



# RAYJONSHARECARE

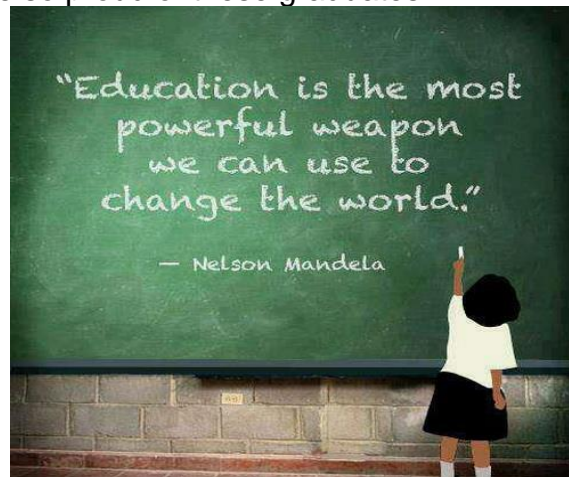
## SEPTEMBER (2017 #06)

### “What is a Name?”

In our country we take for granted our accessibility to education – indeed there is a very high expectation for everyone that they will at least complete high school. In our highly literate society we think nothing of accomplishing the simple task of being able to write our name. But for someone who never had the privilege of receiving a basic education; for someone who has endured the humiliation of only being able to record their name as an “X”, the profound joy of being able to properly identify oneself is exceptional.

### First Graduates of Alpha Adult Literacy Program

This past summer, important ceremonies were held to recognize the 111 adults who completed literacy classes in Haiti, through the Rayjon-supported Alpha Adult Literacy Program. We are pleased to report that 92% of the candidates successfully passed their final exams. Of special note, are the 50 students (44 women, 6 men) who completed the first ever Level III set of classes. Level III is the final stage in the three-year program, representing the equivalent of a Grade 6 literacy level. We are so proud of these graduates.



In St Marc, the ceremony began with the graduates parading down the main street accompanied by a marching band. A few students provided testimonials, which included heartfelt words of appreciation to the program, its manager, and to Rayjon. And in St. Marc they sang! They sang a welcome song to all those in attendance and they sang their literacy program anthem - a song about the indignity of having to sign your name with an X. Here is an excerpt:

**Kreyole:** « *Ala derespektan, ala manke dega, o ala radyès pou mwen siyen fòk mwen fè yon kwa,*  
**English:** "*How horrible, how insulting, oh, so afraid to sign my name that I must make an X.*"

The students' success is a testament to their courage and commitment, and it was made possible by people who dreamed of making a difference along with their faithful network of supporters.

## The St Marc Alpha Adult Literacy Program Staff and Graduates



### In Memoriam

Nancy Berry died June 21st, more than 20 years after her first diagnosis of breast cancer. She fought that disease every day of those 20 years with strength, good humour, a hefty dose of realism & great faith. Nancy was a member of Rayjon's Fall Fair Committee since 1994 and had been Co-Convenor of the Fair since 1997. She was great fun to work with, a superb organizer and an inspiration to us all. We all miss her. She left her mark on all of us.



Mike & Nancy Berry

### Hurricane Update

Irma lashed the northern shore of the Dominican Republic and crossed north of Haiti on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful that all staff are safe and damage was minimal. Needs (medicine, food, access to health care) are expected to be heightened following the storm.

**Rayjon is a long-term partner on the ground in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Our main focus will be to ensure that programs supporting beneficiaries continue uninterrupted, and that resources are available where most needed.**

Please visit <https://rayjon.org/hurricane-irma/> for the latest information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **Annual Rayjon Fall Fair**

Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm

NEW Location! Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall. London Rd @ Vidal St. N.

We have all your favourites: Bake Table, Raffles, Attic Treasures, Books, Haitian Atizani, Preserves, Tombola, Frozen Foods (soups, chili & quiches), Tea Room, BBQ & more.

Join us as we continue to support our projects in Haiti & the Dominican Republic!

### **Rayjon Trip Information Session**

If you are interested in participating in a Rayjon Awareness Trip to either Haiti or the Dominican Republic during March Break 2018, please attend the Information Session Sunday, **October 15<sup>th</sup>**, 1-3 p.m. @ Grace United church (Cathcart & Indian).

Teenagers 16 & older, and all adults are welcome.

For more information, contact Bryce McGarvey @ 519 542-1542.

### **Rayjon Family Curling Event**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Since we will be asking each participant to seek pledges for our upcoming family curling event, we thought you might like to have some background information at this time.

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

The goal is to raise funds for Rayjon's rural schools in Gilbert and Pinson, Haiti

Fun event for families & friends – all ages welcome

No experience necessary

Each team will play 8 ends (about 2-1/2 hours of curling total)

8 sheets of ice available, 7 for adult curlers and one sheet dedicated for young curlers. We can accommodate up to 64 curlers in total.

3:00 – 7:30 pm at Sarnia Golf & Curling Club



#### **WHY RAISE FUNDS FOR EDUCATION IN HAITI?**

Education is key to ending poverty.

If all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

In the rural area of Haut de St. Marc, Haiti, two elementary schools in the mountains provide quality education from preschool to grade 7, with a total enrollment of over 450 kids per year. The schools are literally bursting at the seams.

In this remote, mountainous area, few children stay in school beyond elementary school. Secondary school begins at grade 7, but the closest high school is in the city – much too far away and much too expensive for most families. In 2016, with the support of generous donors in Canada, Rayjon was pleased to add grade 7 at both of our rural schools. Parents are anxious for their children to have the opportunity to attend grade 8 and 9, which we hope to add over the next two years.



## THE COST OF EDUCATION:

To support the function of two rural schools (including teachers' salaries, building upkeep, textbooks and curriculum development) Rayjon needs to raise approximately \$11,500 CDN each year. That's just \$23 per pupil!

\*To offer the next two levels of secondary school (grades 8 & 9), we need to raise an additional \$6,000 per year.



## PLEASE HELP MAKE OUR FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!

For more information contact:

John Barnfield

Phone: (519) 337-0338

Email: [barnfield@cogeco.ca](mailto:barnfield@cogeco.ca) or [rayjonsc@gmail.com](mailto:rayjonsc@gmail.com)

## 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.

## Special Donation Request:

Instead of our usual promotion for the sale of gift cards, vanilla, coffee and atizani crafts, Rayjon is making an appeal to our membership concerning the need for a couple of laptops, a projector, and smartphones for use in Haiti and the DR. In our rapidly evolving world of high-tech digital toys and tools, you may know a business or an individual who is contemplating an upgrade. Making a donation of redundant, but still functioning equipment would be very useful to our Project teams. (Portable laptops only, please, not desktops; and they should be capable of running Microsoft Office and Windows 10)



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