



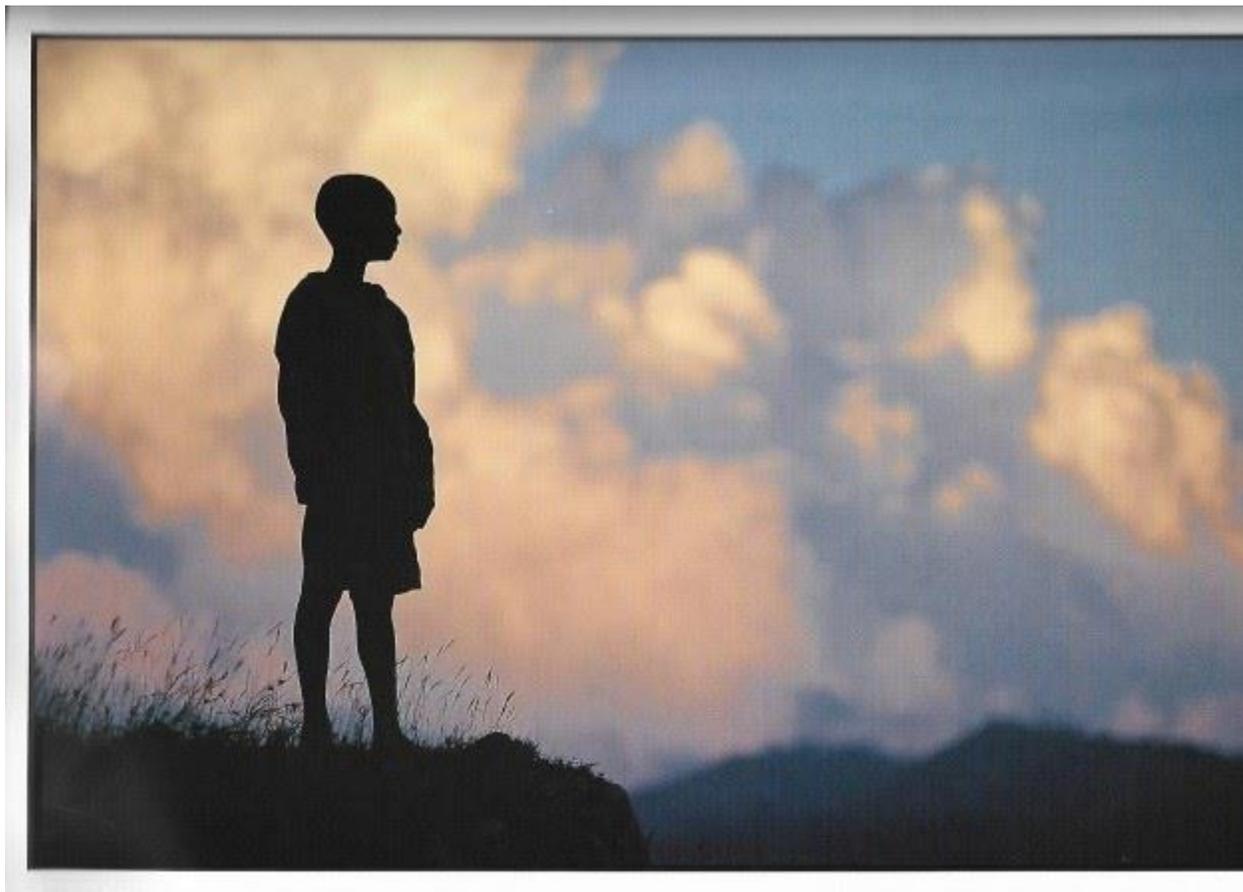
RAYJONSHARECARE

JULY (2017 #05)

In the News: Does More Economic Hardship Await Haitians?

Betty Versannes is one of the lucky ones: when a powerful earthquake buried Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Jan. 12th, 2010, she was visiting in Miami. Not so lucky were her sister and cousin who both died in the rubble. Her other relatives moved into tents and some live there still, in a country that is far from recovered. [The New York Times]

Seven years ago there were about 58,000 Haitians visiting or living illegally in the U.S. when the earthquake hit their country near the capital city. They applied for and received Temporary Protected Status because it was deemed too dangerous for them to return. Since that time the island has also been hit hard [by cholera](#) (2010), drought, floods and [Hurricane Matthew](#) (2016), which wiped out crops, livestock, homes and roads along Haiti's southwestern coast.



With a July deadline soon approaching a variety of politicians, lawmakers and citizen groups rallied to lobby the government to extend the grace period. Secretary of Homeland Security, John F. Kelly, said in a [news release](#), “The Haitian economy continues to recover and grow, and 96 percent of people displaced by the earthquake and living in internally displaced person camps have left those camps.” Nevertheless, responding to public opinion, Kelly later said he would re-evaluate conditions in six months

The reality that many fear is that in six months, Haiti will still be in no position to absorb and aid 58,000 unemployed people.” Repatriating these individuals would also sever a major source of income on which several hundred thousand Haitians depend — namely, cash sent back to the island by their relatives working in the United States.

And so, on Jan. 22nd, 2018, many Haitians will once again be vulnerable to deportation unless they have proper documentation.

Youth Speak Out

In May, this year, Emily Fortney-Blunt’s grade 7/8 class hosted a presentation by Rayjon. Afterward, they reflected on three prompts, “I was surprised by...”, “I felt...” and, “Something I could do...” Regrettably, there is not enough space to include them all, but here is a sampling of their comments.

“I was surprised by the amount of people in poverty. It’s upsetting to see all these people that don’t have a lot of essentials needed to live; water, food, somewhere to sleep, and education, because I have all these things and some people take that for granted.”

“I was surprised by the schools that were far from where they lived ... they have to pay for a uniform or they can’t go to school.”

“I was surprised by how unevenly distributed the wealth in the Caribbean is.”

“I felt fortunate to live in a country with free health care and education and easy access to food and water.”

“Something I could do is try and get my football team, all 50 team mates, to run a fundraiser for the kids in Haiti and Dominican Republic, or sell most of my toys online, or start a Garage Sale.”

“I could help by donating clothes and food or anything I can. I could also help raise money by having a garage sale or make a lemonade stand, or even sell food somewhere.”

“When I am 16 years old I am going to join Rayjon ShareCare. I’m going to keep this bookmark for another 3 years and count down the days until I can finally join! And I keep my word.”

“... but, I want to do more than donate, but I don’t know exactly how?!”



Students play a game, “Survivor”, with its social justice theme.

Did you know? ... Rayjon has a high-energy presentation aimed at stimulating young minds to think about social justice? We would be pleased to visit YOUR classroom or youth group. Stay tuned for more details in September about our exciting presentations for youth.

If you want to “know exactly how” – if you want to discover ways that You might be able to assist the Rayjon organization with our Mission in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, please don't hesitate to [Contact Us](#). Also, we endeavour always to provide contact information for Upcoming Events (see below).

Celebrating Successes in Community Engagement

Rayjon/DeGroot's Plant Sale

The 3-day plant sale @ DeGroot's Nursery on the first weekend of June was a resounding success! Over 700 customers bought more than 1100 Dipladenia plants to help support Rayjon projects in Haiti & the Dominican Republic.

Profits were an amazing \$9500+ (wow!)

Many thanks go out to the wonderful support network of event volunteers, Rayjon supporters, and of course John DeGroot, Lynn England & Diane Visser @ DeGroots Nursery.

All that's left to do now is watch those beautiful plants bloom all summer!

Keep an eye on the *News & Events* section of the Rayjon website (Rayjon.org) for the latest information about what's planned and happening.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Rayjon Fall Fair 2017

The Annual Rayjon Fall Fair will be held Saturday, September 16th @ Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall (new venue), 390 Christina St N, from 9am-2pm For over 20 years this has proven to be a great day of shopping, schmoozing & supporting the Haiti projects that are such an important part of what we do best. This is our “Wish List” of requested items to make each Fair a success. If you can help or donate any of the goods listed below:

Please contact the Convenor in charge...

Books: Kay McDonough 519 542 8897 ... please NO textbooks!

Women's Jewelry: Sharon Sharp 519 383 7578

Attic Treasures & Toys (NO stuffies!): Anne Marie Parizeau 519 542 8150;

Mary Anne Wighton 519 336 6066;

Preserves: Suzanne Michaud 519 542 4464 (NEW jar lids & rings needed!)

Bake Table: Brenda Hogan 519 344 3755; Debby Winterton 519 862 3333

If you are a baker, we want your “Specialty”!

We are always open to welcoming new committee members or helpers, either in supportive roles or positions of more responsibility. To volunteer in any capacity or for more information on how to become involved, call Dianne McKillican 519 862 1963

Rayjon Family Curling Event

Hold the date: *Saturday, November 18th*; 3:00 – 7:30 pm @ Sarnia Golf & Curling Club

\$25 / person entry fee (\$10 for 16 & younger) – no experience necessary

The event will include on-ice orientation, practice and team play, friendly competition, and food.

Participants are expected to seek pledges (tax-receiptable) prior to the event.



Event contact person: John Barnfield

ALL proceeds to Rayjon's RURAL SCHOOLS in HAITI.

Thank You!

To our many donors, we must say again a tremendous thank you. With your donation you make a lasting change to the lives of people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

To Donate Online:

[DONATE NOW](#)

One time or monthly options

Tax receipt and Record of your online donations immediately available

Mail Cheques To:

Rayjon Share Care, PO Box 2482, Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7T1.

To Purchase or Distribute Rayjon Cards, Coffee & Vanilla:

Beautiful Gift/Memorial donation cards - receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more (please call Karen: 519-542-4247)

Coffee - \$10/12 ounces (please call Mary: 519-541-0142) Organic, Fair Trade, 100% Arabica coffee, fine grind or beans, decaffeinated, medium roast or dark roast. Available to community organizations, churches, schools and service clubs to sell in support of communities in Canada as well as in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Vanilla - \$3/2 ounces; \$6/4 ounces (please call Brenda: 519-344-3755)



You are receiving this email because you are a Rayjon Supporter.

Our mailing address is:

Rayjon Share Care

P.O. Box 2482

Sarnia, On N7T 7T1

Canada