



Deliver a Bench, Brighten a Day

When children in affluent countries attend school, they typically don't have to be concerned that they will arrive in their classrooms and have to sit on the floor because the school district can't afford seats. Those of us in places like the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain sometimes take seats and desks in school for granted because we have never had to live without them. While as a young child it's often fun to sit on the floor to listen to a story, work on a puzzle, or play a game, generally in this situation, the youngster is sitting on a comfortable carpet, pillow, or beanbag.

Life in Haiti is different. Year after year, some students sit on the dirt or cement floor in a roughly built schoolroom. Boys and girls must frequently walk quite far to school, so knowing that they can rest their weary feet by sitting down on a seat when they arrive would give them hope in their journey. They would no doubt be more productive too.

One Starfish Kids-sponsored school recently received benches built with a writing surface. This school, School of God, is in Petit Bourg and has an enrollment of 192 students. Eight percent of the students are sponsored through SFK. As the truck toting the benches drove along the bumpy road to make the delivery, schoolchildren from neighboring schools were really excited to see the benches, yelling for the truck to stop and provide worktables to them because their schools need them as well.

As the truck pulled up to School of God, the children curiously watched the team unload their newly built wooden benches. Boys and girls smiled brightly in unison as they imagined coming to school each day and using their brand new benches.

There is a phrase that says, "All is fish that comes to his net." In other words, "He makes use of everything that comes his way. "Blessing a school in Haiti with benches correlates with this saying, because not only will the benches be used for school, but for church, Sunday school, and meetings.

continued on back

When benches are purchased for a school, they not only support the children, but many people in the community. Please consider purchasing a bench for \$100. It's a great way to see your dollars go the extra mile for a disadvantaged area in Haiti, and it's a simple way to transform a life through your generosity.



Janeen Aspden

Introducing ...

Janeen Aspden is the newest member of the Starfish Kids team. She is currently funding but is urgently needed in Haiti. Janeen spent 10 weeks of 2015 as an intern in Haiti, working in the Starfish Kids office to help organize and to give guidance and leadership to Haitian staff. When Janeen returns to Haiti, she will serve as the in-country administrator with SFK. Her duties will include assisting the Haitian staff, communicating with the U.S. program coordinator, and helping expand the program to include yearly student correspondence with the donors. Please pray for Janeen.

Starfish Kids is a ministry of
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Creating and Keeping Connections



Partnerships take place all around us. It may be a couple in a marriage relationship, longtime business associates, or allies coming together to promote peace. Collaboration takes trust, reliability, and a stick-to-itiveness to flourish. That's how we see our relationship between Starfish Kids and sponsors.

A team from Erie, Pennsylvania, recently went to Haiti to help Pastor Migueloson (a faithful servant who works in the SFK office) at the church where God has placed him. Grace en Sion Church has partnered with Grace Church in Pennsylvania for five years. The affiliation has developed over the years, and their friendship enables them to witness changes and growth in each other.

The rapport is a good one—not only between the churches, but between the congregants and leaders. The team sees the value in giving their time, talents, and energy to help the SFK schoolchildren and church attendees. Imagine arriving at a school with sponsored students and being welcomed by all of the kids singing a rousing, joyful song.

How can you invoke a partnership with OMS through Starfish Kids? You are likely sponsoring a child or children already. For that sacrifice, we say thank you! But we also want to challenge you to go deeper and link up with your student's school or church. Perhaps the Lord is leading you to take a trip to Haiti. Visiting helps because it becomes more than just giving money to benefit a child; it's getting to know the child personally, their culture, school setting, and church life. Why not take a leap of faith and take the challenge to go the extra mile for the sake of a child in Haiti? No doubt you will inspire others as you serve Christ in a new, exhilarating way.

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