

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

FMG/AQANU/PSST
Sgt. Mark Gallagher Memorial
Vocational School in Haiti
Building the Haitian Economy by
Educating Haitians for Life

2012

NEWSLETTER

Recent Events:

Fredericton/Hanwell Touch a Truck for kids of all ages (3-103) – May 26, 2012 – see www.touchatruck.ca/ for details.

The Fredericton/Hanwell "Touch a Truck" event had two primary goals. First, to offer an event where children can have fun as they learn about all kinds of big equipment. Children had the opportunity to climb aboard a wide variety of vehicles and honk the horns, turn on the flashing lights etc. Secondly, the event was planned to raise money for the Sgt. Mark Gallagher Vocational School in Haiti. By the end of the day over 1500 children and adults attended the event and the total money raised was over \$10,145.39. The money was presented at the Bathurst Gala on June 2.



Bathurst RCMP Gala – June 2, Contact Sergeant Annie Neilson,

This was an incredibly successful fundraiser, thanks to the energy and commitment of Sgt. Annie Neilson and her extremely hard working group of volunteers. Early in the evening FMG was presented with close to \$50,000 in cheques from NBCC/CCNB, Rosemarie Willis (author of Beyond the Call) and others. The gala itself raised close to \$25,000. A \$75,000 night!

Friends,

As we begin the next exciting stage of this humanitarian international development project, this newsletter should begin a regular series of updates for donors, partners and

the general public. As it has been far too long since the last newsletter, some of the foundational information may be revisited. As you will read, we have had challenges but we are back on track and ready to move forward in helping the impoverished families of Riviere Froide, Haiti.



Children from la Maison Handicappe (Dr. Lewis recently built a good-sized wire mesh fence around the orphanage housing children with mental and physical disabilities as the authorities were going to close it unless a fence was built. He is known as Papa Blanc to the children.)

Partners

There are three major partners in this project with several supporting partners including the RCMP, NBCC and its Francophone counterpart, CCNB. The three founding partners are Friends of Mark Gallagher (FMG), based in Woodstock, N.B.; AQANU (Association Quebecoise pour L'Avancement des Nation Unies) from Quebec and the Little Sisters of St. Theresa, (PSST), the order of nuns in Riviere Froide with and for whom the school is being built.

Construction Progress

In December 2011 we received word that Michel Rouzier Guillaume, the contracting engineer that PSST had wanted for the project and with whom we were going to build the school, citing personal reasons, had withdrawn from the project. Clearly, this was a cause for concern. However, the site of the Gallagher School is on the same parcel of land where a primary /secondary school is being built by a Haitian firm, GRETCO, and funded by a German NGO, Kinderhilfe.

Within 24 hours of receiving word from M. Guillaume, Sister Gisele Chaperon, educational co-administrator for PSST, contacted GRETCO and set up a meeting for herself and Reg Sorel, project coordinator, with officials at the firm. The GRETCO officials were apprised of the situation and were invited to sign on as general

contractors for the Gallagher School. They were advised of our budget and our needs and agreed to prepare a proposal that would be available for our appraisal. Said proposals arrived but were way over budget.

That proposal has become the basis for current negotiations going on in Haiti as of this writing. You will be notified once more information becomes available. It is complicated and slow but our engineer and AQANU partners have been working tirelessly to make this happen and their feelings are that GRETCO will meet us where we need to be met but it is time consuming. As well, it may very well mean an adjustment to some aspects of the buildings or programmes but our intent is to maintain the full complement of courses in settings that meet the needs of the learners and exigencies of our budget.

CIDA – Canadian International Development Agency The Gallagher School Project has been supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the tune of \$789,134 on a 1:3 formula. FMG's contribution is \$263,000 for Phase One, construction. Thanks to our generous donors, we have completed Phase One fundraising and are soon into the next step to realizing our goal. Much will depend on current negotiations with new construction firm. (see below)

Phase two, furnishings and equipment will begin soon and the cost analysis is in progress but preliminary estimates suggest that nearly \$500,000 in cash and in-kind donations will be needed. It is important to underscore the difficulties in finding suppliers, thus pricing, in Haiti for this equipment but that is our goal and doors have opened on that front.

We realize that some purchases will need to be made outside the country but **our model of conducting international development work demands that we contribute as much as is possible to the Haitian economy.** While on the recent mission, participants Reg Sorel, Viviane O'Neill and Dr. Eugene Lewis got a line on and visited a Home Depot type outlet in Port au prince and it appears as if much if not most of the money can be spent in Haiti. That makes it easier for us and better for Haiti.

Success with CIDA - In order to access CIDA funds several steps had to be taken including us hiring a Haitian engineering firm to carry out an Environmental Impact Study. Money could be spent in planning and organization but actual construction could not begin until the EIS was completed to CIDA's satisfaction. Given that the school is being built on a mountain in the poorest nation in the western hemisphere and in an earthquake zone, this has not been an easy assignment.

The firm was contracted, the study, after several revisions, was completed and word was received on January 27, 2012 that CIDA was satisfied that we had met their criteria and, but for a couple of minor provisos, construction could begin. Those provisos have been addressed and have been largely resolved.



<http://www.unb.ca/faculty/awards/J.EugeneLewis.html>

Programmes

Our partner, AQANU, was able to enlist the services of a curriculum expert. Ms. Viviane O'Neil, to work on some very complicated elements of the overall project. Ms. O'Neil has much experience working on educational programmes in Haiti as well as several years working at the administrative level in Quebec public schools. This work addresses the gaps in the Haitian Vocational Curriculum, especially in courses that will be offered at the Gallagher school.

We are closely associated with NBCC/CCNB in developing this curriculum. Three meetings, two being conference calls and one in Fredericton, have been held between representatives of FMG, AQANU and NBCC/CCNB. From these meetings plans were developed to work on curriculum needs that might, eventually, become integrated into the national Haitian Vocational Ed curriculum, known in Haiti as Professional Education.

Ms. O'Neil is collaborating with CCNB curriculum resource people and consulting with the INFP, the branch of the Haitian Ministry of Education responsible for vocational /professional education in Haiti.

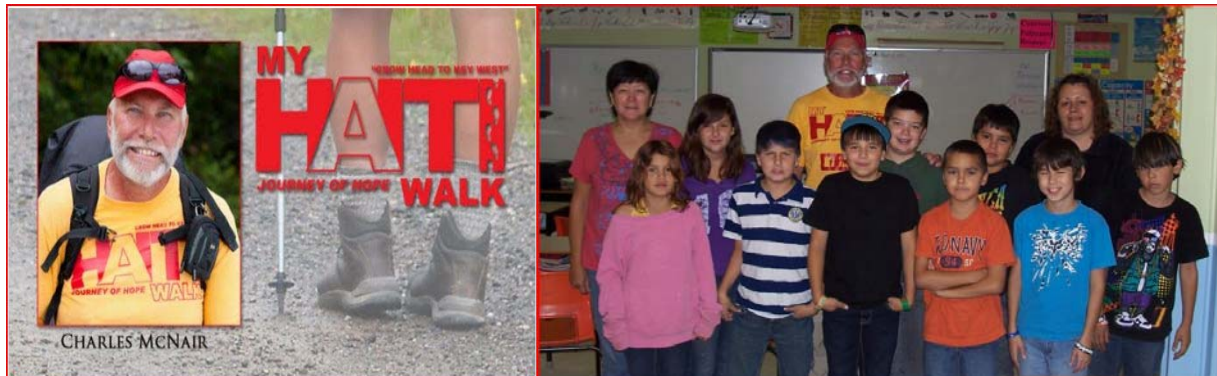
We are indeed fortunate to have Ms. O'Neil in this essential role as there are few people capable and willing to serve in this capacity.

Fundraising Money is still being received from individuals, schools, community groups and churches across the province for fundraisers that have been held to benefit the Sgt. Mark Gallagher Memorial Vocational School. As well, two young children in lieu of accepting presents for their birthdays asked that be given money which they then turned over to the school!! Some pledges from corporate sponsors are outstanding and efforts are being made to collect them now.



BEYOND THE CALL: A Biography - A non-profit book has been co-written by Rosemarie St. Pierre-Willis (Sgt. Gallagher's sister in law) and author Warren Redman, chronicling the Life and Legacy of RCMP Sgt. Mark Gallagher. This book titled "Beyond the Call" is now available via the website: www.beyondthecall.ca Above, Rosemarie Willis, author of Beyond the Call presenting cheque for \$20,000 to the friends of Mark Gallagher at June 2, Bathurst Gala.

My Haiti Walk



Visit to grade 5 class, Tobique First Nation

My Haiti Walk - Journey of Hope, which began at Crow Head, Newfoundland on July 5th, 2011 will continue with the second leg from Perth-Andover, New Brunswick on or about June 30th, of this year. Charles McNair will follow the International Appalachian Trail to Baxter State Park, where he will follow the historic Appalachian Trail to Georgia. He expects to reach Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the AT in November.

In 2013, McNair will continue the final leg of My Haiti Walk - Journey of Hope, from Georgia to Key West, Florida following trails through Alabama and Florida, before concluding his journey in Haiti.

McNair hopes to reach Haiti in time for the opening of the Sgt. Mark Gallagher Vocational School in Riviere Froide and the Wesleyan Hospital being rebuilt on Isle La Gonave .

Galas

Three RCMP organized Gala events have been held in the past eighteen months. The galas, in Woodstock, Halifax and Moncton have raised over \$50,000 for the school project. The RCMP gala held recently in Bathurst raised close to \$25,000.



Comments? Richardb@nbnet.nb.ca

WWW.GallagherschoolHaiti.com

Conclusion: The next weeks are critical to our success. Your continued support is appreciated and needed. Phase one of fundraising is nearly completed. Phase two will begin soon. The hopes are that construction can finally begin by the end of April or beginning of May. Expect another update in the next month. Thanks for your patience.

Donations to the Sgt. Mark Gallagher Memorial Vocational School in Haiti can be made through PayPal, access to which is available on our web site. Cheques payable to **Friends of Mark Gallagher** can be sent to:

Donations for the school can be sent to

Friends of Mark Gallagher
Lenehan, McCain and Associates
389 Connell St.
Suite 200
Woodstock NB
E7M 5G5