



# RAYJON SHARECARE

e-bulletin

**August (2016 #04)**

## **Brigden Public School Students – Talented Fundraisers**

By selling bracelets & popcorn, hosting a games night and having hat and bubble gum days at school, the grades 6, 7, and 8s of Brigden Public School have raised a whopping \$1,400 to help support their peers in Haiti! They also collected 3 full boxes of eyeglasses for the Rayjon Eyeglass Program. Way to go! And thank you!



Mr. Carroll's Grade 6's & 7's



Mr. Dugas' Grade 8's

## **Rayjon Poster Contest**

In order to celebrate 30 years of sharing and caring, an invitation was extended to elementary students in Sarnia-Lambton to participate in a Rayjon poster contest. Giresi's Pizza generously offered to supply a pizza prize for the winner.

Posters were received from Sacred Heart Sarnia, Saint Peter Canisius Watford, the Sarnia Islamic Academy, and Lakeroad School Sarnia. Thank you to Karen Rawlings for organizing the event, and for judging the entries along with co-judge Irene McLellan.

Suggested themes for the posters included the following:

- Sharing and caring around the world
- Planting seeds (of hope, social justice, global awareness)
- Our wishes for the world

There were many excellent submissions and they were judged based on: originality and creativity; clarity and appropriateness of the message; and overall impact and visual appeal.

The winning poster came from Nadeem Almalki, a grade 5 student at the Islamic Academy and it was displayed at the Rayjon / DeGroot's Plant Sale back in June. An honourable mention prize was awarded to Simon Harris, a grade 8 student at Lakeroad School.

Copies of the winning posters are shown below. Congrats to Nadeem and James and thank you

to all the participants!!



### **The Not-So-Sweet Side to Sugar**

[Ed. I wish to acknowledge and thank Sylvia van der Weg for the use of her Facebook entries and emails on this subject.]

A batey (plural: bateyes) is a settlement around a sugar plantation. Sugar is the most important agricultural industry in the Dominican Republic (DR), and cane cutting is work done almost entirely by Haitians. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batey\\_\(sugar\\_workers%27\\_town\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batey_(sugar_workers%27_town)) For a variety of reasons, the living conditions are deplorable and the adults and children live in an environment that is well below the national level for rural and urban standards. They are owned by either the government or powerful, wealthy families whose primary objective is monetary profit and not quality of life for the workers and their families.

Another good source of information about the living conditions on a batey can be found at the following url: <https://ascala2.wordpress.com/2015/08/17/living-conditions-in-the-dominican-bateyes/>

There are about 400-500 bateyes in the DR. Estimates of the total population vary widely, from 200,000 to 2 million people. There is high unemployment, illiteracy, chronic malnutrition, and poor healthcare. Access to drinking water and sanitation is limited. Few bateyes have schools. The Haitians' lack of proper documentation is a major issue. Without an identity card, the ability to access formal employment or education is limited. The process to obtain a Dominican identity card is difficult and requires documentation papers of birth from Haiti, which many Haitians do not have. Workers do not receive cash; they receive vouchers which are only redeemable at a store run by the sugar company – there is no way for them to buy their way out – there is no way they can return to Haiti.

For many years a Rayjon Awareness trip to the DR would include a visit to a batey near Bani. Subsequently, a batey located in Consuelo became part of the awareness trip experience and project work focus. In Spanish, a barrio means a neighbourhood, and in Consuelo the batey that Rayjon has “adopted” is locally referred to simply as Barrio 41. Rayjon first sent a small group to investigate the situation in Consuelo in the Fall of 2008 and the first trip to visit Barrio 41 took place in 2009. Rayjon’s project work in Barrio 41 is described briefly on its website: <http://rayjon.org/programs/consuelo-community-development-project/>

Barrio 41 in Consuelo is also one of the routine stops for the nursing group trip that annually visits the DR from Georgian College, in Barrie. One goal of these trips is to open the student's eyes to the issues and challenges of living in a developing country. According to Sylvia, the latest trip left about \$4500 worth of medications (about an 8-month supply) for the mobile clinic, to be used free of charge in the bateyes. More money from donations (\$1600 US) was left for Sister Idelina and her work in championing the legal rights of these Haitians, in teaching about agriculture and nutrition, and in providing more affordable food; and over \$1000 (US) was given for the work with the nutrition programs in the bateyes. The students also support the work of Rayjon's field director, Jorge, at the school in Barrio 41 and hold a big clinic there each year (\$600 US)

If you are interested in learning more about the situation that exists living in a batey then watch, "The Price of Sugar", [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp\\_EkCesIp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp_EkCesIp8)



Georgian College students & leaders in action



RAYJON Celebrates Thirty Years of Sharing and Caring. We invite you to share a favourite memory of lasting impression of your Rayjon experiences. [E-mail to: [rayjonsc@gmail.com](mailto:rayjonsc@gmail.com)] We will publish some of these comments at a later date during our anniversary year.



30th Anniversary Event: Save Friday, October 14th on your Calendar. A special event at the Sarnia Riding Club is being planned. Look for more information in the next newsletter. Keep your eyes on [Facebook \(Rayjon Share Care\)](#) for 30th anniversary highlights.

### **RAYJON Annual Fall Fair**

**When:** Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 ... 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Where:** Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart Blvd (@Indian Road)

This is a large, annual fundraising event, the profits of which directly support Rayjon's Haiti projects.

We offer books, home décor items, toys, handmade greeting cards, jewelry and other women's accessories, a bake table, frozen soups, quiches & chili, homemade preserves, and Rayjon's own coffee, vanilla and Atizani pieces of art..

There are gift baskets to bid on; raffle tickets to buy with 3 outstanding prizes; a BBQ lunch; a Tea Room; and more. Come along to shop, eat and mingle with friends and support our partners in Haiti.

We have a "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 / Tara Jessop 519 834 2205 – No text books, please!

**Women's Accessories/Jewelry:** Sharon Sharp 519 383 7578

**Home Décor & Toys:** Anne Marie Parizeau 519 542 8150 / Mary Anne Wighton 519 336 6066

**Preserves:** Suzanne Michaud 519 542 4464 / Jackie Croft 519 542 8075 - New jar lids & rings please!

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

We are always open to welcoming new committee members or volunteers. To volunteer in any capacity, call Nancy Berry 519 542 3577 / Dianne McKillican 519 862 1963

### **To Donate Online:**

[www.Rayjon.org](http://www.Rayjon.org)

One time or monthly options

Tax receipt and Record of your online donations immediately available

### **Mail Cheques To:**

Rayjon Share Care

P.O. Box 2482

Sarnia, On N7T 7T1

**To Purchase or Distribute Rayjon Coffee:**

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

