

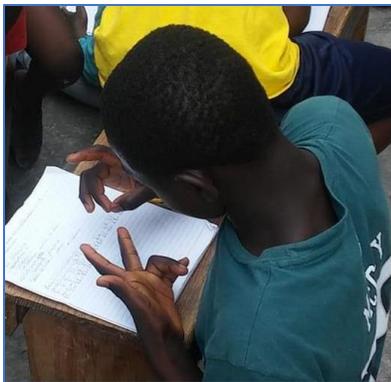


# Haiti Deaf Academy

haitideafacademy.com

## 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 disorder.



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- 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.

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