



Haiti Deaf Academy

haitideafacademy.com

2019 Annual Report

Executive Summary

The Haiti Deaf Academy is a boarding school for 52 deaf and hard of hearing children living in the west department of Haiti. Students live on the HDA campus during the school year, receiving language instruction, after school tutoring, vocational training, hearing health and spiritual development. They attend a local primary school, where integration into the hearing world occurs. Many were rescued from situations of abuse and, without language, lived in isolation. They now learn and play among deaf peers, with deaf adult role models and hopes for a future of self-reliance.



2019 was a year of challenges and successes. While political unrest prevented some of our outings and visiting teams, we grew in strength in so many ways. When the local primary school attended by our students was closed in September due to the unrest, those who could return safely to their homes did so. Twenty-three of our students remained on our campus and were able to continue their

academic education at the Haiti Deaf Academy. Our after school tutors easily transitioned into full time educators and progress continued as students excelled in this “home” environment. Teachers were able to focus on specific needs of the children they knew so well, and everyone thrived in this setting.

In addition to academics, vocational training continued as the staff taught classes on Saturdays about how to cook and sell food and shared stories about job opportunities from their pasts.

Spiritual development for the students remained a priority and weekly Bible classes supplemented Sunday School and church attendance.

As we look forward to 2020, we pray for political stability that will lead to peace on the streets in which our students and their families live. We continue to ask God's direction as we evaluate options for a permanent home for HDA, with more space for our Haitian staff to continue their great work. We continue seeking new and better ways to transform the lives of our students.

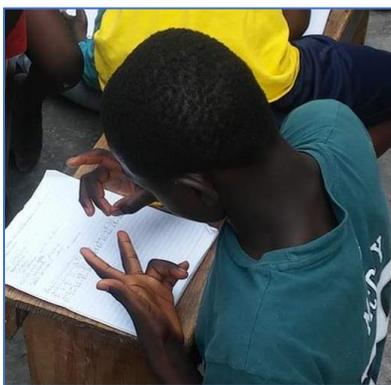
Our numbers

Students enrolled (ages 4-18)	52
Residential Students	37
Day Students	15
Full time staff	18
Part time staff	3
Staff Leadership Training Sessions	1
Visiting mission teams	1
Visiting medical teams	1



2019 Highlights

Academics



Because of the school closure due to political unrest, the nearby primary school our students are attending will require all students to repeat their current grade. However, great progress was made during the “home schooling” period, as teaching styles were geared to special needs. The curriculum used was also well suited to our students, as was a very successful “star” reward system, which led to ice cream treats for those reaching their goals.

Vocational and Life Skills Training

- Staff shared with students information about their previous jobs, demonstrating to the kids that Deaf can work towards employment in many different areas. Prior to HDA, most had never known a deaf adult, much less an employed deaf adult.
- Ten students participated in Extollo Training for block wall construction, in addition to 15 students participating in classes introducing them to various trades.
- Two students participated in sewing classes, completing several garments each.
- One of our graduates joined our staff as a cook, using skills she learned as a student at HDA.
- Reaching a long-term goal for HDA, one former student and one local young man were hired to teach Haitian Sign Language to the students' families. Removing this language barrier will enable the students to express love, appreciation, needs and become more integrated into the lives of their parent and siblings.
- The Haiti Deaf Academy staff continues to serve as Christ based role models for the students. The family team approach instituted in 2017 continued to serve us well. Under the watchful eye of one assigned adult staff member, in small groups, students eat together, attend to chores together and have family stye discussions about the day's highs and lows. This approach has proven to be helpful by providing a more realistic "family" in which to spend their time when away from their parents and siblings.



Staff Training



HDA's first joint Leadership Training was taught by Becca Diley from Hope Signs and was attended by both the HDA staff and Deaf teachers from the local school our students attend. The groups were divided into those working with the older students and those working with the younger ones. This allowed the staff from the two organizations to intermingle and learn strategies for working together to meet the needs of the students they both mentor.

Family Support

To assist families receiving their children at home during the unrest, our staff implemented a food sharing program to ensure these families were not burdened by having their Deaf children home, but instead were blessed. Many

families commented on how helpful the students were at home, using new life skills learned at HDA.

Health

- All students received medical attention as needed. All students continue to be within the normal range for their height. No students are considered “malnourished” at this time and none require supplemental nourishment for weight issues. All are receiving daily vitamins. All vaccinations and tetanus shots are up to date.
- Two students had surgeries in 2019. With the assistance of a “village” of helpers, two of the children were fortunate to be included in those cared for on a visiting United States Navy Ship, the “USNS Comfort”. One eight-year-old female student had an umbilical hernia repair and a 13 year old male had an inguinal hernia repair. The young girl also had a CT scan of her brain aboard ship, followed by an EEG of the brain at the CLIDEP Neurology Clinic, as well as evaluation and treatment for seizure



seizure

- Physical therapy continued for the one student recovering from leg surgery following a broken bone.

Financials

Operational expenses for the Haiti Deaf Academy are covered by child sponsorships, grants, church partners and individual donors. The annual budget ranges from \$250,000-\$300,000. The 990 Tax form for 2019 and prior years are posted on the organization's website, under About US/Financial Information. While 100% of the funds directly benefit services for the children, less than 10% of the funds are used in the area of “administration” for services such as website management, printing, accounting fees, etc.

Board Leadership

Our five-member Board of Directors is actively involved in the ministry by providing a weekly operations update and prayer support call with the local Haitian Assistant to the Directors and the American Directors serving in Haiti.

2019 Board of Directors

Chairman and
Sponsorship Coordination Darwin Covington Walker, Iowa
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Secretary Stephanie Deeb, RN Tampa, FL
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Treasurer Leslie Wildermuth Downingtown, PA
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Program Development Margaret Spratlin Atlanta, GA
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Education and Student
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HDA Directors

Meredith and Keith Henderson, Cabaret, Haiti
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Mission Statement

The Haiti Deaf Academy offers a transformational program, leading to self-reliance by providing language, academic and vocational training and both physical and spiritual nourishment for deaf & hard of hearing children and their families and deaf adult staff.

Vision Statement

The Haiti Deaf Academy is a non-profit, nondenominational Christian organization striving to educate, employ, empower and encourage, so that every Haitian child with a hearing loss may know and reach their God-given potential.

For more information:

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The Haiti Deaf Academy is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization (#20-1150550) and a project of Commissioned Believers Deaf Ministry.