



JMJ Children's Fund of Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the U. N.

NEWSLETTER February 2020

Friends: Our annual meeting went well. A long-time supporter attended from Mississauga, who announced that he would like to help build the school damaged by hurricanes and flooding in Beudet, Haiti. This school is operated by the Filles de Marie Paridaens. What joy!

Apart from that, winter is slowly making its way out of Canada. Excerpts from the Annual Report follow. Also, we are enclosing receipts for those who contributed so generously toward helping JMJ feed and educate needy children over the past year.

President Frank Pantano's report, 2019

This past year was J.M.J. Children's Fund's 47th year helping children. Board members met ten times to review various projects in several developing countries, which JMJ is supporting, and to send financial assistance where required. In Uganda, with the help of a generous benefactor, JMJ was able to provide financial aid to complete the building of a kitchen and latrines for the children of St. John's school. We have not yet received the final report because the Director in Uganda has been ill.

In India JMJ continues to work with the Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix in Chennai who provide educational support, food and medicines to seventeen (17) children in Kindergarten. No final report has been received on the After-school program.

Another long-standing JMJ project is in Wa, Ghana where we provide aid to Sister Monica Otoo who runs a school for needy children.

In Zambia JMJ continues its support of a kindergarten which is run by the Les Soeurs Missionnaires de l'Immaculée Conception (MIC) Sisters who provide education and meals to twelve (12) children.

In Haiti JMJ is involved in two projects. JMJ supports l'Institut des Filles de Marie, Sisters who offer access to various levels of child education, nutrition, educational materials, and medication for the orphans in the Beudet region. As well, JMJ helped fund the education with psychosocial assistance, nutrition, school materials and periodic activity of about one hundred and fifty (150) children at the Dubuissons school run by the Les Soeurs Missionnaires de l'Immaculée Conception (MIC) Sisters based in Montreal.

As you can see JMJ has been busy this past year disbursing funds to some long-standing and very worthy projects. This is all done with limited resources but with the dedication of our Board members and the very generous support of our benefactors. A big thanks to all.

In conclusion we pray, as we do at all annual meetings: O Lord Who in the desert fed Thy hungry children in their need. Where want and famine still abound let Thy relieving love be found. And in Thy name may we supply Thy needy children when they cry.

Haiti - Dubuissons

J.M.J Children's Fund of Canada Inc. (JMJ) began to support the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculée Conception (MIC) when the Hurricane almost demolished Port au Prince in 2011- a hurricane that left many people homeless. JMJ funds go toward the education, psychosocial assistance, and nutrition of the students, in addition to providing school materials, and periodic social activities for about 150 children in the Dubuissons area between the ages of 10 and 18 years.

Sister Philomene Pierre, m.i.c. is the general bursar, for the Missionnaires de l'Immaculée Conception (MIC). Sister Muriette Hilaire is responsible for the in-country disbursement of funds. On August 27th, 2019 the JMJ Board of Directors

moved to send \$5,000 to the Haiti Dubuissons School c/o Sister Philomene who reported on how the funds were spent.

<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>Gourdes</u>	<u>Can \$</u>
Nourriture des enfants (food)	50,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fêtes de Noel (Christmas)	45,000.00	\$900.00
Fin d'année (New Year's)	42,500.00	\$850.00
Classiques (Studies)	55,000.00	\$1,100.00
Cours de rattrapage (catch-up)	25,000.00	\$500.00
Uniformes	32,500.00	\$650.00
Total	250,000.00	\$5,000.00

Sister Philomène adds: In the 2019 school year the chaotic background of Haiti caused classes to be closed for a few weeks. Despite these difficulties the MIC Sisters nonetheless persistently looked after the children's needs. According to a report received, "thanks to the JMJ members' immense generosity the children were fortunate to enjoy classes.

From a letter received: "Les Sœurs Missionnaires de l'Immaculée Conception se font le plaisir de vous rejoindre, afin de vous remercier pour l'aide que vous apportez dans l'éducation des enfants haïtiens, particulièrement dans la section de Dubuisson. Cette localité située dans la campagne veut donner une éducation de qualité. Notre école évite de longue marche aux enfants qui fréquentent des écoles plus éloignées. De plus en plus les parents nous confient leurs enfants."

The J.M.J. Board of Directors in the name of all JMJ members wish to thank the Dubuisson school team for making education possible for the Dubuisson area "in-service" children. And may 2020 bring the Dubuisson school children more academic successes.

Haiti - Beudet Croix-des-Bouquets

A bit of history, in July, 2016, J.M.J. Children's Fund received a request from Le Foyer Notre Dame de L'Espoir to help 17 boys in school, providing them with student fees, books, food and medical care. This soon grew to 22 boys. JMJ has been assisting the Sisters. In December 2018, l'Institut des Filles de Marie who ran the school asked JMJ to help support orphans in Beudet, Croix-des-Bouquets Port-au-Prince, Haiti region.

On December 6, 2018 the JMJ Board of Directors moved to send \$1,350 to l'Institut des Filles de Marie school project. The funds were spent as follows: For schooling - \$500., clothing and shoes - \$300. and food - \$176.

In 2019 Sister Janvier approached JMJ for assistance in rebuilding her school in Haiti. JMJ has decided to assist Sister Janvier when funds become available. Fundraising for this project is in progress. JMJ welcomes any and all fundraising towards this worthy cause.

Please contact JMJ offices at jmjchildrens@rogers.ca or via Canada Post mail at 322 Rideau St., P. O. Box 20051, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 5W5 to assist. A very generous donor has taken on the task of finding funds for a new school estimated to cost \$382,712.50 U.S.



Children enjoying a meal.



INDIA

In April, 2016 J.M.J Children's Fund of Canada, Inc. (JMJ) and the Sisters of Maria Auxilium (SMA), began working together on the "Evening Tuition cum Educational Assistance" after-school program for the poor children in the Madhavaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. The funds provided by JMJ went towards the support of the program in the Annupampattu and Kanniyambakkam which caters to various levels of child education, e.g educational materials, clothes, and medicine when required. Every day after school the children attend evening coaching classes in the convent. The Sisters teach them and give extra care for the weak students. Sister Josephine Selvi SMA is the Project Authority on behalf of the Sisters of Maria Auxilium, and is responsible for the disbursement of the funds in-country. August 27, 2019 the J.M.J. Board of Directors moved to send \$3,060 CDN to the Sisters of Maria Auxilium after school program c/o Sister Selvi. Sister reported on how the funds were spent.

Greetings of Peace and Joy of Christmas from Sisters of Maria Auxilium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu!

We thank you for your generosity. The following is an account of how the gift was spent:

For 2 sets of clothing and 2 uniforms @ INR 2800/person

For 20 Children (INR 2500 x20) 75,000.00

For school supplies eg note books, school bag, stationaries, medical needs. 48,500.00

Food 27,500.00

Travel to attend school 2,000.00

Total 153, 110 INR or \$3,060 (C)

We thank you, dear friends, on behalf of all the children benefiting from your financial support. All of them are doing well and feel happy about your love and concern. The children are writing their half-yearly examination (December 2019), they are waiting for the holidays, and to celebrate Christmas and New Year with happiness and joy.

On behalf of the Sisters and the children, JMJ thanks you for the financial support for the education of the poor children in rural areas. According to Sister Selvi, this project had a surplus of \$2.02 CDN to help towards the 2020 school year disbursements. (*Now, dear friends, how often do you see a surplus reported in such a financial report? - Ed.*)

Congratulations and thank you, students, for making the efforts of the JMJ members and the Sisters of Maria Auxilium (SMA) team worthwhile by diligently studying to build a better tomorrow.



Some of the students who are thanking you

Uganda

In 2017, J.M.J Children's Fund of Canada, Inc. (JMJ) and Mr. Segujja Godfrey, St. John's School Administrator, began working together to update a school in Western Uganda, thanks to the urging and financial support of Mrs. Sue Fryer who had visited the area and recognized the need. Urgent renovations to the kitchen area and latrines were undertaken.

In 2019, JMJ cooperated in the completion of Phase IV (kitchen and latrines) project.

Additional funds were provided by JMJ for the nutritional requirements of about 402 children attending St. John's School. for about 402 children attending St. John's School.

In the 2019 calendar year JMJ sent Mr. Godfrey \$17,638.00 to complete the project. Thank you, Mrs. Fryer,

and to all who contributed to the provision of children's basic needs during the successful completion of this project.

ZAMBIA -

For the past several years J.M.J Children's Fund of Canada Inc. (JMJ) has been working together with the MIC Sisters in charge of Mary Immaculate Kindergarten to provide nutrition and schooling to orphans and other vulnerable children in the Chipata, Zambia, Central southern African region.

In 2019 the JMJ Board of Directors moved to send \$1540 CDN to the Mary Immaculate Kindergarten School c/o Sister Emma Katongo. The school year in Zambia is spread over twelve (12) months (January to December) with April, August, and December designated as holiday months. This covers only one semester for 12 young children. In 2019 Zambian currency was again devaluated making the prices of most commodities in the country higher.



Due to the economic situation in Zambia, the 2019 school costs for all twelve (12) children are estimated at \$5,250.00 USD for the year and \$1,750 USD for one semester, which allows the school to continue to provide food and other necessities (milk, vegetables, sugar, cooking oil, fuel for cooking, material to make uniforms), laundry and bathing soap as the sisters also wash the clothes for the younger children, and clean them whenever they soil themselves.

If, generous and dear friend, you would like to help these children please specify it on your cheque. Thank you, in their name.

GHANA

In the spring of 1998, J.M.J Children's Fund of Canada, Inc. (JMJ) began to work with the Sisters of the Handmaids of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who operate the Ancilla School in Wa region, Ghana. JMJ provides funds for schooling, study materials, medicine (when needed) and food. Sister Monica Otoo is currently in charge of the project.

A bit of history - In the spring of 1998, JMJ received a request to sponsor some children in Ghana. Since JMJ was already feeding and educating children in other countries, we were able to sponsor only 3 at that time: Elizabeth, age 10, Kweku, age 4, and Bernice, also about 10. Thanks to JMJ generous donors, these children have been able to develop into model adults. Elizabeth has been working with a private company in Accra. She has just completed her Masters degree in Finance, and in addition, she is helping with the education of two girls in the Ancilla school. (!!!)

Kweku currently works in a clothing shop in Accra. Securing a job as a Social worker has not been easy but Kweku keeps trying and hoping he will one day get his dream job. Bernice lives in Takoradi and is working as a Seamstress.

Two of our children, Georgina S. and Roland K.E. completed Senior High School in June, 2019 and will be graduating. Happy Graduation to Georgina and Roland.

With JMJ support all the children remained at school uninterrupted because all their basic needs – food, clothing, education and health were met at the right time. The children are doing very well and we thank you sincerely. May God bless and reward you abundantly. Sister Monica Otoo

Helping Children Help Themselves since 1972.

P.O.Box 20051 322 Rideau St East, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1N 5Y5