



The Emmaus Connection

Fall 2020

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EMMAUS HOUSE
HAITI

NEW LOGO SAME MISSION



A while back I attended a marketing seminar and learned that a good logo should communicate your brand within two seconds. At first that seemed crazy to me. Two seconds is not a lot of time. How could a single image share the mission of Emmaus House so quickly?

Ever since then, creating a new logo for Emmaus House has been a goal of ours. While our original logo has served us well through the years, it was designed at a time when Emmaus House was still just an idea. Seven years later, our program in Haiti has grown leaps and bounds. Now, we needed a logo that could share our well-developed mission...all within two seconds. No pressure, right?

So this spring, while many of us were confined to working in our homes, we decided to finally tackle this project. With the help of an amazing graphic designer, we were able to create a new logo for Emmaus House. One that, I believe, portrays not only our mission, but also the story behind our name in such a beautiful way.

The name “Emmaus” comes from a story in Luke 24. Jesus had just died, and for his followers, all hope seemed to be lost. The story picks up with two men traveling to Emmaus together. When suddenly Jesus, who had risen from the dead, came to walk alongside them. The men did not recognize him on the road, but had their “eyes opened” and their hope restored once they arrived at Emmaus and broke bread with Jesus inside their own home.

Just like the two men in this story, so many orphaned youth in Haiti have walked on roads of hopelessness. At Emmaus House, we want to join them on their journeys, take their hands, and walk alongside them. And in the safety and security of a loving home, we strive to share with them a restored hope made possible through a relationship with Christ.

It is this mission that we sought to capture in our new logo. From the two people walking together on the long road, to the house with the opened doors, to the mountains that make up the beauty of Haiti, this image perfectly communicates what Emmaus House is all about.

The mission of Emmaus House is to transition orphaned youth in Haiti into independent living. My hope is that this new logo will serve as a launching point to share the story of Emmaus House with more people than ever before.



JILLIAN KITTRELL

EH Executive Director

LOVE HAS THE POWER TO HEAL

Love is an extraordinary force, a therapy that can help us regain our balance in life. Love remains a mystery that comes from God. Every living person hopes to love and be loved. After all, life is more beautiful when you have love. **Most important, love has the ability to heal broken hearts.**

We have a beautiful parable about love in Luke 15: 11-32. In this parable a rebellious son returns home and his father, who is full of love, welcomes him with compassion and celebration. This story makes us understand that when we have love in our hearts, it makes us patient, compassionate, and so on.

My wife and I are parents for the young men at Emmaus House, and it is our job to let love guide our actions, just like the father in the parable. Many of our youth have grown up without the love they have hoped for and needed in their life. Some have lived with scarring, trauma, and need to find relief. With our love, my wife and I are learning to support the young people in our house, give them grace when they make mistakes, and share hope with them.

Because of God's love for us, we offer love to the young men. With patience, we help them to live better lives and free them from the negative feelings they may have. Every gesture we make, every attention we give to them, allows them to be freed of their loneliness, resentment, and hopelessness.

My wife and I are proud to be parents at Emmaus House. Together, we have decided to offer these young men love. We have found the love we share in God, who is the source of our love. And daily we strive to share this same healing love to the youth at Emmaus House.



SAMUEL NOEL
EH House Father

BECOME A YOUTH SPONSOR

Give a young adult at Emmaus House the opportunity to follow their dreams by becoming their sponsor today!



DAVIDSON

NEW Davidson is the newest youth to move to Emmaus House. He is in the 8th grade and loves to play basketball.

CURRENT MONTHLY NEED:
\$150



LUCKSON

Luckson came to Emmaus House in 2013. He is studying Agronomy and has helped EH start our own garden.

CURRENT MONTHLY NEED:
\$30



KERVENS

Kervens moved to Emmaus House in 2017. He is in the 10th grade and wants to have a small business one day.

CURRENT MONTHLY NEED:
\$50



JUDEL

Judel joined Emmaus House in 2018. He loves music and is the DJ of the house! Judel is in the 12th grade.

CURRENT MONTHLY NEED:
\$150



STEPPING IN FOR HAITIAN YOUTH

When Covid hit and we all shut down, Haiti had already been shut down for months. Our youth had already been living “quarantined” and out of school due to the dangerous political unrest going on in the streets. Now, if you’ve ever had teenagers, you know they NEED to move or trouble will shortly ensue. Gerome is great about being attuned to what our youth need and decided to start a running program. They began running all over Northern Haiti: downtown Cap Haitien, Labadee, Milot, and even up to the Citadel. Seeing the attitude and motivation of our youth and staff was no less than inspiring.



Looking for creative ways to fundraise to build our youth homes during the unique season of Covid, we decided to build on what our youth were already doing and the Emmaus House Fitness Challenge was born!

Once we got started, the response was overwhelming. We had 206 participants from New York to Washington register to join 16 different teams. Each team was challenged to run or walk 1,100 miles (the coastline of Haiti) and help raise funds towards our building project.

Our youth were so inspired by watching everyone stepping in for them in the States, they started their own Fitness Challenge team and began increasing their miles as well. They loved that they could actually help contribute to building a home for Emmaus House. So they kept running...and 200 of you joined them!



When I thanked Gerome for all the work he has put into helping our youth with this, he sent me this message: “I am so happy and motivated to do it. This activity brings so much joy to my family and the youth. I feel like it is a blessing from God.”

“A blessing from God.” To have so many people willing to sacrifice their time to step in for our youth is certainly that. THANK YOU to all who “stepped in!” You are making a difference in the lives of so many!



TANYA PIRTLE
EH Programs Manager

HAITI UPDATES

- Our students returned to school mid-August and will work until October to complete the 2019-2020 school year. The 2020-2021 school year will begin in November.
- Samuel and Wiselene (EH house parents) celebrated the birth of their daughter Winsa on August 22nd.
- We have one student, Jhonny, who is preparing to take his national exams to graduate secondary school this fall.
- This summer the EH youth and staff planted a garden on our property to provide a steady food source for our houses.
- Merly, one of our students who graduated university in January, started her new job as a physical therapist at a nearby hospital in August.



CHARITABLE GIVING AND THE CARES ACT

The year of 2020 has brought some interesting changes in charitable giving deductions with the implementation of the Cares Act. The first being that the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limit for cash contributions has been changed for individuals. In 2020 a taxpayer will now be able to deduct up to 100 percent of your AGI in charitable deduction. For many elderly taxpayers this will have the most effect. In the past you could only deduct up to 60 percent of your AGI. This will be the year for some to increase those deductions and be able to take it all in one year instead of it having to carry forward. The second change from the Cares Act will be an "above the line" deduction of charitable gifts of up to \$300 if you are not itemizing.

One thing that did not change was the ability to do IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). If you are required to do a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) you can direct that distribution to a 501(c)3 and it will count against your RMD. For those that do not have enough deductions to itemize, this is a great way to give to your favorite charity (like Emmaus House) and still reduce your AGI.

As always, please talk to your personal tax advisor to see how these new changes will effect your personal tax planning goals.

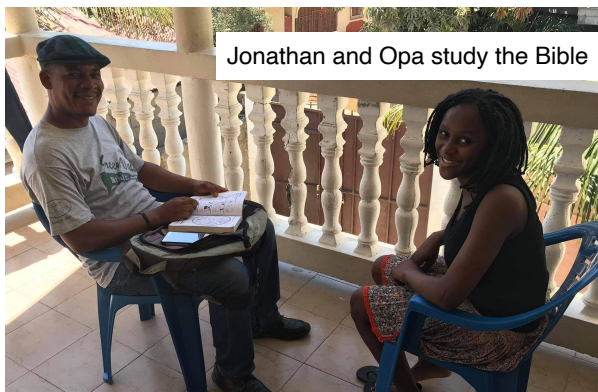


ADRIENNE WEAVER

EH Board Treasurer

FUN TIMES AT EMMAUS HOUSE

Pictures of their daily life, captured by the EH youth and staff



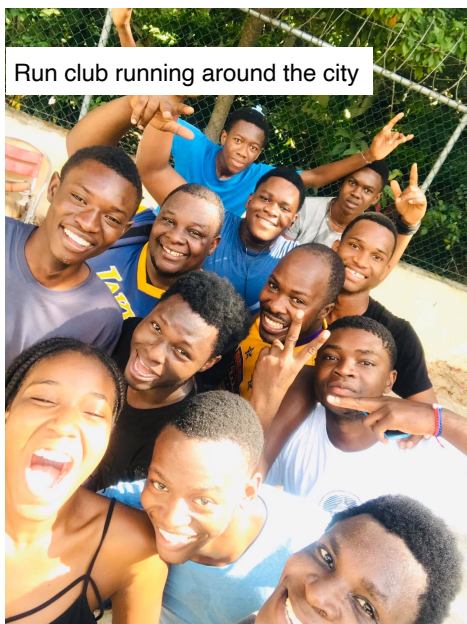
Jonathan and Opa study the Bible



Family game night



Mock interviews with EH youth



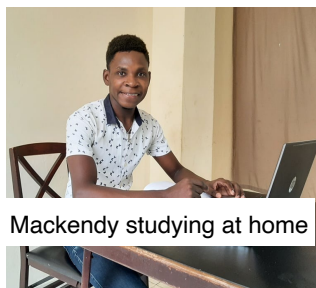
Run club running around the city



Afternoon devotional at the beach



Youth gardening on the property



Mackendy studying at home

**GIVE NOW & GIVE THE GIFT
OF RESTORED HOPE !**



www.emmaushouse.kindful.com

