

February 25, 2019

Kelowna, B.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hands Up! Appeal Started in Okanagan to Help Haitians Affected by Recent Civil Unrest

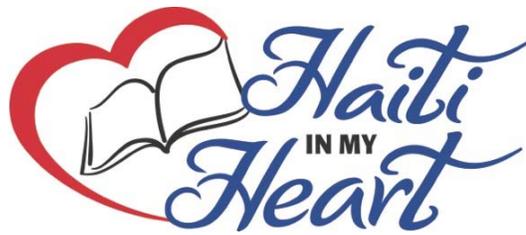
Haiti in My Heart (HIMH), a Kelowna based registered Canadian Charity, has launched Hands Up! - an urgent appeal to raise funds to assist families in Haiti with basic food staples and supplies.

The civil unrest in Haiti has stranded not only Canadian citizens on aid visits, and tourists on holiday – most of whom are now safely back on Canadian soil – the unrest has restricted the flow of goods, and shut down businesses, schools, hospitals, and medical clinics.

Families confined to their homes due to roadblocks and for safety for nearly 10 days have relied on whatever provisions they had been able to secure before the unrest began. Yet, securing enough provisions to last an unknown confinement period was nearly impossible:

1. Petroleum products like gas (for mopeds to travel to work or school, or to take the public transit) and propane (for cooking) were already a scarce commodity before February 7th when the civil protests began.
2. The price of food staples were already inflated due to the decreasing Haitian currency.
3. Many Haitians live on less than \$2.50CAD per day.

Louise Elliott, Chair of Haiti In My Heart, explains “most Haitians are truly tired and upset by the violence and blockades. Assisting our Haitian neighbours not only helps the nutritional and practical needs of families and children, but also helps combat the despair and hopelessness that often follow such difficult times”.



With an uneasy calm transpiring late last week, and some movement now safely possible – particularly outside of the Port au Prince capital area - Haiti in My Heart and its Haitian team in Montrouis, Haiti are positioned to help Haitians in need.

Through our Hands Up! project, funds are being raised to secure the basic food staples and supplies needed to combat further malnutrition and disease. “We anticipate assisting a minimum 450 families in our service area”, Louise shares, “through Hands Up! we are providing Canadians the opportunity to raise their hands up to lend a hand up to Haitian families and children, offering healing and hope”.

HIMH aims to raise a minimum \$6,000 for the Hands Up! appeal. “The more support we receive, the more families and children we can serve. In an effort like this, every gift matters”, states Louise.

Canadian citizens can donate through Haiti in My Heart’s website at: www.haitiinmyheart.ca/hands-up.

U.S. citizens can donate through HIMH's sister organization, Love4Haiti, at www.love4haiti.com.

Donation cheques may be sent to HIMH’s mailing address: 434 Glenwood Avenue, Kelowna BC V1Y 5M1. All donations are tax deductible.

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For more information:

Louise Elliott

Haiti in My Heart, Chair

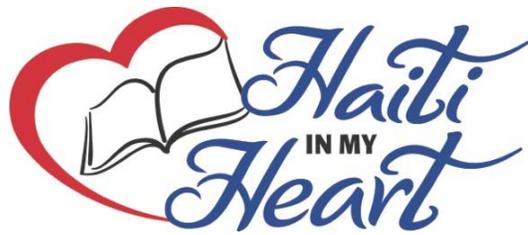
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Background Information – Haiti in My Heart

Haiti in My Heart (HIMH) is a registered Canadian Charity located in Kelowna BC. Our mission is to relieve poverty and provide opportunities for and access to education in Haiti. Our vision is a country where access to education is free, and children pursue opportunities for higher learning.

Since 2014, HIMH has operated in Montrouis, Haiti, operating a school for children in preschool through to Grade 7. The school currently educates 180 students and employs 17 Haitian administrative staff, teachers and support staff.