



Newsletter July 2017



Timothy Hughes from Connecticut was the First Prize winner for our 2017 "The Friends of Inc." (TFOHI) fundraiser. Tim and his wife Rosemary travelled to Pompano Beach, Florida, the first week in May 2017, and stayed at the beautiful Lighthouse Cove Resort. They enjoyed the beach and all that was available to them for this one-week vacation. Timothy wrote about their trip:

Our trip to Lighthouse Cove resort in Pompano Beach Florida was very relaxing and enjoyable. The condo was very nice and clean. The property is beautiful, and well maintained. The beach, with its beautiful waves, and soft sand was most enjoyable, coming from Connecticut, where we are still wearing coats, and it rains every other day. We could put on our bathing suits and literally just walk into the warm ocean water and enjoy a good swim. The pool and hot tub were very close to our ocean front accommodation, and we enjoyed relaxing moments with my family. Everything you need from restaurants to small shops is also there. If you like to sample the area, other eateries and shops are within short walks. Lighthouse Cove offered nightly entertainment at the Tiki bar. They feature live entertainment most nights, and how can you resist the food that is cooked over open grills? There also are many fine restaurants up and down Federal Highway US 1 and A1A that parallel the ocean. If you're like us, and church is important to you, there is even a Catholic church that we went to on Sunday. We think that TFOHI is doing an excellent job in Haiti and we are glad to support this great charity.

Written by Tim Hughes



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A letter from President, Joe Provost

What a great evening we all had on March 25, 2017, being entertained by no less than two groups at our "Fundraiser for TFOHI" at Anthem Recreation Center in Henderson, NV!

The first group to entertain us was Yohon, lead singer for the fabulous "Drifters", with songs from the past such as *Save The Last Dance for Me* and *Under the Board Walk*. Do you remember the songs "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," "Dance with Me," and "There Goes My Baby", His singing partner was Dana Doyle, "The singing voice of Patsy Clyne," from San Francisco? Our second group was "The Speeding Theater – Over 55", a vast variety show with our very own Louise Rauckhorst from St. Valentine Faith Community. This was a great evening, and my thanks to Bill and Elaine Van Ooyen for securing the Anthem Recreation Center and taking care of any cost associated with the place.

The event raised around ten thousand dollars for the student scholarship fund to pay tuition for our students who will be future doctors, nurses, and pharmacists for Haiti. My special thanks go to my wife, Bishop Susan, for doing all the accounting for these events, plus overseeing the setup inside Anthem Recreation Center and coordinating with Bill as to the internal setup and times for the event. Susan's close friend Fran from San Antonio, who has been to every fundraiser we've ever had, was on hand to decorate the tables, along with my sister, Yvonne Pallini. Further, I want to thank my Grand-daughter Alyse for being the go-to person for anyone who needed help. Thank you to Linda Pilato and family for the food everyone enjoyed. What great pictures our daughter Katie took during that evening of everyone eating and dancing! The open bar would have not been the same without Father James mixing and pouring everyone's favorite drinks, and it all looked very professional. Our auctioneers this year were Linda and Bill, doing their best raising the money during our live auctions. Thanks for everyone who helped with cleaning the hall after the evening ended.



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Emersion trip to Haiti

Haiti is a place of contradictions. It is a place of utmost beauty with beautiful beaches, tall mango trees, coconut trees, and palms. What the 7.0 M earthquake of 2010 and the major hurricane of 2008, had not destroyed, there are beautiful homes where the wealthy people thrive. Even in the very deprived areas of the surrounding towns, gorgeous bougainvillea overlap the tall walls that define each property. But by contradiction, extreme poverty is a way of life for most, and living on the streets is the norm. Others live in hovels with roofs made of banana-bark thatch, patched with rags, that clearly leak. Despite their condition, the people are warm, friendly, grateful and very pious. Grateful "thank you signs" to "Dieu" (God) are everywhere. The church was filled to overcrowding with Haitians that Sunday morning for Holy Mass, spoken partly in French and partly in Creole. If haggling with street vendors is your pleasure, you will not exhaust the supply, as you travel up and down every small town surrounding Port-au-Prince.

My days at *Mon Chez Moi BB* were comfortable, and they served scrumptious breakfasts and dinners, always well supplied with fresh mangoes and bananas. Our hosts were very helpful and accommodating. Sitting under the towering trees in the courtyard watching the cats play, reading or chatting was a relaxing way to end each day, unless you needed a dip in the pool. I gave the pool a try, very refreshing. Three local young girls were splashing around, trying to float; it was a hoot speaking to them in French when they clearly wanted instruction in creole.

Each day of our stay we had business to do. Interviewing new students at various locations and then visiting their homes, trips to the *Ecole des Science Infirmieres*, visiting Dr. Charles Jean Lucson's *Clinique le Bon Berger*, touring a Government-run women's hospital, and their NICU, meeting with the Country Director of HELP, picking up the supplies and delivering them, all added to a very full day.

We had lunch on the road, and for special treats, we visited the "Epi Dor" and "Marie Beliard" for delicious "patisserie" (I had a cappuccino) and one of my favorites, ice cream at Servotel Restaurant.

The Student luncheon was a success. I met Nursing students, Pharmacy students, and recent graduates. I also met a soon to be Doctor and another who has graduated two years ago. All gave the impression of gratitude and a longing for a better way of life through education via medical degrees. They were a pleasure to meet and to speak with.

The Friends of Haiti has accomplished much in its few years of existence, and I pray that this work will continue far into the future. This endeavor will make a major difference in the lives of the people in Haiti.

I hope to return to Haiti again someday.

Written by Yvonne Pallini



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Fundraiser March 25, 2017 With Food, Drinks Plus Live and Silent Auction



Are we ready to party?



Why are we here?



And the winner is?



That's entertainment!



Dr. Marialyssa
Our speaker from Haiti.



SOLD!!!!



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Fundraiser 2017 Continued



We're sure glad the food arrived!



Singing up a storm!



A good time was had by all.



Is James singing to Kathleen?



Ok, you caught us.



Well, Sue, did we make any money?



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The following pictures represent a home visit to one of our scholarship candidates. These meger living conditions are in sharp contrast to American way of life.



New Candidate



Bedroom



Path to her home



Path to her home



Continuing to her home



Front entrance to her home



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Would You Like to Go to Haiti?

We go to Haiti two to three times a year and we stay at a place called "Mon Chez Moi" which is a bed and breakfast place with air condition, hot water and a large swimming pool. They serve two meals a day for their guests, a full breakfast and a full supper, with your choice of beverages. Alcoholic beverages are available but are not free.

What we will do in Haiti is visit our students who are studying to become nurses, and doctors, to check on their wellbeing, and see where and how our students live. We will also visit the school and meet the director of Nursing, Madam Thimothee. We will try to visit a hospital that delivers babies for the whole area. The hospital was built in 1947. It was originally built by the United States as a gift to the Haitian people and this hospital is still used today. Other destinations will be determined as the need arises.

The cost per person for a trip to Haiti is \$1,600.00. This will cover your first-class flight from Las Vegas, NV, to Port Au Prince, Haiti. On this flight, you will be responsible for 3 check bags that we will be bringing to Haiti for the welfare of the students. Your return trip back to your destination will be in coach and will be covered. All your meals and Hotel accommodation at Mon Chez Moi, will also be covered. Your airport transfers to and from the Hotel in Haiti is also covered. The cost will also cover some touring and visiting. You will not be charged for car rental, car insurance, but we may ask for a gas donation if we go many places in Haiti because gas is \$5.00 per gallon.

What is not covered is your entrance into the country (which currently is \$10), tips for luggage handling, alcoholic drinks, meals and drinks outside of the hotel, entrance fees at memorials, gifts you may want to purchase and miscellaneous purchases. If we decide to go to Pignon, Haiti, you will be responsible for any hotel stays in Pignon. The trip to Pignon will not be necessary for you, but if there is a need for me to go there and you want to go with me, then you will need your money to pay for the additional costs.

You will need to have a valid passport to travel outside of the United States. You need to have a current tetanus shot, one within the last 10 years, for your protection. You may also want to talk to your doctor who may recommend additional shots or medications, specific to your needs while travelling in Haiti. Once you have decided to go to Haiti, more instructions will be given, as to what to wear, what to bring, and what not to bring.

This trip to Haiti will change your life and give you a new perspective on the poverty there. You may discover how blessed you are living in the United States. It will make you appreciate what you have, and give you a better understanding of what it means to help those who have very little in the way of material possessions, but have a lot to give in the way of love, appreciation, and friendship.

If this sounds like something that would interest you, contact Joe Provost by phone or text to 702-561-4119 or email your questions to joecool057@aol.com.

Help Us Make a Difference!



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100% of all your donations go to the scholarship fund.

Administrative expenses are separately funded.

For as little as \$10.00 Per Month or \$100 Per Year

You can become a member of

The Friends of Haiti Inc.

With your tax-deductible donation, you will receive a certificate of membership and will also receive our semi-annual newsletter.

Your Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please send your check or money order to:

The Friends of Haiti, Inc.

2520 Mesa Verde Terrace

Henderson, NV 89074

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