

# IMPACT



A Newsletter of Children's World Impact **VOL. 1 | Issue #3**

## THE PERFECT PROJECT

by: Tyson Ray

As 2016 began, CWI had not decided on its next project and I was praying for guidance in our mission work. There is no absence of causes and needs, but CWI works hard to make an impact in specific areas and specific ways.

During this time of consideration, I learned of the death of a friend and colleague – Mr. Bob Johnson – former teacher and school administrator, ardent supporter of CWI, and the recipient of the 2015 CWI Impact Award. On the Tuesday after Bob died, in our CWI mail was a check from Bob. It turns out that on the day before he passed, Bob was paying bills and decided to send a check to CWI because he knew we would use it for something good.

Between this unexpected gift from Bob and the information we had from the fellow non-profit organization, Schools4Haiti, I took

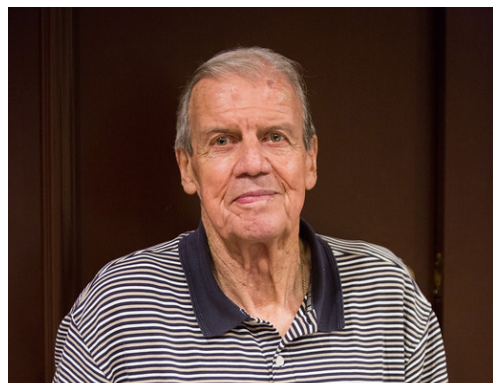


*Len Demert, founder of Schools4Haiti*

this as a sign from above that we were to move on our next project – building a school in Haiti in memory of Bob Johnson.

In our May 2016 e-newsletter, we introduced you to Schools4Haiti, which was started in 2004 by Len Demert, who made it his life mission to provide free education to the poorest children in Haiti. Although Len passed away in 2012, his widow, Carol, and their 4 daughters and their families continue to carry

on the legacy he began. They currently support 4 schools in and around Mirebalais, two of which have small orphanages that house abandoned and orphaned children. The schools educate nearly 1,000 children, and employ 4 principals, 28 teachers, and various other people who fill positions such as cooks, night guards, and school helpers. Schools4Haiti covers the payroll for each of the four schools, as well as the expense of feeding the children and the cost



*Bob Johnson, friend and supporter of CWI*

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## THE PERFECT PROJECT continued from page 01

of their books, school supplies, and uniforms.

Schools4Haiti has two locations that were in desperate need of permanent school buildings, but their budget was already spent on the day to day operations. CWI learned that nearly 300 children who attend the Desarmes school have been meeting in a school “building” that consists of a metal roof on wooden pillars with worn tarps for walls.

CWI, motivated by the memory of Bob Johnson, committed to raising the funds to build a permanent school building at the Desarmes location. The new school will consist of 2 wings, each of which will contain 4 large classrooms. Between the wings there will be an administrative office with an area for storage. The wings will be joined by an open courtyard (see the artist’s rendition in the middle spread of this newsletter).

The estimated cost of this project is \$80,000. The project will be constructed in phases, with the first wing already well underway. Thanks to the 2016 Golf Outing, CWI has raised the funds to complete this first phase of construction. We are hoping to raise enough money to continue building the second wing with no lapse of time in between, so that this school will be completed for the 2017-18 school year. ■

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**Please consider a year end  
donation to help make this  
dream a reality.**

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*Tyson Ray, founder of  
CWI, with employees of  
Geneva National Resort,  
including Kevin Paluch,  
CWI board member*

## TRADITION WITH A TWEAK by: Michael Hoffman

Change can be a scary thing, but it can also be a very positive thing. As we began to plan for the 2016 CWI Annual Golf Outing, we knew we wanted to change things up a bit and give the event a fresh feel. Since 2011, golf had taken place at Geneva National on a Monday afternoon in August, followed by a benefit dinner in the Grand Ballroom.

Hoping to avoid the late afternoon summer rainstorms which we frequently experience in August in Wisconsin, we decided to switch golf to the morning, followed by a casual, outdoor lunch for golfers under the pavilion at Geneva National. Of course, there were questions: Will we have enough golfers? Will sponsors be receptive to this new format? Will early morning registration keep far-away golfers from attending? Will we net as much in profit, given this is our main fundraiser for the year?

Thankfully, the changes paid off. Past golfers stayed true to the event, some of whom got up at 4:30 in the morning in order to

arrive in time for registration. In addition, new golfers joined the ranks, which provided a healthy number of participants. Thanks to the golfers, as well as the generous sponsorships from FORM Wealth, OrthoMolecular, iShares by BlackRock, and others, we raised nearly \$40,000, which will allow construction of the school in Desarmes, Haiti, to continue.

For those who missed the annual meeting portion of our past event, don't worry. We have a dinner-only event scheduled for April 2017, which will take place at Geneva National. During our time together we will catch you up on all our projects and plans. More information will be sent out after the first of the year.

John F. Kennedy once said, “Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” Thanks to all who participated in the 2016 Annual Golf Outing, the outlook for future impact at CWI looks promising and bright! ■



*Two women awaiting the arrival of the operator to complete shea butter production*



## UPDATE FROM GHANA by: Michael Hoffman

The ULLO Widows Project, supporting women and children in Ghana, Africa, was established by Children's World Impact in 2011 and continues to thrive today. The project provides income opportunities, early childhood education, and addresses food scarcity issues. This project continues to operate with minimal involvement from CWI, which was our goal from the very beginning; to create an infrastructure of self-sufficiency. Here are a few highlights of the 2016 impact.

Shea butter production continues to be the most popular endeavor at the project. Women harvest the indigenous shea nuts from June to December and use the mechanized equipment at the plant to process the nuts into shea butter, which they use for cooking and sell at local markets. The small fee women pay to use the equipment helps pay for the electricity needed to run the plant, as well as provide a monthly salary for the operator, who is in charge of maintenance and assisting the women with the machinery. Close to 300 women have benefitted from the shea butter plant in 2016.



*Woman harvesting ground nuts (peanuts)*

Dozens of women continue to farm during the dry season on the reserved plots of land behind the shea butter processing plant. With water available from the well, women are able to grow and irrigate crops during December through April, the time when no rain falls in the northern part of Ghana. This allows women the ability to feed their families and sell their produce at local markets during a time when there is little for sale. The main crops grown are maize, rice, millet, sorghum, and ground nuts (peanuts).

Completed in 2016, the daycare/preschool facility is the most recent addition to the project. With an attendance of 63 children (28 boys and 35 girls) the one teacher is kept very busy! Children are taught basic counting skills, letter recognition, and begin to write their names for the first time. Some come from as far away as 4 km (2.5 miles) on foot, or hitching a ride from an older sibling on a bicycle. In addition, this facility acts as a feeding center, so each child receives a warm meal before returning home after school. ■



*The first students to attend the new preschool*



1



*July 2016 - Ground breaking takes place at school location.*

## PHOTOGRAPHIC TIMELINE OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

IN DESARMES, HAITI

2



*Stone foundation of first wing is completed by hand in early August, employing over 40 Haitian craftsmen.*

3

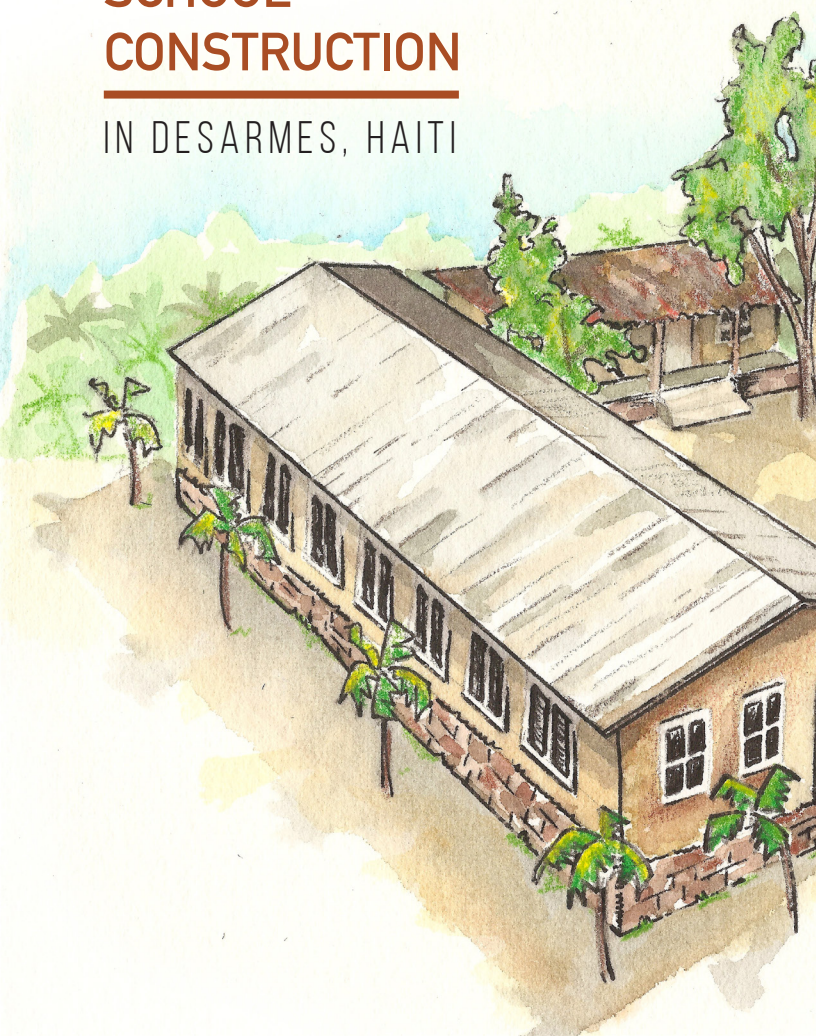


*Rebar and gravel prepare the foundation for pouring of the cement floor.*

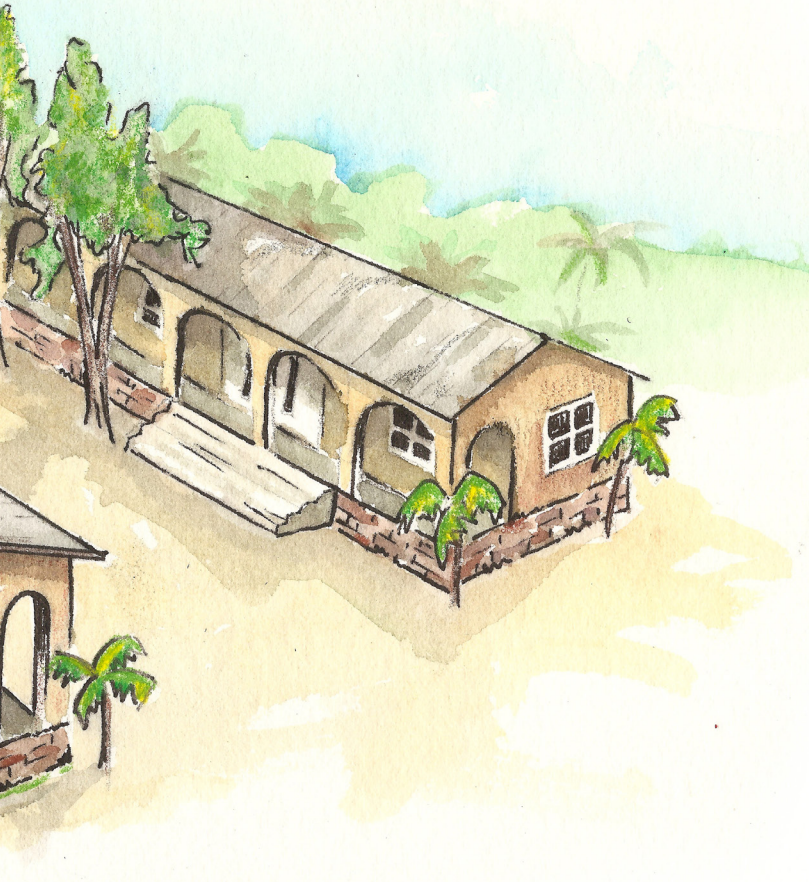
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*In late August, the final load of small stone is added and compacted in preparation for the pouring of the cement floor.*







Artist rendition of completed school based on architectural plans.



Cement floor is poured in September, employing over 50 Haitian workers.



By mid-November, the header between the portico beams is framed. Once poured with concrete, this will help support the roof.



Walls are completed in early November and portico beams are framed and ready for pouring.



Walls begin to go up in October.





*The Limongi-Macias Family, in front of their newly completed home*

## IN AN INSTANT by: Michael Hoffman

Life can change in an instant. The sudden loss of a loved one, an unexpected medical diagnosis, a debilitating car accident—situations such as these can suddenly change the course of a life. In April of 2016, a 7.8 earthquake hit the country of Ecuador, killing over 650 people and injuring tens of thousands more. According to reports, one of the hardest hit areas was Manta in the northwest region of Ecuador, where the central commercial shopping district of Tarqui was completely destroyed. For the residents of this area, life was changed in an instant.

CWI has purposely chosen to not get caught in the bureaucratic red tape that so often is associated with disaster relief. However, when we received a phone call just days after the earthquake from an Ecuadorian citizen who happens to be the brother-in-law of Tyson Ray, founder of CWI, we knew we would have the appropriate “boots

on the ground” individual that would allow us to make an impact in this area of the world.

We acted quickly by setting up a way for individuals to donate online, while Christian, Tyson’s brother-in-law, made connections with many of his business associates. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, and matching business funds, within weeks we were able to collect nearly \$15,000. In order to use this money in a way that is true to our mission, we decided that we would concentrate on providing housing to families with children.

In July, Christian and his family traveled to Ecuador to make arrangements. Contractors were selected, plans were drawn up, and families were chosen. During the last few months, a modest 500 square foot home was constructed for Christian Limongi and Mayra Macias Zambrano, a couple who have been married for 14 years,

## “ON APRIL 16, 2016...

our lives were painted in gray, and now thanks to the generosity of Children’s World Impact and the people that have donated to this cause, it is being painted with colors of hope.”



*Benito and Felisa, with four of their six children*

and are raising a two year old girl who suffers from a genetic blood disorder. This hard working couple lost both their home and business, which were located in Tarqui. According to Mayra, “On April 16, 2016 our lives were painted in gray, and now thanks to the generosity of Children’s World Impact and the people that have donated to this cause, it is being painted with colors of hope.”

With the first home completed, plans are underway to start construction on another structure for a new family. Benito and Felisa are the parents of six children. Felisa and all of the children suffer from anemia. Benito works on a papaya farm and earns \$10 a day. Currently they are living on borrowed land, which they must evacuate soon. They are thrilled to be receiving a new home, and CWI is blessed to be extending its reach and making an impact for families in Ecuador. ■

*Wesley, Stanley, and Bouby Bruneau, proudly displaying their school report cards, along with niece, Richlanda*



## WHY EDUCATION? by: Michael Hoffman

I admit it—I'm slightly biased. As a person who's been a public school teacher for 28 years, I'm biased toward the impact that education can have on a life. In two simple words, I believe EDUCATION MATTERS. Children's World Impact has built two schools, one in Haiti and the other in Ghana, Africa, and we are currently financing the construction of our second elementary school in Haiti. In addition, we are financing the college education of a young Haitian man, Reby Bruneau, who is currently studying to be a medical doctor in the Dominican Republic, as well as his three younger brothers, Wesley, Stanley, and Bouby, and his niece, Richlanda, as they attend classes at the elementary school run by Global Vision Citadelle Ministries in Haiti, the school whose construction was financed by CWI.

So why take such an active role in education? What effects does education have on breaking the cycle of poverty? Allow me to step outside my own biases and share some global statistics that will hopefully give you a perspective on the interconnectedness between education and the cycle of poverty in the developing world.

### Education Reduces Food Insecurity and Reduces Malnutrition

- Education and food security are directly connected: doubling primary school attendance among impoverished rural children can cut food insecurity by up to 25%.
- The majority of farmers in the developing world are women. Greater female education leads to more productive farming and accounts for over 40% of the decline in malnutrition achieved since 1970.

### Education Improves Standards of Health

- A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five.
- Women in 32 countries who remained in school after primary school were five times more likely to know basic facts about HIV than illiterate women.
- A woman with six or more years of education is more likely to seek prenatal care, assisted childbirth, and postnatal care, reducing the risk of maternal and child mortality and illness.

### Education Increases Earning Capacity

- A single year of primary school increases a boy's future earning potential by five to 15%.
- No country has ever achieved rapid and continuous economic growth without at least a 40% literacy rate.
- A single year of primary school has been shown to increase women's wages later in life by 10% to 20%, while the returns to female secondary education are between 15% and 25%.

### Education Improves Gender Equity

- An extra year of female schooling reduces fertility rates by 10%.
- Wages, agricultural income and productivity – all critical for reducing poverty – are higher where women involved in agriculture receive a better education.

It is difficult to argue with such powerful statistics. Clearly, my personal biases have nothing to do with it. Education helps improve food security, malnutrition, health, earning capacity, and gender equity,

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## WHY EDUCATION?

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all factors that are closely related to poverty. Providing educational opportunities for both boys and girls allows Children's World Impact to make a significant impact on the lives of the neglected by severing links in the chains of poverty cycles. ■

*Statistics taken from the following sources: Center for Global Development: Rich World, Poor World: A Guide to Global Development. George Psacharopoulos and Harry Anthony Patrinos, "Returns to Investment in Education: A Further Update," Education Economics 12, no. 2 (2004): 111-34. UNESCO, Education Counts: Towards the Millennium Development Goals (Paris: UNESCO, 2010)*



*Some of over 50 Haitian workers who were employed to pour the floor of the school building in Desarmes, Haiti*

## GREATER IMPACT by: Tyson Ray

On behalf of Children's World Impact, I want to let you know there will be no food packaging event for 2016. After packing over a million meals over the last eight years, CWI has decided to stay true to its mission of breaking the cycle of poverty and focus on building schools and homes in impoverished places in the world, which we believe will strengthen the economic infrastructure needed. If we are going to break the cycle, we need to go further than a meal, as vital as that may be. We need to help create a permanent impact that allows citizens the opportunity to improve their own lives – to give others a hand up, rather than a hand out.

So we'd like to thank you for your help and your involvement over the past eight years, assisting us in packaging the meals. We'd also encourage you to continue your support of our current project as we seek to finish building a school in Haiti.

While the school, when completed, will educate nearly 300 students, the construction of the building is also creating jobs for many local workers. This is how the cycle will be broken – providing wages for workers, education for the community, and stability for the families. With this generational impact, families will feed themselves and children will grow up with better lives. This is the cycle we want to perpetuate. We hope you do, too. ■

## EFFECTS OF EDUCATION

No country has ever achieved rapid and continuous economic growth without at least a 40% literacy rate.



*Breaking the cycle of poverty!*

## OUR MISSION

At Children's World Impact we commit to looking after orphans and widows in their distress, and to make a significant impact on the lives of the neglected.

## OUR VISION

Children's World Impact seeks to break the cycle of poverty through care and community development.

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