



RAYJONSHARECARE

e-bulletin

June (2016 #03)

Celebrating Women Helping Women

Our Fifth Annual Women Helping Women Event held early in May was another great success. The theme of “black and white with a touch of silver”, made for an elegant evening at [Aldo & Crystal Adamo’s] Gourmet Café - an evening of good music, good food and good friends with the underlying purpose of women coming together to create awareness and raise funds for our partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This year’s 122 guests joined one another for dinner, a silent auction, a live auction, games, and great conversation.

For the organizers of the event, this being our 5th year and Rayjon's 30th, there was a special sentimental feeling in the air. There was also a great feeling of accomplishment about how smoothly the event has run each year with such a great committee backing it. The event committee was chaired by Marlo Wright, but it would also not have been so successful if it wasn't for the hard work of all the volunteers and all those who sponsor the event – and of course for all those who attend. And naturally, we hope and expect that this event will continue to get better and better. A number of photos have been posted on the Rayjon website to help remember the splendid evening. [

<http://rayjon.org/calendar/women-helping-women-2015/>]

Rayjon/DeGroot's Plant Sale

The results are in and it's great news!

The Plant Sale at DeGroot's Nursery on the first weekend in June raised over \$6000 for our projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We sold almost 1100 Dipladenia plants over 3 days to almost 600 people. We could never have done this without all the volunteer help, the support of our local community and the vision and experience of John DeGroot.

Many thanks to everyone involved - we do such good things together!



Trip Reports

Haiti Project Trip Report - by Brendan Wiley

In April 2016, Rayjon sent a team of dedicated individuals down to Haiti in order to assess and monitor the state of projects in the Cap Haitien and St. Marc areas. This team consisted of Deb Austin, Ann Tuplin, Heather Smith, Cheryl DeGroot, Glen Maddison, John Popiel, and Brendan Wiley, with Andre Jean Pierre providing perspective from the field. Though they would eventually meet up with the rest of the group in St. Marc, John, Ann and Brendan opted to go down early so as to make some initial preparations. In order to cover more ground and save time, it was decided that smaller groups would tackle activities based on interest-levels and expertise. While Glen and Cheryl pursued the health programs and clinics, John, Brendan, and Andre with the help of M. Luckner, M. Wesner, and M. Markens, took on an evaluation of the microcredit program. Concurrently, Heather prepared meetings with representatives from the Laval University-backed food security initiative AKOSAA as well as with Rotary in St. Marc, Ann poured over financial records with a fine-toothed comb, and Deb did a little bit of everything.

The overall evaluation yielded some very positive results, particularly as they concerned the roles of RSCH staff in Haiti. The team noted a number of RSCH staff members that expressed significant leadership and management capabilities. It is hoped that their commitment to their communities will enable them to thrive as they continue to develop and monitor programs in the region. Furthermore, of note, the team is currently investigating the potential of digitizing the microcredit program by way of cell phone. Though this development is in its initial phases, it does fall in line with several of the NGOs currently operating in Haiti, as well as around the globe. And in spite of a couple of setbacks, the 2016 April Monitoring Trip accomplished much of what they had set out to do.

Lambton College Class Experience to Haiti-Feb 2016

by Amanda Graham

My trip to Haiti has opened my eyes and changed my life. When I left I was extremely excited and I have been planning this trip for well over a year and getting the opportunity to actually do it was exceptional. I took the International community development course at Lambton college that afforded me the opportunity to travel to Haiti. I was impressed when I arrived in Haiti and see the Haitians so happy and hardworking this sadly is not how the media has portrayed them. I had the opportunity

to attend an Adult Literacy Class and by watching the smiles on the Haitians faces when they were able to hold up a chalkboard with their name written on it is an unforgettable moment. The People of Haiti were extremely proud of how far they have come since they started the program and just wanted to show us how proud they were of their new skills.



We also went to the Apparent Project and this was most inspiring. Haitians were turning things we would throw out in the garbage in Canada into beautiful creations of art work. They make bracelets out of cereal boxes and beads out of clay recycled from the ground. Along with metal art made from oil drums cut into amazing wall art. Haiti is an inspiring country that has so much beauty and potential. I would love to go back and visit again and suggest that anyone that has the opportunity to go. It is truly life changing.

[The Adult Literacy Classes are completely supported by Rayjon. Products from the Apparent Project have been purchased by Rayjon to supplement the Artizani crafts – both in support of Haitian artists.]



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] We will publish some of these comments at a later date during our anniversary year. Keep your eyes on [Facebook \(Rayjon Share Care\)](#) for 30th anniversary highlights.

International News about Poverty and Rayjon

Hessie Jones shares her personal opinions and perspective on, Are We Making Progress In the War on Poverty, in her Huffington Post blog (May 2016), In this commentary she shares information about Rayjon Share Care. You can access this posting at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/hessie-jones/war-on-poverty-progress_b_10007394.html

Dates to Remember

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.

Rayjon Fall Fair 2016

The annual Rayjon Fall Fair will be held @ Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart Blvd @ Indian Rd. on Saturday, September 17th from 9 am – 2 pm

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, bake table, frozen soups, quiches & chili, homemade preserves & Haitian vanilla, Haitian Atizani goods, & Rayjon's own coffee.

There are gift baskets to bid on, raffle tickets to buy on 3 outstanding prizes, a BBQ lunch, Tea Room & more.

Join us for a great day of shopping, schmoozing & supporting the Haiti projects that are such an important part of what we do best.

For more information if required, or to volunteer in any way, call Dianne McKillican @ 519 862-1963

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:

www.Rayjon.org

One time or monthly options

Tax receipt and Record of your online donations immediately available

Mail Cheques To:

Rayjon Share Care c/o D. Murray, 1923 Park Avenue, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0.

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)