



From Surviving to Thriving

Fall 2019

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." - Jesus

On her first day at the HOH, we knew 13 year old Dina was a survivor. What usually takes newcomers a week to achieve, she did in just minutes.

The first week at the HOH is often the hardest. Most kids arrive with bodies overrun by disease and illness. They land in a strange, new, happy, noisy, active place that is quite different from where they came from.

New kids always stick out for the first few days. They are the ones with the long, sad faces sitting and watching this new life bustling around them. They require coaching by the staff and other kids to participate.

But not this girl. From the moment Dina entered our home, you couldn't tell her from any of the others. She was happy, had a huge smile and immediately joined in on the chores and various activities of the day. She had learned the art of doing whatever was necessary to fit in and survive. We knew there had to be a lot to this little girl's story.

Slowly, over the next few days, it came out. As one of several children in a family whose parents were unable to care for all of them, the inevitable happened. As soon as she was able to work, she was sent away as a child slave. Most often when children are sent away like this, they live with the family they are serving and are called "restavèk" ("stay with").

In Dina's case, she was allowed to live with her parents. But every day of the week, she woke early to go to a restaurant in her town where she cleaned, scrubbed pots, pans, and dishes and ran errands. In the afternoon, she was allowed to attend a local school, but once school was over it was back to work until it was finished and she could return home. For this non-

stop, daily work she was paid the equivalent of \$5 US a month.

It wasn't the details that surprised us, difficult as they are to hear. Her story mirrors that of many young girls in Haiti.

What surprised us was the pride with which she described what she had considered to be a pretty good life. There was no sense of loss of her childhood, no sadness for being treated poorly or for working day and night for a pittance. There were no feelings that she deserved better.

No. She was proud that she actually got paid and could help her family with her monthly salary.

"I got to eat every day and even got to go to school," she proclaimed with a smile. She was a survivor.

Her usefulness to the restaurant came to an end when she was diagnosed with diabetes. She couldn't keep up with the work, her family couldn't afford the medicine she needed and her health steadily declined.

Hope was scarce, but her story continued. In an effort to save their daughter, Dina's parents found a way to bring her to our local hospital. They were then sent to the HOH and the chance for a whole new life began.

We are thrilled for the chance to give this precious girl a place to heal, to hear about the love and hope of Jesus and a place to more than survive. It's a new chapter in Dina's life and you can have an important part in it.



Your support enables us to allow kids like these find hope for their future.

Many such survivors have come to the HOH over the years. As they mature physically, mentally and spiritually, they learn to dream and plan for a future. One such story of a young lady who is thriving is Desimène. She came to the HOH as a toddler and has just recently graduated from High School.

This past summer, she had the chance to attend a Child Evangelism Fellowship teacher's training course. She fell in love with teaching

and has decided that she wants to study to become a kindergarten teacher. We hope to make this possible in the coming school year.

Our other 56 students are studying in the following areas: Kindergarten through High School, then Professional Studies — Sewing, Flower-making, Hairdressing, Computers, or else University — Computer Sciences, Law, Education, Business Administration, Physical Therapy, Engineering and Nursing.

For each of these areas of studies, it costs us \$350 US per student per year. For about \$30 US a month, you can be part of someone's story towards thriving and a hope for their future.

Interested? See reverse for details on giving.

Other ways your support helps kids thrive



Pray with us:

Want regular prayer requests? Join our Facebook page or sign up for email updates. See below for details.

- Life in Haiti has become even more difficult with the continued unrest and violence. We can really see the effects of this stress on our kids. Prices for everything have increased dramatically and school has not been able to start as planned. **Please pray for peace** in Haiti and for wisdom and humility for the leaders as well as a concern for the needs of the people.
- Most of our students passed their school grades last year. They worked very hard and appreciate your prayers for them very much. **Please pray for our students**, that they would be able to concentrate on their lessons, that they would absorb what they are learning and that they would make good choices in their time management.

- The needs the HOH has to keep functioning are always on our minds. Our faith is strengthened as we watch God supply these needs through partners like you. **Please pray for our financial needs.** Pray that those who are able to give will do so and those who cannot will pray and share our needs with others.
- As our kids get older, the need arises for them to move away from the HOH in order to further their education. This means our family is really spread out these days. **Please pray for our adult children**, as they take what they've learned from us over the years and live it out in various places across Haiti. Pray that they would be lights in a dark place as they share Jesus with those around them. Pray for wisdom, patience and grace for all of us as they navigate the world around them and all the issues that come their way, including professors who teach things contrary to what they believe.

Financial Gifts

can be sent to one of our partnering organizations:

(Please make checks out to Extreme Response or Crossworld and include a note that it is for the House of Hope in Haiti.)



www.extremeresponse.org

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