



The Emmaus Connection

Summer 2020

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WE ALL NEED TO FEEL SAFE RIGHT NOW

Our planet is in crisis and stress levels are running high. Our collective survival brains are resorting to somewhat of a “fight, flight, or freeze” response as we consider certain worst case scenarios for the first time. *Will there be adequate healthcare if my family gets sick? Are there enough resources? Is it safe to leave my home?* This constant state of uncertainty, stress, and hyper-vigilance has changed our sense of security and our thinking, albeit temporarily.

Consider for a moment, though, if this wasn't temporary. What if you constantly lived in this hyper-vigilant state of mind, unsure if you would ever feel safe again? How might a perpetual survival mindset affect your ability to make rational decisions?

In Haiti, however, a crisis mindset has become a normal state of being. In the last year, our youth have missed 6 months of school, endured food and gas shortages, and lived in a country with unreliable health care due to a

lack of power and streets too dangerous to leave home. In the midst of this, one of our youth was violently threatened on his way home from school. When I called to check what he needed, I was brought to tears and inspired by his response. “This is the country we live in. We can't quit and we can't give up. We have to learn to live here.” In that moment, I knew it was the security provided by Emmaus House allowing him to endure this hardship and stay the course.

Among the most basic of needs for all humanity is security. **You have given our youth a sense of security, enabling them to think rationally and press on.** Because of you, they know they will not go hungry, they will have a safe place to live, and they can receive the most basic health care, making the spirit of resilience possible. You've made it possible for our youth to not only overcome the multiple crises over the past year, but they will continue to face Haiti's unpredictable future with a spirit of resilience and strength.



Tanya Pirtle
Executive Director



We only sponsored the boy from Haiti for a year. While I'm sure Compassion used our money for good, we struggled to feel as though we were actually making a difference with what little we had to offer. And making a difference was all we wanted to do.

When we moved to Haiti a few years later, we gained a whole new perspective on sponsorship. Now, we were on the receiving end as churches and individuals financially supported our family while we served overseas. **No matter how hard life was at times (and boy was it hard), we felt safe knowing we had people in the States praying for us and providing for our needs. For us, sponsorship meant security.**

For the youth who come to live at Emmaus House, sponsorship means much the same. While they may never have the opportunity to meet their sponsors face to face, just knowing they have people committed to helping them can make all the difference. No longer do they have to worry if they can afford to go to school next semester or where their next meal will come from. When they come to Emmaus House, sponsorship gifts them with the security that their basic needs will be met, so they can fully focus on healing from their pasts and preparing for their futures.

Right now there are 20 youth at Emmaus House who need sponsorship support. Twenty youth who need someone to provide them with security. Security that can truly make all the difference in their lives and in their futures.

When I was in college my now husband, Hunter, and I sponsored a child from Haiti together. We were at a Christian concert and signed up at the Compassion International booth. We never knew much about the little boy, or what our money did for him, but once a month we gave up a late night Sonic run and sent Compassion \$20 instead.

Can you be that someone for a youth at Emmaus House? Can you make all the difference? Meet some of our youth who currently need sponsors on the next page and learn more about our sponsorship program today!



Jillian Kittrell
Director of Operations

THE SECURITY YOU CAN PROVIDE



We realize \$300 a month is a lot, therefore most youth have multiple sponsors. All our sponsors give anywhere from \$25-\$300 a month.

EMMAUS YOUTH WHO NEED YOU



Junior

12th grade

Junior has lived at EH since 2019. He is an exceptional student and also helps lead the youth group at church.

Current Monthly Need:
\$120

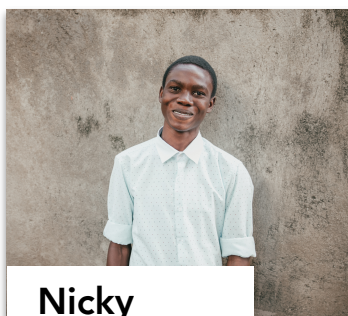


Gaelle

12th grade

Gaelle moved to EH in 2018 and is full of life and spunk. When she isn't in school, she loves to go running.

Current Monthly Need:
\$165



Nicky

8th grade

Nicky has lived at EH since 2018. He enjoys playing soccer and wants to be a mechanic one day.

Current Monthly Need:
\$125

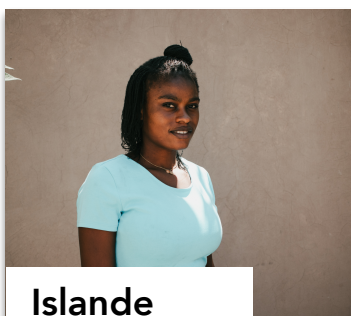


Wenchy

8th grade

Wenchy is the newest member of the EH family. He is a fun, spirited kid and loves to speak English.

Current Monthly Need:
\$50



Islande

10th grade

Islande moved to EH in 2019. She is very sweet natured and is a part of the youth leadership team at church.

Current Monthly Need:
\$35



Loucito

11th grade

Loucito moved to EH in 2019. He loves to learn, is a super bright student, and you never see him without a smile.

Current Monthly Need:
\$100



Kervens

10th grade

Kervens has lived at EH since 2017. Although he is one of the quietest in the house, he is one of the hardest workers.

Current Monthly Need:
\$65



Jhonny

13th grade

Jhonny moved to EH in 2018. He loves to sing and play basketball. After graduation he plans to attend university.

Current Monthly Need:
\$50



Godson

10th grade

Godson came to EH in 2017. Always wanting to help fix things around the house, he hopes to become a mechanic.

Current Monthly Need:
\$50



Judel

11th grade

Judel joined the EH family in 2018. While he is a part of the program, EH helped him reunify with his mom nearby.

Current Monthly Need:
\$100



Louisena

8th grade

Louisena moved to EH this past April. She is very funny, loves to laugh, and is such a great helper.

Current Monthly Need:
\$300



Myriam

College Student

Myriam came to EH in 2015. A very observant and intelligent young woman, she is working to become a child therapist.

Current Monthly Need:
\$280

Go online now for a full list of youth at Emmaus House who need support.
emmaushousehaiti.org/youth-sponsorship



"THE BEST LAID PLANS ... OFTEN GO AWRY"

Our "best laid plans" of 2020 have definitely gone awry. Our plans to build and begin moving into permanent homes have been temporarily altered this year by civil unrest and now a global pandemic. Plans have turned from growth to survival as we work to ensure the fundamental needs of our youth are met.

Haitians are a resilient people, and we serve a God whose plans never go awry. As a family and as an organization, we are determined to move forward. Despite the significant setbacks we are currently:

- Moving 2 youth to independence
- Planning to welcome 3 new youth to the Emmaus family
- Exploring ways to provide sustainable food options
- Ensuring food security for our youth and staff
- Building up our mental health program
- Building up our youth spiritually with more Bible studies and activities

Samuel, the housefather for the boys, recently shared a lesson from Habakuk. "Though the fig tree does not bud...and the fields produce no food...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (Habakuk 3: 17-19). Our faith is not in our own plans, but in the eternal plans of our God, whose plans never go awry.



HOW WE ARE RESPONDING TO COVID-19



On March 19th, Haiti reported its first case of COVID-19. Since then, the number of reported cases has been slow to rise, but with limited testing available, this is to be expected.

Last month we asked you to help us prepare and provide for everyone at Emmaus House. Together, you helped us raise over \$13,000! Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to help our girls sew masks, stock up on 2 months worth of extra food, provide food to all our staff and their families, supply internet and electricity to our college students doing school online, and provide extra counseling services to our youth.

We are in regular communication with our leadership in Haiti. With schools closed, all our youth are staying home. They are holding Sunday morning worship services together, and our staff have been creating various activities to keep everyone busy and engaged.

To stay up-to-date on COVID-19 in Haiti and how we are responding at Emmaus House, sign up to join our e-mail list.
www.emmaushousehaiti.org



GIVE NOW!

so youth in Haiti can transition into independence & find restored hope!

www.emmaushouse.kindful.com



JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM FOR EMMAUS HOUSE

Friday Mornings | 9:30-9:45 EST



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