

# Haiti

Since 2009, members of Western Boulevard and other local churches team up yearly to travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti to work with the **Yahve Jire Children's Foundation** located in the Despinos community. An exception has been 2020 and 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic. There are several programs under the Foundation. These include:

- the YJCF Children's Home for children birth to 18 years;
- the YJCF Transitional Independent Living Program for youth age 19 to 26 years;
- a cement block factory;
- the Yummy Bilingual Elementary School currently serving 100 children in the Despinos community;
- the YJCF water distribution center;
- the Despinos community library and computer lab; and
- the Elim Christian Assembly of God church with Pastor Chedlin as the chief of staff.

## YAHVE-JIRE CHILDREN



The YJCF Family home currently houses 25 children whose families are not able to care for them. The Transitional ILP houses 6 young men and 8 young women who live in housing on the main campus and are employees of the Foundation. These young people serve as managers of the block factory and water distribution center, the library, chef and manager of the kitchen staff, house nanny's and educational tutors. Many of them are sponsored to be able to attend the university or other vocational programs.

The Foundation is led by Chedlin Justinvil, Executive Director, and a Haitian Board of Directors who provide a home, food, academic and Christian education for the children. Their goal is to build a larger facility to house 100 children, a vocational program, pastor's residence, and dorms for visiting mission teams.

Support for the YJCF is provided through the WBPC Mission/Outreach Committee as an ongoing ministry; YJCF-US, a 501(c) non-profit in Pittsburgh PA at [YJCF-US.org](http://YJCF-US.org) ; various churches in NC and VA; many, many faithful servants who regularly donate goods and provide financial contributions. Since 2011 over 100 disciples have traveled to Haiti to build the YJCF campus and loving and lasting relationships.



*Chedlin Justinvil and his wife Sauffrance and son Chedwins*

If you would like to contribute to the well-being of this beautiful ministry you can send donations directly to WBPC and indicate YJCF Family Home. WBPC contributes \$1000 monthly to this ministry -all through donations.

Contact Kathy Johnson – [wojo2005@gmail.com](mailto:wojo2005@gmail.com) -for more information on this ministry and on future mission trips.

# Yahve Jire (God Provides) Children's Foundation, Haiti

The work with Yahve-Jire Children's Foundation is coordinated by the Mission/Outreach Committee. Kathy Johnson ([wojo2005@gmail.com](mailto:wojo2005@gmail.com)) is our contact member. Our congregation has welcomed Chedlin Justinvil, along with Dr. Daniel Auguste, the founders of the family home orphanage on many occasions. WBPC has given financial aid to the children through ongoing pledge donations, private donors, our Endowment Fund and various grants through the New Hope Presbytery. In addition, many resources have been provided by the furnishing of sewing supplies, clothing, kitchen supplies, medical supplies, tuition, uniforms, and water for the orphanage through our annual Alternative Gift



*Concrete Block Factory*

Fair. WBPC has written and received several grants from the New Hope Presbytery International Hunger program to buy needed items for the children, pay staff salary, and purchase food and water after the Earthquake in 2010. In addition, we were the recipients for a Thank Offering Grant from the Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church USA in Louisville, KY to develop a cement block factory utilizing local workers to provide labor for the factory.

We also assisted in paying the tuition for one of the founders who attended Covenant College in Georgia and who has now earned his doctoral degree at the School of Sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Auguste is currently on the faculty at Palm Beach Atlantic University.



*Alternative Gift Fair*

We are partnering with The Yahve-Jire Children's Foundation; the YJ Children's Foundation USA 501(c) nonprofit in Pittsburgh PA; The Discovery Presbyterian Church in Clayton; Rev. Terry Hall, Raleigh; Clarksville Presbyterian "Church in Clarksville VA, and Rev. Gary Meyers, Retired Presbyterian Minister, Kansas City, KS, to share our love and ministry with these children so that they, too, will know the love of Christ.

Since 2009 we have traveled to Haiti to assist in the building of the YJCF complex. When all the planning is done and the trip is complete, we are left with our wonderful memories of all the children we have loved and all the hands and feet that are walking with Christ.





## Highlights of our Mission Trips to YJCF:

**2019** – A mix of disciples from 5 different churches. Little did we know that the pandemic was soon to hit and we would not be returning for a short while. We took the children to a local hotel for the swimming pool as it was too dangerous to travel to the ocean. We built and outfitted a new tool shed so we would have tools available in the future. We built a bridge by the girls dorm. We built 13 benches for the gazebo. We packed food items to be distributed to families through the Christian Assembly of Elim.





**2018** – We built a gazebo on the boys dorm financed by Meg Brigham, a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, added to the raised bed gardens, pruned trees and had a food distribution site with rice and beans and corn meal. The older kids participated in learning new liturgical dance moves to My God is an Awesome God!



**2017** – White Memorial Presbyterian Church sent 7 faithful travelers to join in the love of YJCF children. We helped to get the boys set up in their ILP apartment, we added to the raised bed gardens and planted the first fruit trees



**2016** – Again God called and we followed. We added Clarksville Presbyterian Church in Clarksville VA to our group and were sure happy at their expertise in building computer tables and library shelves for the new community library. Anya Shephard, a Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient planned and financed the library including books in both French and English. We were able to go on field trip to the waterfalls and to the iron village. Drum lessons and dance lessons were every night with a recital party at the end.





**2015** – A much needed playground was planned and financed by Allie Parker, a Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient. Packing of food for a food distribution included all of the children and the team to deliver to Hope Village. A visit to Presbyterian Mission Worker Suzette Goss Geffard and her family home treated us to a special Haitian lunch and tours of the mountain village.





**2014** – Lots of efforts to provide a music and dance performance was the highlight for the children this year. We worked on site and fed the children from Hope Village every day. We took our first field trip to the beach and treated the children to their first buffet lunch and swimming at a beach resort. Work on the administration building was grueling. Pastor Bruce and Music Director Van Anthoney joined us this year. This year we helped to build the new Administration building and new indoor kitchen. Lots of concrete was mixed and passed from worker to worker. We also again purchased beans and rice and oil to distribute the neediest of all.





**2013** – For the 2013 Haiti Mission Team made up of 12 wonderful disciples, we have incredible memories and a long list of accomplishments and experiences.. We attended a small church started by a mission group from Kansas City. We had the privilege of participating in the Lord's Supper and singing several songs we knew in English.

We traveled 4 ½ hours by bus to visit with Mark Hare, Presbyterian Missionary to Haiti, to learn about the 40 year old organization called MPP (similar to Agriculture Extension Services) and on to the

EcoVillages. We had to travel along some pretty

rocky roads and then finish by walking into the village. We saw firsthand the difference between "giving a person a fish and in teaching them to fish." This Village took displaced people from the earthquake, brought them to the country side; provided them with a home; taught them to farm a small garden; and enabled them to create a small community together.



The digging of the gray water pond has begun

During the week we completed all of the projects we had scheduled including building 4 closets for the girl's dorm, digging 2 gray water ponds and lining them with stones, building an award winning chicken coop at the base of the water tower, and transporting concrete blocks and more concrete blocks from the block factory to the workmen raising the security wall around the perimeter of the complex.

The highlight of our week among others was bringing all the children out to their soon to be new home and making individual stepping stones with them. The children were ecstatic to be there and ran all over in so much joy. "Lord I lift Your name on high, Lord I

love to sing Your praises, I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us." Thank you again WBPC, Discovery Church and United Church of Chapel Hill for your financial assistance, your love and your prayers. We could not have done it without your blessings.



**2012** – We returned to Haiti with a team of 12. We worked on shelves for the kitchen, taught VBS, attended church, visited the Baptist Mission and Fort Jacques. We erected the water tower and built closets in the boys dorms. We painted the dorm and wore out Pastor Betty!



**2011** – Our first mission team was developed and 14 disciples traveled to Tabarre, Haiti to begin our work with this ministry. We helped to build water swales, lay out landscaping for the new monolithic domes that will be the dormitory for the boys and to tour this beautiful county. We went to the Carribe Resort in the capitol of Port au Prince and treated all of our hosts, bus driver, interpreters to dinner.





**2010 – Planning and fund raising**



**2009 – Kathy Johnson and Harris Cummings traveled to Croix des Bouquets Haiti to meet the staff and tour the future home of the YJCF.**



Monolithic Dome

