

# Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

## Serving the Lord in Haiti



Dear Faithful Friends,

The situation at the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education is one of desperation. Gertrude Bien Aime has been dealing with the out of control gang situation in Haiti to try to bring food, supplies and gasoline to the Notre Maison Orphanage for children with disabilities and the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education. Gertrude says the gangs kill anyone anytime whether they are middle class or poor. Right now food is a luxury here. Things are not good and she is trying to keep the children with disabilities fed.

There are 150 children including those at Notre Maison Orphanage with special needs who want to start school at her Haitian Center for Inclusive Education, but have no funds to support the teachers or running of the school. Last June they actually tried to give the children their exams in between the gang riots. Gertrude says the gangs came close to the orphanage and so many of their neighbors ran away. She can't run because of the children. She said the police were able to control them that time.

Our goal is to get the children at the Orphanage funds for the food that is available and funds to pay the teachers, many of whom are willing to continue to provide instruction. With the economy in its current situation any registration local families would contribute to run the school is not a possibility. This is the largest inclusion program in Haiti and we are asking for your help to get Gertrude and the children through this difficult time.

If you feel led to give to this great need, please donate at [www.HarvestInternational.org](http://www.HarvestInternational.org) for the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education (Haiti) or mail your gift to Harvest International, P.O. Box 6690, Ocala, FL 34478. Notate for Haitian Center for Inclusive Education.

God bless,  
Dr. Donald DeVito



# Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

## Serving the Lord in Haiti



### Wonderful blessings and opportunities to support the Notre Maison Orphanage for Children with Disabilities and the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education in Port-au-Prince.

Gertrude Bien Aime was awarded the Landis Stetler Award for leadership in special education this past October at the state special education teachers' conference in Daytona Beach, Florida. This is the highest honor in leadership you can receive in Florida for the field of special education. Gertrude had to navigate blockades from the gangs in Haiti and through support from an organization called SEMPRES, the Society for Education, Music, Philosophy and Research received the travel funds necessary to attend and speak at the conference to special education professionals throughout the state of Florida. Gertrude is the epitome of the leadership and dedication that signifies the Landis Stetler Award.

### A background on the Notre Maison Orphanage for children with disabilities, Gertrude Bien Aime.

Gertrude founded and maintains the care and education of 40 children with disabilities at the Notre Maison Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Rescuing many of them from the streets, she began by arranging a special education teacher to assist her in the orphanage and through collaboration and education training that would be highlighted in CEC's 100th anniversary 100 teachers presentation for Harvest International's Dr. Donald DeVito, she networked with the Council for Exceptional Children, universities, K-12 programs in the US and other organizations to provide training and resources in the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education which she imagined and founded. This was published in the Oxford Handbook of Social Media and Music Learning. Her collaborations with CEC members to provide training to the Haitian teachers she hired and arranged the funds in Port-au-Prince to pay (a feat that is unbelievable considering the challenges in Haiti through gangs, the government instability, earthquakes and storms that stood in her way but left her undaunted and successful.) These training collaborations in Port-au-Prince by US teachers was highlighted in a chapter in the Handbook of Arts Education and Special Education published by CEC members Dr. Jean Crockett and Sharon Malley.

This link shows the connection between myself and Gertrude Bien Aime on how this story developed.

<https://exceptionalchildren.org/100/stories/devito>



### How you can help:

The situation in Port-au-Prince for the orphanage and the HCIE inclusion school is dire. Purchasing gas to run the generators in the orphanage is controlled by the gangs and is critical for sustenance. Gertrude has to struggle to purchase beans or rice for the children to eat due to the blockading of ports. If you could be willing to provide support to Gertrude's Notre Maison Orphanage (see Harvest International's "The Love we Breath" or Harvest's link for "The Haitian Center for Inclusive Education", any assistance would go a long way to helping continue education and resources for children with disabilities in Haiti. Part of Gertrude's participation in the conference resulted in meeting vendors of technology and assistive materials for children with disabilities. Any donation would also go toward bringing these accommodated learning materials to the orphanage and school.



# Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

## Serving the Lord in Haiti



Dear Faithful Friends,

The situation at the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education is one of desperation. Gertrude Bien Aime has been dealing with the out of control gang situation in Haiti to try to bring food, supplies and gasoline to the Notre Maison Orphanage for children with disabilities and the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education. Gertrude says the gangs kill anyone anytime whether they are middle class or poor. Right now food is a luxury here. Things are not good and she is trying to keep the children with disabilities fed.

There are 150 children including those at Notre Maison Orphanage with special needs who want to start school at her Haitian Center for Inclusive Education, but have no funds to support the teachers or running of the school. Last June they actually tried to give the children their exams in between the gang riots. Gertrude says the gangs came close to the orphanage and so many of their neighbors ran away. She can't run because of the children. She said the police were able to control them that time.

Our goal is to get the children at the Orphanage funds for the food that is available and funds to pay the teachers, many of whom are willing to continue to provide instruction. With the economy in its current situation any registration local families would contribute to run the school is not a possibility. This is the largest inclusion program in Haiti and we are asking for your help to get Gertrude and the children through this difficult time.

If you feel led to give to this great need, please donate at [www.HarvestInternational.org](http://www.HarvestInternational.org) for the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education (Haiti) or mail your gift to Harvest International, P.O. Box 6690, Ocala, FL 34478. Notate for Haitian Center for Inclusive Education.

God bless,  
Dr. Donald DeVito

