



Friends of Messef Newsletter

Your Christmas gift to our children



At this special time of year, please help us to bless the children at Messef. You already give them a "little Christmas" every time you visit from abroad, with toys, clothes and sweets generously given - treats they may receive a few times a year, but we ask your help once again.



Some Friends have asked if they could send a Christmas shoe box but the postal system and cost don't really make this viable here.

Instead, we believe the best gift we can give the children is a stake in their own future: so, please consider "adopting" a child for the holidays, by donating what it would cost to fill and post a shoe box.

By donating to our [Bakery Project](#) you will be helping to build a different future for the children at Messef.

BUT... don't despair, we ARE doing something especially for Christmas. Donna and Gerald, long term Friends of Messef, made sure that the children will have a special Christmas meal and our team from the DR will be cooking and serving that on Friday, 9th December, camping out overnight at Messef. We'll be busy replacing the girls' dormitory roof at the same time (thanks, Lisa) and Jeanette and Linda will be making decorations etc. with the children to bring some Christmas cheer.

Part of the Ministry MESREDEN

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Sustainable Christmas gift
- ☺ Visits from Canadian Friends
- ☺ Medicines from Not Just Tourists
- ☺ Gifts from Haiti Care Mission
- ☺ New Roofs and Chicken Coop
- ☺ Medical visit planned

Links with other Organizations

[Haiti Care Mission](#) -

Pamela, an American/DR Friend, surprised us with a wonderful donation of hand sewn quilts and diapers produced by HCM.

Wendy, Lisa's daughter, had also been sewing, for the first time in her life, from HCM's design for pillowcase dresses.



[Not Just Tourists](#)

- is a wonderful Canadian organization providing medical supplies to poor countries. Posie and Stu had previously worked with NJT on other missions and collected the supplies from Ottawa. They were able to send mountains of meds for use at Messef and in the DR via Lisa and Kay, who will never be the same after



carrying all that luggage.

A drugs rep also donated many vitamins etc. via Sandra to boost the children's health.

"We were able to fill four suitcases with meds - this is the first time we have so many medications to give away."

NJT

Inside this issue:

- Visits since last Newsletter: 2
- Rhonda & Bernadette Jurgan ("Lorenzo") Lisa and Kay
- Canadians for Messef Upcoming Trip 3
- On the road again 3
- Resume of FOM. 4
- How can I help? 4

For fuller details, visit our Blog on WS.

Your visits since the last Newsletter — Bernadette and Rhonda



Bernadette and Rhonda, from Canada, first visited Messef in October, 2010 and one year later they came back to see the children again. They brought seven suitcases with them and must have bought up half of Puerto Plata in preparation for our visit to Messef. We also did a complete food run so the bus was pretty low in the rear!



The children now will all have new school uniforms made with rolls and rolls of fabric bought. We also purchased an extra, second hand sewing machine to get the job done more quickly with Huguette's mother doing a lot of the sewing. Bernadette also bought over 100 pairs of shoes, just to be sure that everyone had a pair to fit.



Many new clothes, toys and sweets were shared out, with Bernadette and Rhonda nearly buried alive in the scrum. It's such a joy to see them excited by things usually taken for granted but we are trying to teaching them not to smother the guests in the process!

Jurgen and Lorenzo

Jurgen and Lorenzo, from different countries, are also a long term supporters of Messef. They have supported the children in so many ways and joined a visit to Messef with the

team in early November. On this trip, all the essentials were delivered along with some new beds and mattresses for the children, using the new truck.

Lorenzo with leaders, teachers etc.



Lisa, Kay and the Ministry of Natural Resources (sounds like a band)

Lisa became involved after seeing a plea for help posted by Sandra in a local newspaper. She enrolled her friend Kay and they blessed the children tremendously on their visit in November.

Even before they arrived, they had been spreading the word. Lisa's sister, Minnie, held a fundraising Pizza Lunch at her workplace at the Ministry of Natural Resources in South Porcupine and more than \$450 was raised for the Bakery Project. Friends and family sent generous gifts and donations. Thank you all!



Lisa and Kay with the children modeling Wendy's dresses

During the visit, we served hotdogs and apples to the children (apparently they had been praying for something new to eat, which we didn't know at the time), administered anti-parasite medication, planned our strategy for the roof repairs and generally familiarized Lisa and Kay with life at Messef. They speak French so were able to communicate well.

The leaders were delighted with the Leaflets Kay had had printed and the children were excited to see their photos, sent by Jurgen and in the leaflets.

Following all of the visits above, we are in the great position of having several food runs completely or partly covered, more funds for the Bakery Project, money for the dormitory roofs and to build desks for the teachers. Messef were truly blessed when Sandra first answered my plea for help as she has brought so many new Friends of Messef on board.



Taking their medicine...without a fight

Canadians for Messef's next trip and the way forward

[Canadians for Messef](#), rallied by Sandra, were due to visit in November or December to work on their [Autumn Project](#) (see below Bakery Appeal) to build the Hen Coop etc, which so many of you generously donated to through this and the [Father's Day Appeal](#). However, this visit was delayed by a very serious accident involving Sandra's daughter, April. The trip will now take place in January! We pray for April's continuing recovery.

To save time and to keep the children dry, we will be fixing the roof before their visit, although this was originally one of their targets.

Messef has a large vegetable garden and produces some food crops but the quality of the soil is poor. It is our aim to help increase yields and variety by making compost (thanks, Martin, for materials for the bins) and introducing crop rotation etc. Stu and Posie have been ardently researching keeping chickens, egg production and farming in Haiti...(in fact, it's become a bit of an obsession ♥). Combined with Jeanette and Danilo's local ex-



Sandra formed Canadians for Messef Facebook Group after a visit with Tammy in 2011

pertise, we aim to help Messef produce more of their own food. They are already breeding rabbits but we need to establish if they are pets or a source of food!

Once the hen coop is built, with the hens Christened (more later) and ready to lay—we will move straight on to the other projects.

Stu will assess the land on this visit and, with Jeanette, Danilo and Fritz, the Gardener, draw up a plan for the way ahead.

Either on this visit, or in the very near future, we hope to bring a small team of doctors from the DR to examine all of the children and to prescribe for any diagnosed conditions. We are aware of certain children whose health concerns us and we would dearly love to get these on a program of medication, if necessary, once assessed.

In addition, all of the children are prone to parasites, skin problems and poor nutrition. We are now blessed to have the link with NJTs and Sandra's drugs rep, so we should be able

to set up an ongoing program of health care in future.

It seems that there are so many areas that still need attention but we have to remember how far we have come and how much more we can do as Friends of Messef who are dedicated grow in number.

Our next priority is the Bakery Project, to generate some much needed income. Another urgent need is to rebuild the boys' dormitory as the Haitian government is insisting it must be of concrete block, not tin and wood, but, of course, no funds are forthcoming! We had planned to renew both dormitory roofs but for now we will fix just the girls', as their building is block. We will fix the boys' roof when we get the building into an acceptable condition, possibly building the foundations to allow for the addition of a second floor in the future.

My personal dream is to see the children living in small "bungalows", six or eight to a building, with a dedicated "parent or parents" to emulate a family environment. Larger organizations use this model and it is certainly something to aim towards.

On the road again

As we reported last time, we have relied for a long time on Danilo's large bus to take visitors and supplies to Messef. We don't always need such a big vehicle or we need to transport beds etc. that won't fit in the bus. Therefore, when Pastor Quirico decided it was time to acquire some transport, he chose a vehicle that could be used for Messef, with an open back and a double cabin.

This was bought at a good price but there are repayments and repairs to be made. Any help with these would be much appreciated but nothing will be taken from funds unless specifically donated.

We give our time freely and we keep expenses to



Pastor Quirico's new truck in service for Friends of Messef

a bare minimum but there are costs which we ask your help with when you join us on a trip to Messef. It will cost less than a tourist excursion and we guarantee it will change your life, or at least your way of seeing the world...

Friends of Messef

Part of the Ministry MESREDEN,
Sabaneta/Cabarete, Dominican Rep.
For Fondation Messef,
Ouanaminthe, Haiti.

Phone: 001 809 907 0349
E-mail: friendsofmessef@gmail.com

Helping the children of
Messef Orphanage in Haiti



FRIENDS OF MESSEF was formed as an offshoot of the Ministry MESREDEN in July, 2010. Its purpose is to help provide a better life for the children of Messef Orphanage in Haiti and to keep their supporters informed and involved.

The Ministry MESREDEN had secured the help of a number of supporters since it first became involved with Messef, but it was not always easy to keep in touch. Through our website, email and Facebook we can all stay connected.

Linda Stapleton de Martinez is the Webmaster and Coordinator and will communicate with anyone interested in Messef and happily pass on any questions or messages to the Ministry Leaders.

We hope you will join us.

How can I help?

Friends of Messef is a small, hands-on group, run purely by volunteers, that is growing through word of mouth and personal involvement. Those of you who have visited Messef and love the children are the best people to spread the word about the work we are doing and what is still required.

If you would like to visit, please get in touch to talk about the possibilities.

The best way to spread the word is by talking to friends and family and giving them a copy of our Leaflet so that they can take a look at the Website themselves, watch the videos, learn about life at Messef and then join us, too. Contact us for leaflets.

You can also add a Facebook friend to the Canadians for Messef page so that they can meet other members, get involved in the chats and feel a part of things even before they visit. It is all very friendly and informal. Anyone can sign up, too.

Messef receives no government help whatsoever, so please help us to continue working to give the children a brighter future.

A million thanks to those of you already involved—God bless you!



We guarantee you a warm welcome at Messef

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Pal and all major
credit cards—
[www.friendsofmessef.
webs.com](http://www.friendsofmessef.webs.com)



Or contact us to pay
directly into

 **Scotiabank**
in Canada.

We would love to hear from people who would like to fundraise for Messef—have fun while you are helping a great Cause!