



# RAYJON SHARE CARE

e-bulletin

\*\*\*If you cannot view the e-bulletin in your email please see the attached pdf

## New Learnings During Reading Week

*Thank you Tammy Martin for sharing your experiences of the trip.*

During our February reading week, I along with 13 College students and 2 faculty from Lambton College went to Haiti in partnership with Rayjon Share Care (a local Non-Government Organization-NGO in Sarnia) on an awareness trip. We had been taking a general elective course at the College called International Community Development. We were a diverse group of students from different programs; Early Childhood Education, Child and Youth Worker, Social Service Worker and Personal Support Worker programs. We had fundraised in the fall semester to help offset our travel costs and to make financial donations to the organizations in Haiti.



On our trip, we had the pleasure of meeting and touring with Betsy Wall of FIDA (the Foundation for International Development Assistance, their organizational vision is to empower the people of Haiti by providing education and resources to develop productive agricultural cooperatives). We travelled to Port au Prince and the rural St Marc area while in Haiti.

Our group was privileged to visit many places while in Haiti even though we were only there for one week. We toured the beautiful, amazing art culture of Croix de Bouquet, an Art Cooperative and my personal favorite the Apparent Project. We attended a wonderful Baptist Church service and lunch at a popular mountain look out that was a breath-taking view of Port au Prince. We walked half way up a mountain in St. Marc to tour a Rayjon Share Care supported school in Gilbert and a health clinic in Lagarenne (the scenery was amazing). We visited a group of adult learners (Alpha program - teaching literacy) and a Micro Finance program both also supported by Rayjon Share Care. We toured the National Museum of Haiti's history, the Cathedral that was destroyed in the earthquake and we did a short walk downtown in Port au Prince where we viewed monumental structures and shared the stories behind them. We also toured Wings of Hope (a Centre for the developmentally disabled) and an NPH Orphanage where 350 children live.

During our visit we observed how happy most Haitians are, from our perspective they seem to have so little in material goods yet they were full of culture and spirit. They were also happy to know that we were there to learn about their culture and not to fix or build anything in Haiti. The impact on our group as a whole was truly life changing!

The people of Haiti work so hard for so little and yet are happy and appreciative for what they have. We learned that the true value of our visit is to listen and learn from the Haitians. It is not our place to tell them what they need but to send a message of hope and that we believe in their capacity to do it themselves. This is what they asked of us. I will continue to spread the word of what I experienced and learned in Haiti and I hope to return again soon.

## Scrooges of the World, Begone!

*This is an excerpt from a December 2014 New York Times editorial by Nicholas Kristof. For the entire article click here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/25/opinion/nicholas-kristof-scrooges-of-the-world-begone.html?ref=topics>*



Almost five years after the catastrophic earthquake here, this country symbolizes poverty and hopelessness to many Americans. That despair and disdain are misguided. Haitian politics are still a mess and poverty is deep-rooted, but the economy is rising, more children are going to school and health is improving. That, in turn, is emblematic of a broader truth that we journalists don't acknowledge often enough: In many ways, the world is becoming a better place. There! I said it.

Bad news is news, and good news isn't. We cover planes that crash, not those that take off. But a relentless focus on bad news unfortunately leads people to conclude that places from Haiti to Congo are hopeless, driving away tourists, investors and donors. So, at least once a year, it's worth stepping back and acknowledging progress. That's particularly true because 2015 will be a crucial year for efforts to combat global poverty. There will be new financing in January for the global vaccine initiative that is saving lives on a huge scale, the African Union plans to focus on women's empowerment, and the United Nations General Assembly in September is expected to agree on new "sustainable development goals" that will provide metrics for progress for many years to come....

## Women Helping Women – May 2<sup>nd</sup> Dinner and Auction

Rayjon's 4th Annual "Women Helping Women"  
Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015  
UWO Research Park, 1086 Modeland Rd., Sarnia

Ticket price: \$75 - \$25 of which is tax receiptable  
Only 130 tickets available – tables of 8  
To purchase tickets call Maggy @ 519 337 0338 or  
Email @ [barnfield@cogeco.ca](mailto:barnfield@cogeco.ca)

N.B. When purchasing tickets, please have every guests full name, address, Postal Code, phone # & Email to facilitate tax receipts.

This event is a major fundraiser for Rayjon's projects in Haiti for women in commerce, micro credit programs, nutrition and health care, and adult literacy

All women to please bring a quality regift for the silent auction & door prizes.

- live auction services by John Stephens
- cocktail attire
- complimentary Haitian rum punch
- wine with dinner
- cash bar
- complimentary parking
- wheelchair accessibility

## Furniture Sale for Rayjon

Bryenton's has made a large donation of furniture to Rayjon on the closing of their furniture store in Sarnia last week. All items are new & in pristine condition. We are selling these pieces below wholesale prices & all profits go directly to Rayjon's projects in Haiti.

We are offering these goods to the Rayjon community first, but please feel free to pass the information along to others who may be interested. This information, along with photographs of the furniture pieces, is posted on the Rayjon website: [www.rayjon.org/furniture](http://www.rayjon.org/furniture)

**This is an amazing opportunity for both Rayjon & the fortunate buyer who takes advantage of this offer.**

If you are interested, please contact either:

Maggy Barnfield at 519-337-0338 or [barnfield@cogeco.ca](mailto:barnfield@cogeco.ca) or  
Dianne McKillican at 519-862-1963 or [dmckillican@cogeco.ca](mailto:dmckillican@cogeco.ca)

## June Volunteers

From Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> until Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>, Rayjon & DeGroots are partnering again to raise funds for Rayjon's Haiti projects. Rayjon volunteers at DeGroots Nurseries in Sarnia, will sell beautiful pots of butterfly-attracting flowers.

We need 20 volunteers to help with this sale. Shifts will be 4 hours long on all 3 days. A veteran Rayjon member will be in charge on all shifts.

To volunteer, please call Dianne @ 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](http://www.Rayjon.org)

One Time or Monthly Options

Tax Receipt and Record of Your Online  
Donations Immediately Available

### **Mail Cheques To:**

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

### **To Purchase or Distribute Rayjon Coffee:**

Please Call 519-381-5929

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.