

WHY HAITI

and how did this get started?



One of the team members went to Haiti in 1988 for what he thought would be his first and last foreign mission trip. While there, due to his experience with the deaf, he was asked to help in a school for children with special needs. Deaf education in Haiti is very limited, with no easy access to hearing aids, limited resources and teachers who always want additional training. Since that first trip, he has returned with professional colleagues each year when possible. Haiti continues to be the poorest country in this hemisphere and one of the poorest countries in the world.

Prayerfully consider what you can do to support this wonderful ministry. Your assistance changes the lives of children with special needs in this very special place.

God bless you, and thank you.

PLEASE keep the children of Haiti and this project in your prayers.



For more information,
to send hearing aids
or other donations, contact:

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The Hope of Hearing

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Opportunities for UMMen to change the lives of children with deafness in Haiti



The Hope of Hearing

Mission

The purpose of the Hope of Hearing is to provide hearing aids, batteries and educational support to children with significant hearing loss in Haiti.



Relationships to Various Groups

The Hope of Hearing is an affiliate of the National Association of Conference Presidents of the United Methodist Men and is one of the mission projects supported nationally by UMMen. Participation is not restricted to the UMMen or The United Methodist Church; funds and donated hearing aids come to this project from many sources, including a wide variety of churches and civic organizations.

Scope of this Project

Each year since the late 1980's teams of audiologists and speech/language pathologists have traveled to Haiti to work in the various schools for the deaf.

Children are tested, looking for those children who could benefit from a hearing aid. Many of the children tested have hearing losses so severe that the type of hearing aids available will not help them. But each annual trip, many children and some adults are identified whose lives can be dramatically improved with a hearing aid. After these are tested, an ear mold impression is taken. These impressions are taken back to the US and a custom ear mold is made. The day of the testing these children are fit with a temporary ear mold and their hearing aid. Once in place, the hearing aid is turned on and adjusted for each child. Seeing the expression on the child's face as they hear amplified sound for the first time is miraculous. Most light up the room with a smile, acknowledging that they hear their voice, the voices of others, even their hands clapping for the first time. They begin to experience what we take for granted every day. The team is honored to witness this miracle.



Where do we get hearing aids?

We have a special relationship with some of the largest hearing aid manufacturers in the world, and some of their foundations. We receive reconditioned hearing aids for this specific project. The number of hearing aids we receive is directly related to the used hearing aids we collect.

So, what do we need?

HEARING AIDS! We need hearing aids, any size, shape, type or brand, in any condition. In many years we collect over 1,000 hearing aids from a wide variety of sources. Many churches and civic groups collect hearing aids in their local congregation and in their community. In the past, a Boy Scout selected this as his Eagle Project and collected many hearing aids even though he was in a very rural setting. Some persons who use hearing aids send us their old ones; some contact their hearing aid dealers in their communities for additional used hearing aids. Many come from families whose loved one is now with the Lord and these family members want to find a special use for their hearing aids.

What else do we need?

Each of the team members pays their own way to Haiti. But there are other significant costs for this ministry to take place. Each time they go, they take hearing aid batteries for each child they have fitted. There is also the cost of impression material, the cost of the custom ear molds, and in-country travel and expenses for the team. So we also need money.

We have received funds from Vacation Bible School offerings, from special Mission Weekend offerings, from UMMen Units, from UMC and other churches, from Rotary and other service clubs and from individuals.