



RAYJONSHARECARE

A Message From the Rayjon Board

November (2017 #8)

One Chapter Ends, Another Begins: Renewed Vision in St. Marc, Haiti

“Na p bati kominote nou pou yon pi bon Ayiti demen”

This simple Creole phrase, translated as “Community building for a better Haiti tomorrow” is the mission of our partners Rayjon Share Care Haiti. Recent changes in programs in the St. Marc area are bringing new meaning and fresh vision to these words.

In October 2017, Rayjon Canada ended funding to the small medical clinic in Lagarenne. Completely free of foreign assistance the dispensary continues to provide valuable health care services, with the support of the Haitian Ministry of Health and contributions from the community itself.



Gilbert Clinic

For over 25 years, Rayjon has supported the larger health clinic and an elementary school in the village of Gilbert, in partnership with Hope for Haiti (St. Mary's), the Sarnia Rotary Club, the Canadian government (until 2010) and many generous donors in Canada. Through our combined efforts quality health care (including emergency, maternal and preventive health services) is present in a region without prior access. A fully functioning laboratory allows patients to receive test results without having to journey to the city, 250 children attend school each year, and over 38,000 vaccinations have been administered.

Earlier this month Rayjon was notified by the Haitian landowner (a member of the Gilbert community) that effective immediately his family would be assuming all responsibility for the operation, funding and management of both the Gilbert clinic and school. While this shift means a change for Rayjon, it is also a tremendous opportunity for us to encourage a self-governing, independent health care and education system in Gilbert. We are happy to know that services will continue for beneficiaries and are pleased to acknowledge and affirm the self-sufficiency of the Gilbert community.

As our priorities shift out of health care we will be able to dedicate our energy and resources into other thriving programs: adult literacy, rural education in Pinson, microcredit and capacity building. The heart of community development lies in listening to the needs, dreams, and goals of beneficiary communities and responding with our partnership and support. Their ideas, their vision, their commitment to work together. **This is community building for a better Haiti tomorrow.**

We would like to thank our many dedicated partners and donors who have supported the Gilbert and Lagarenne clinics over the years. Your contributions have helped to develop self-sufficiency we are now seeing today.

Stay tuned for more exciting information about what is happening in education, literacy and microbusiness initiatives!

**A happy story– Congratulations,
Anise!**



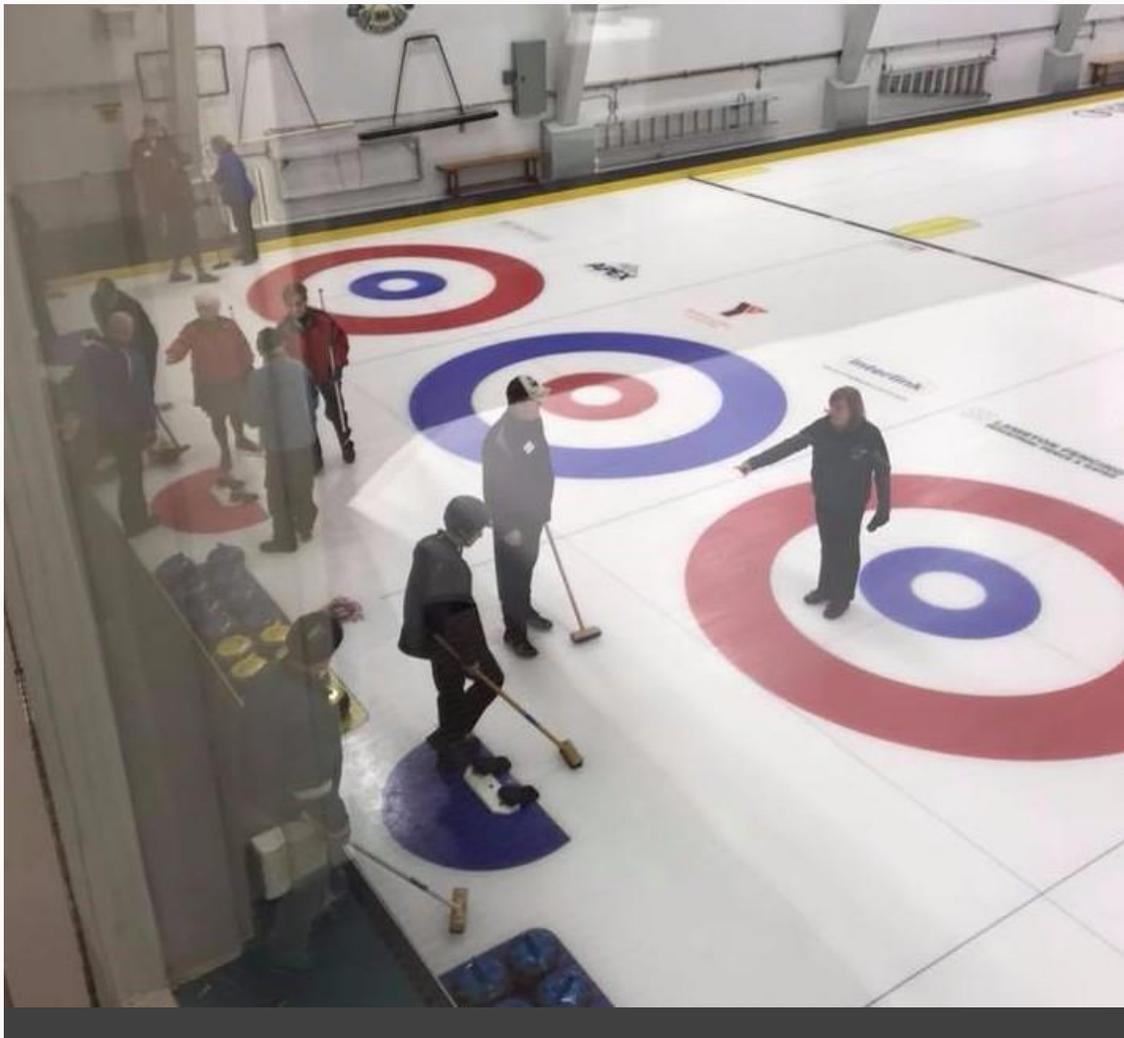
The Rayjon Board recently approved a post-secondary scholarship program for Haitian students from impoverished families. The first successful applicant has been awarded a full scholarship, which covers her first year tuition and books for medical school. Anise has been involved with Rayjon since she was 8 years old - she was a student in the tuition support program in Cap Haitian. She excelled in school and is described as sweet, “spunky”, and full of ambition and drive. Anise aims to give back to Haiti when she becomes a doctor. For more information about the program, or to learn how you could contribute to a similar scholarship supporting Haiti from within, please contact Rayjon at 519-381-5929 or by email at rayjonsc@gmail.com

PastaFest

The 8th annual Rayjon Pasta Fest 2017 was once again a great success! The team of volunteers worked hard to organise the event: getting donations, selling tickets and prepping raffle baskets. This well-oiled fundraiser was a great family event and enjoyed by 400 people! Overall just under \$5,000 was raised for our Rayjon projects. The support from the Sarnia Lambton community and businesses never ceases to

be so incredibly amazing. Thank you to all who came out or donated, and a special thanks to the *Dante Club* and their volunteers!

Rayjon Family Curling Event a Huge Success!



The Event was designed especially to be a family “fun” occasion and it attracted over 65 participants – 25 experienced and 40 first time or inexperienced curlers - and a good group of enthusiastic supporters who watched from the comfort of the viewing lounge. Seven of the eight ice sheets at the Sarnia Golf & Curling Club were dedicated to adults and one sheet was earmarked for young family members (ranging in age from 6 to about 15) who enjoyed the experience of learning how to curl under the watchful supervision of an experienced team of coaches and mentors.

The Event was dedicated to raise funds for Rayjon’s rural education projects in Haiti. And participants were asked to seek donations prior to the Event. The goal was to raise \$6,000. When the result was

announced at the end of the evening there was a momentary gasp which was quickly followed by a spontaneous outburst of joy. **Over \$17,000 had been raised! Wow!!**

The feedback at the end of the Event was a very loud, clear and emphatic message that it had been “fun” and that it should be repeated next year.

Giving Tuesday

Join the Giving Tuesday movement by supporting a cause you care about.

#GivingTuesdayCa #DoGoodStuff

GivingTuesday



November 28, 2017



Trump Administration Ends Temporary Protection for Haitians

[*excerpts from the NY Times, Nov 20, 2017*] The Trump administration announced Nov 20th that it is ending a humanitarian program that has allowed some 59,000 Haitians to live and work in the United States since an earthquake ravaged their country in 2010, and also led to an outbreak of cholera. They are expected to leave the USA or face deportation.

The decision set off immediate dismay among Haitian communities in South Florida, New York and beyond, and was a signal to other foreigners with temporary protections that they, too, could soon be asked to leave. About 320,000 people now benefit from the Temporary Protected Status program, which was signed into law in 1990. A similar decision was made a month ago that ended protection for Nicaraguans. The program protects those who have come from countries crippled by natural disasters or armed conflict that prevents their citizens from returning or prevents their country from adequately receiving them.

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is still struggling to recover from the earthquake and relies heavily on money its expatriates send to relatives back home. The Haitian government had asked the Trump administration to extend the protected status.

"I received a shock right now," Gerald Michaud, 45, a Haitian who lives in Brooklyn, NY, said when he heard the news. He has been working at La Guardia Airport as a wheelchair attendant, sending money to family and friends back home. He said he feared for his welfare and safety back in Haiti now that his permission to remain in the United States was ending. "The situation is not good in my country," he said. "I don't know where I am able to go"

Christmas Shopping

During the first two weekends (Friday & Saturday) in December there will be a table and display set up in the Lambton Mall where you can speak to a Rayjon volunteer and also make purchases of coffee, vanilla, gift cards, and Atizani hand-crafted goods from Haiti.

It's not too late to volunteer to help out with a 3-hour shift. Please contact Rayjon at 519-381-5929 or by email at 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

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