

Marie Major



"We are in God's Hands"

When Marie Major was 20 years old she moved from her native Haiti to the United States. There she attended a Bible college in Florida and went on to become a U.S. citizen. To support herself she worked as an in-home caregiver for an elderly couple. In 1994 when she was 54 the couple died and she inherited the house and cars.

Not knowing what to do next, Marie decided to visit her native Haiti and discovered the great need of her people there. At this point, as Marie tells it, she heard the call from Jesus to return to Haiti to build a school and take care of orphans. She answered, "There are two things wrong with your plan, Jesus. First, I don't want to go back to Haiti and live in a concrete house with a dirt floor and eat beans & rice every day. And second, building an orphanage means taking care of children. And I don't even like children."

But she followed her call and in 1994 Sister Marie sold her inheritance, returned to Haiti, and built a home for herself that she opened to abandoned and orphaned girls. She also began holding church services for the community in her home.

The rest as they say is...

History

- 2008 - A church with second-story orphanage dormitory was constructed. The dormitory contained eight bedrooms, a kitchen, a large dining and play area, and two large bathrooms with showers.
- 2008 - A one-story elementary and secondary school was built. The school has seven classrooms, a cafeteria and an open-air kitchen.
- 2010 - January 12, during the earthquake, the dormitory collapsed into the church but the orphans escaped unharmed. The school had minor damage and several classrooms were set up as a temporary dormitory for the orphans.
- 2010 - July, a new one-story orphanage has been built on the original foundation and the girls have moved into their new home.

Hopes & Dreams

- Reliable Source of income for Grace Orphanage & Theophile School.
- Books & Flashcards for the School.
- A water purification system so drinking water no longer needs to be purchased.
- Outreach ministry to a remote location north of Port-au-Prince.

Web Sites

<http://graceorphanagehaiti.org/>
<http://www.stjohnslemarsia.org/>

Many Hands Make Light Work



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Grace Orphanage and Theophile School

Bon Repos, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Grace Orphanage



Grace Orphanage is home to approximately 30 orphaned and abandoned girls ages 3 through 17 years of age. The orphanage provides a nurturing environment where girls are ensured safe shelter, clothing, two meals daily, medical care and an education at the Theophile School.



Cost per Child - \$250 per Year
Staff Salaries - \$600 per Year

Grace Theophile School

The Grace Theophile (Love of God) School, employing 15 teachers, offers instruction for grades 1 through 10 for the children living at the orphanage and an additional 200+ day students.



Cost per Student - \$150 per year.
Teachers Salaries - \$360 per year



The subjects taught include math, physical science, biology, social science, music, French, Spanish and English. In addition they each receive a noon meal every school day.



When Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them: "Let the little children come to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:14

Church Ministry

