

Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

Serving the Lord in Haiti



Gertrude Bien Aime founded the Haitian Center for Inclusive Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and also the Notre Maison orphanage for children with disabilities. Members of The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), which is a national special education teachers' organization, have been visiting Gertrude along with Dr. DeVito to provide training and support for both locations, but with the gang violence, we have been unable to visit for some time.

Gertrude asked me to contact the Society for Education, Music and Psychology Research (SEMPRE) organization in the UK to fund her trip from Haiti to the Florida CEC Conference to gain training from the special ed workshops. The organization was able to fund her trip and I nominated her for the Landis Stetler Award. She is a member of our Gatorland chapter of CEC in Gainesville because there is no chapter in Haiti which made her eligible for the award. Florida Atlantic University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) met her and is now bringing her back to the US in the fall to speak to the Haitian community in south Florida whom they are having difficulty convincing to bring their children for services. For equity, she will be paid as a consultant.



The primary concern for the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education (HCIE) and the Notre Maison orphanage is the blocking of supplies by gangs. Gertrude used to get food from a charity organization, but the gangs do not allow food to be delivered unless Gertrude pays a bribe for it. She does not pay, so the food assistance is gone.

Gertrude would like to buy the building HCIE is housed in where she is currently paying rent. Parents of children without disabilities are unemployed and do not have funds. This is made worse by gangs and paying tuition for teachers, but she has been able to keep the school open for all learners and find a way to keep the HCIE staffed.

Gertrude had a van to drive the children to school, but it was stolen at gunpoint. It was later returned with flat tires. She thinks some of the gang members were families of non-disabled children at the school and when they realized it was the school van, they returned it.

The goal is to continue to support the school to keep it open and to feed the children. Thanks to God we are still moving forward.

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For years you have been seeing our updates about this inspiring school for children with disabilities and the foundational work Gertrude Bien Aime has been doing to provide an inclusive education to over 100 children. Through faith and determination, Gertrude has worked to pay the rent on the school and to keep teachers funded to provide God's work to this underserved population.

The gang violence in Haiti has increased in the Notre Maison orphanage area and yet Gertrude continues to transcend these risks to keep the school going. This school is a foundation of inclusive practice and facilitation in the country. We are at a point where the owners of the school compound are going to sell it and move on. Gertrude is praying for the support to put a down payment on the compound which would allow her to pay a mortgage rather than rent and keep this epitome of God's work safe in the hands of her and the children with special needs who attend in Port au Prince for generations to come.

The plan that Gertrude created is to request 200 supporters to provide \$100 a month for 3 months to reach this goal in time to purchase the school before it is sold elsewhere. If you believe in your heart you can support Gertrude in this mission, please see the link below for information on how to send your donation to the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education.

You can support our ministry by donating online at www.HarvestInternational.org.
Click the donation button and select [Haitian Center for Inclusive Education](#).

Learn more about HCIE on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/hcie17/>





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December 10, 2023

Dear Haitian Center for Inclusive Education supporters,

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Learn more about HCIE on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/hcie17/>

God bless,

Dr. Don DeVito

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Harvest International Missionary

