our driver to get them several weeks of food and bring it back. ...



And..

Here is just one of the many faces you are helping. They seriously are out of food. I keep walking around and looking for something in nooks and crannies and broken down refrigerators, in stoves around corners and under beds. I see nothing!!!



Thank you for the donations [sent via paypal] we are hoping for more as we will then be able to get them at least a few weeks worth of food at each orphanage. Just when I think I have seen it all... Every child we saw today had worms in their belly. Several had ringworm in their heads. Almost all of them have "The Fever" that many of you have heard us talk about which is called Chikingunya and we are doing our best to avoid as a team. They do have mosquito nets but they all have huge holes in them so why bother? Many respiratory infections. I cannot stop hearing the teeny tiny ones that just cannot stop crying. I truly know now what a cry of hunger is. It is resonating in the cement block walls of this place. So much dehydration and many too tired to play with us. Some too tired to cry. This is their reality. This is their life.

There is a battle going on in my head and heart to make sense of what I see here, why I am drawn to it and how I have to keep seeing outside of myself to make things change. There is great progress going on here each time I come

back but I truly come for the children. They are everything!

Today we treated every child, gave each child a toothbrush and toothpaste, gave them suckers, each was photographed and helped me print their own pictures. Huge smiles on that part!!! They were each dewormed, we gave them each their own bag of vitamins, lots of water and a whole lot of LOVE and even more than that... HOPE. I cannot wait to see their faces when we return from market with food.

**From Heidi Richards:**

Describing my experiences in Haiti is extremely difficult to put into words. Sometimes it's uplifting and sometimes it's heartbreaking. But without question, traveling to Haiti itself has changed my life in ways I cannot always describe. Through multiple trips there, I've encountered moments that are life-altering, but none that have affected me as deeply as this past trip [with the stops at the orphanages]. This last journey brought me from feelings of despair and hopelessness to dreams of change and hopes of defeating hardships one little step at a time. In order to show how deeply this past trip touched me, I would like you to first read a journal entry from a previous trip...

"And you think it's going to be so exciting and great and maybe even a relief to come back home. There's running water, working toilets, and a bed. Everyone says "I bet your happy to be back" and "How was your trip?". And yes, you smile and say "yes so glad to be back" and "oh yes it was amazing", completely suppressing the urge to scream and yell "hell no, I hate coming back". You want to grab them and shake them because they don't know, they have no clue. They don't know what's it like to swaddle a cold dead infant, who never was given the chance to see life. They don't know what it's like to see a woman in the beautiful and miraculous act of childbirth on a cold cement floor. No one knows what it feels like to stand in a sweltering, odorous, and overcrowded tent amongst a hundred children who will be served their only meal for days. You cannot put into words the feeling of walking into a hospital and seeing a small dead body laying meekly under a small blanket awaiting the decency of a morgue. And a typical American will never know what it's like to walk down the streets of a place like Port Au Prince, where the act of dying is easier than living.

And so no, I do not like coming back. Yes, I am blessed to live in this great country. And after have been to "hell on earth" and living amongst utter and completely poverty, sickness, and death, the commodities and technologies of this country are vast and great. Yet while laying amongst my fancy Egyptian cotton sheets and while standing under my hot steaming shower, I am left with nothing but an emptiness and a loneliness that only few will know. And the feel is almost indescribable. As if your soul feel broken and your spirit feels dead.

And I try to desperately to remember the positive things and the happy moments. I try to remember the sound a child giggling or the feel of a holding a

hand or the look on a mother's face when you tell her "bèl ti bebe". Yet it seems my dreams are consumed with nightmares and my thoughts are shadowed by reality of how far my country is from theirs. And my heart is now broken...half here and half there.

So how does one move forward? With time I suppose. It seems eventually life and reality take back over and soon these moments of fear and sadness are long forgotten. And with time, the tears that now fall inconsolably will be nothing but a distant memory. And yes, life will go on. Our jobs will continue to demand time and our families and homes will continue to need attention. But will your soul ever recover? Will your spirit ever rejoice again? And when...when will the aching empty feeling in my heart go away?"

...When I read those thoughts from some time ago, it's hard for me to even remember feeling them. It's hard to remember those vivid feelings of despair because this last trip was so different and so much more hopeful and bright. Through the opportunity to visit orphanages during this last trip, I was given a chance to open my wings and live my dreams. I don't have many talents. And I don't have many skills. But I do love people and I am a healer. So for the first time in my life I was able to combine my medical skills with my heart's love for children and my hope to better the world. I know I am just one person. But I also know it only takes one person to make a change. And in my heart, I believe we were able to make some real and integral changes. And so I am sharing a journal entry from this trip in hopes you will better understand how IWISH has changed my life and the lives of so many others.

...“Tonight as I lay in a bed with a suitcase full of clothes and a backpack overflowing with snacks beside me, I am completely 100% overwhelmed with emotion. As I try to find the words to express myself, I am having a difficult time typing through tears. Social media may have its faults, but today in a time of pure desperation and need, countless friends, family, and supporters stepped forward without hesitation and gave so generously to our cause because of one Facebook post. And frankly, I have no words to express the kind of gratitude I feel tonight. Tonight children who have not eaten for perhaps days will have full bellies. Tonight children will not be crying due to pain. Tonight children will maybe sleep because of the happiness we were able to bring them today. And that, my friends, is possible only because of your generosity, support, thoughts, prayers, and sharing of our cause. The simple words of ‘thank you’ just do not seem to be enough. But nonetheless, thank you.

“Haiti is always an emotional experience for me. But today was something different. Today was something magical. Today was the good stuff! The real heart-wrenching, mind-blowing kind of victory that makes you sit back and think...this may have been one of the best days of my life.”

Thank you, friends!  
Mèsi mezanmi!

**Big Thanks for all the generosity!**

IWISH Board President reports from the “shout out”: We had 75 donations, netting \$4665.20 (after Paypal fees). Your outpouring of support allowed the team to assist at four orphanages.