



### **Season Greetings**

A prime tenet of the Rayjon organization has always been to strive to bring justice into the lives of others. One of the familiar sayings during the season of Christmas is “Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All”, and in essence, this too is a cry and a call out in support of justice for all.

It would seem somewhat self-serving for “Rayjon” to bestow best wishes to the readership of this newsletter, because afterall, YOU ARE RAYJON!

Your generous donations – be they your time, our your skills, or your help to fund Rayjon projects – make you partners in this altruistic enterprise to spread goodwill to other people in our world. Your commitment and support for the objectives and goals of this organization are genuinely appreciated.

May we all enjoy a very festive end to this year and may the new year be a very special one for you and your loved ones. May 2017 be a year that is punctuated repeatedly with memorable moments of hope, peace, joy and love.



### **Project Updates Post-Hurricane**

Following Hurricane Matthew, Rayjon Share Care Haiti formed a team of 17 staff and 18 Haitian volunteers to organize and execute mobile health clinics in 4 remote communities. Over 1,000 patients were treated, emergency packets (inc. food, water purification tablets, medicines) were distributed, and health agents provided education and demonstration on cholera prevention. By preventing the spread of cholera, these clinics saved many lives and provided vital assistance to families needing it most.



RSCH Staff & Volunteers involved in hurricane response / Community members work to build a road

The community of Pinson is hard at work (without government or foreign aid of any kind) to build by hand a road to their village. We are pleased to report that Grade 7 is underway at both rural elementary schools (that previously only went to Grade 6) with the hope of adding grades 8 and 9 over the next two years- keeping kids in school and furthering their chances of success.

In Cap Haitian program improvements and physical repairs to the building are creating a stimulating environment for the youngest children to learn and grow. The malnutrition centre in Cap Haitian is seeing an influx in patients and funds raised for hurricane relief are going to assist Red Zone families who face increased hardship this year.

In Consuelo, Dominican Republic, a whole month of rain has damaged neighborhood homes that were already in bad shape. Children continue to come to the preschool hungry. The hot meal they receive at the centre is truly a necessity. Project director Jorge has begun a pilot project raising fish, with the hopes of providing a sustainable protein source for the centre. The garden is doing well, with a new irrigation system and fencing to keep the animals out.

***There is much positive impact to report, but we know that ongoing support is needed to keep programs running and to continue the long-term development of the communities we serve.***

In 2016-2017:

- 600 students need ongoing support to attend school
- 2 health clinics need medicine and supplies to provide care to a region of about 35,000 people
- 100 adults rely on Rayjon support to attend literacy classes
- 75 malnourished children & infants need professional care to return them to health
- 150 adults will participate in a village banking system giving small business loans

**Please donate this holiday season.** You may contribute online at [www.rayjon.org](http://www.rayjon.org) or by mail:

Rayjon Share Care, PO Box 2484, Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7T1.

## **Strategic Vision 2016-2021**

During this past fall season, in conjunction with the ongoing celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of activity, the Board

deliberated over our Strategic Direction for the next five years as well as, more specifically, our goals during this period of time. These goals are integral to both remaining and becoming the type of organization that are – so you are encouraged to review the outcome of this effort as described below.



*Rayjon Share Care supports partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to enhance their well-being and capacity. Rayjon provides a bridge between those who can help and those who need and want help in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other developing countries.*

## **YESTERDAY**

Rayjon was founded in 1986 by Ray Wyrzykowski & John & Maggy Barnfield. Rayjon's early hopes were to promote awareness of both the incredible culture as well as particular struggles of the Haitian people.

Rayjon's first projects were focused on poverty relief.

Since the beginning, Rayjon has believed *"Quality of Life is Justice, Not Charity."*

## **TODAY**

Awareness Trips (Haiti, Dominican Republic) and Eyeglass Teams run annually (throughout the developing world) Rayjon supports community development in Haiti & the Dominican Republic (education, health care, adult literacy, & microcredit) Rather than aid, the focus is on community development & sustainability.

## **TOMORROW**

Rayjon's vision is a world in which people have an equal opportunity to thrive - empowered, independent and self-sufficient. Rayjon's goals are exciting and bold. We invite you to join with us as we work toward achieving these 5 goals:

## **SHARE OUR STORIES**

By telling our stories we aim to raise awareness about the rich cultures and amazing people, as well as the injustice and need. We aim to educate about social justice and inspire others to get involved. With outreach we will engage new volunteers, trip participants and other supporters.

## **FACILITATE PARTNERSHIPS**

We are committed to seeking, brokering and working in partnership with organizations with similar goals to facilitate the priorities of beneficiary communities, to assist them in accessing resources that will allow them to become more self-sufficient. We know that we can accomplish more in partnership than we could alone.

## **BUILD CAPACITY**

We will focus on capacity building within project areas. Empowered leaders will be effective at identifying programs needed. We will diversify our funding and plan for sustainability. We are developing strong systems and governance in Canada focusing on accountability and efficiency. We are committed to remaining a volunteer driven organization, with low overhead and administration costs.

### **IMPACT COMMUNITIES**

Projects will be focused and based on community needs, vision, and direction. We have a mandate to facilitate learning and opportunities that enable beneficiaries to achieve their goals, develop their knowledge and potential, and participate fully in society. All trips (Eyeglass, Awareness, College) will be evaluated to ensure they benefit hosts, beneficiaries, hosts, participants and Rayjon.

### **ENGAGE VOLUNTEERS**

New volunteers are the future of Rayjon and volunteers of all ages are valued and will find rewarding experiences with Rayjon. Volunteer recruitment will bring fresh ideas and energy and will assist in succession planning. Youth will be actively engaged and nurtured through awareness trips, regular school visits, efforts of a new Youth Coordinator, and youth engagement activities.

### **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.

[Donate Now](#)