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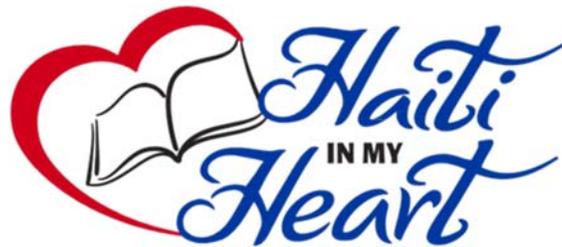
Students In Haiti Head Back To School This September With Support of Canadian Charity

While students in Canada head back to school next month without much thought about who will provide their education, nearly 200 students in Haiti are grateful that their return to school has been made possible by a Canadian charity and its donors.

Haiti in My Heart, a Canadian registered charity, operates Institute Mixte Remax (IMR), a school located in a fishing village, Montrouis (pronounced mon-wee), on the coast of Haiti. IMR was founded in 2012 by Haitian couple, Remicile and Maxime Louis, who gave up their property that was to be their own home to house the school, and first opened its doors to 40 children from Kindergarten to Grade 2.

In most government and private run schools families must pay for their child's tuition, school supplies, and uniform. However, at IMR families are able to send their children for a nominal USD\$10 annual registration fee. All tuition fees, student supplies, uniform – and a hot lunch – are provided to each student.

Families in Haiti value education. However, the majority of families cannot afford anything more than nominal fees to educate their children. The average daily wage is less than USD\$2. Some families are forced to choose which of their children will be educated. Access to affordable education is the key to eliminating poverty in countries like Haiti.



Chair of Haiti in My Heart Louise Elliott enthuses, "When we learned of IMR and Remicile and Maxime's vision to provide affordable and accessible education to children in their community, we knew this was a school we wanted to help operate and support. We knew the personnel involved were invested in bettering their community and country. They are qualified people working on the ground on our behalf."

Six years later, with the support of Haiti in My Heart, the school has blossomed to nearly 200 students with three pre-school classes and the addition of a Grade 7 class. The economic impact of the school is also key to eliminating poverty and supporting the local economy, as it employs 17 personnel.

The older students attending IMR know how fortunate they are to regularly attend school, as many of their peers experience a delayed and/or disrupted education. 60% of enrolled students do not make it to Grade 6 in their education. The precarious return to school is based on each family's limited financial ability to pay for school as September arrives. Darles Omnis, a Grade 6 student of IMR told HIMH in a recent visit that he "would like the school to grow, and to offer classes beyond Grade 6, because I don't want to leave IMR and I will miss it". Thanks to HIMH and its generous donors, Darles will continue his education at IMR this September in Grade 7.

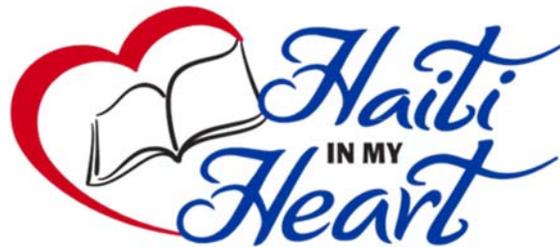
HIMH is hosting two evenings this September to share more stories about their work in Haiti, their students, and how education is a pillar to eliminating poverty in Haiti:

1. Monday, September 17th in St. Thomas Ontario at the Columbus Club on Wellington Street;
2. Tuesday, September 18th in London Ontario at Tecumseh Public School Library on Tecumseh Ave.

The public is invited to attend these free forums.

Come learn how a group of Canadians are making a direct and effective improvement in the lives of these determined students and their Haitian community.

To pre-register and for more information, go to www.haitiinmyheart.ca.



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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.