

MCA d'Haiti

A NEW START FOR THE YOUTH

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Editorial

Dear friends,

I am so happy to share our monthly paper with you directly from Haiti. During this visit, our Director Alayna Abraham will tour the four YMCA Community Centers with me to get to know the staff that she is been supervised at a distance. We will together thank the staff for their consistent effort, listen and evaluate these communities' needs and propose solutions. In Caracol we will meet with a local engineer and come out of that meeting with elements for a concept paper to be submitted to Bolger Foundation to renovate this building after the collapsing of a part of the terrace.

Last month Quebec YMCA invited me to Halifax to participate in the National Conference of YMCA Canada where I had a chance to meet many colleagues and explore opportunities including the reinforcement of the Haiti Coalition:

- Quebec YMCA agreed to finance one-month training for Alayna in Montreal, including an immersion in the Language school as well as meetings with Change Agents;
- LACA will pursue its efforts to register her in the next Change Agents cohort.
- Greater Philadelphia and Greater Rochester YMCAs will share the cost of her participation in the next World Urban Network event in Colombia.
- Conversations are well in their way with two other YMCAs in Canada with a view to rebuild and reinforce the Haiti Coalition.

As for the country, finally some members of the International forces are on the ground in Port-au-Prince, their sole presence filled the people with hope and brings already a sense of calm although volatile. The port and airport in Port-au-Prince are already secured, but the steady stability climate that the people is longing for will come later when the thousands of troops are in the ground. My guess is October- November, most of us know why!

This summer bought its load of recreational activities and programs in our community centers while we patiently await to renew with our legendary YMCA camps, International visitors, campers, builders and partners.

Dear friends and partners, thanks for your continuous support, with resilience still in the mix, YMCA d'Haiti is well on its way to rebuild better.

Gwénaël



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A NEW START FOR THE YOUTH

Programs & Activities

Many of the schools surrounding our Community Centers in the region were insecurity free, therefore the Youth are enjoying a long three-month summer vacation contrary to Port-au-Prince kids who are still in school to catch-up. The needs for camps and great outdoor activities are obvious, but the rarity of means is a strong reality, therefore “what to do with them?” remains a paradoxical question and demands much creativity.

In Bainet, regular activities such as musical chairs, dance, sports, rope jumping and movie screenings mingle with the laughter of the 30 active participants at the center. Always looking for good results, Grammar and math revisions are given to benefit our young members to identify and help with their gaps in these subjects, despite the vacations.



At Camp-Perrin, the reality is the same as the other centers. Traditional group games, like knuckles games, balls, hopscotch, hide and seek, lagsos and circles are organized every day on the yard. The youth want to see the launching of the summer

as they desire to discover new things and live their vacations to the fullest.



In Caracol, 20 young people participate in various activities such as card games, dominoes, tic-tac-toe, coloring and friendly football matches. Writing classes are created for the children to help them learn new words and reach their vocabulary. In the center, the book club continues to the library to read new books and make researches.

In Laboule, the kids are passionate by music, paint and drawing. Some of them like to play football, make crafts with Bristol, dance, checkers games and tic-tac-toe. On July 30th, a debate will be organized in the center to celebrate world friendship day.



During the vacations, English and Adult Literacy classes continue as well. This month, the

Community Center will renew with its community

vacation as two schools already reserved the YMCA for Graduation Ceremony...