

Sense of Wonder Creations Haiti Fund

Dear Friends:

The devastation on the Southern Peninsula and on Ile a Vache, Haiti is heartbreaking. We know that you are kind and compassionate people. If you are able, Please make a tax deductible donation to our Haiti Fund. You can go the Sense of Wonder Creations Home page <http://www.senseofwondercreations.org> and scroll down and click on the paypal button. Remember this is a donation not a purchase. When you make your donation, please put Haiti Fund in the memo line. We give 100% of all contributions directly to Haiti. We have been working with the Director and Assistant Director of the Kay Kok Community Center since 2012 and have found them to be highly trustworthy and responsible. As you can see below, working together, there has been a lot of progress in Ile a Vache, Haiti as a result of generous people like you. Thank you so much in advance for your kindness and generosity. □

The 7.2 earthquake last week was centered right near Ile a Vache, the island we sail and fly to every year. Aux Cayes is the city on the mainland that is very close and has suffered with growing numbers of deaths and injuries every day. They also had a hurricane pass by last week. We need your help as soon as possible to feed the poor and homeless, rebuild houses, find shelter, and give emergency aid and supplies to all the residents possible.



In September of 2017 and 2018 we sent money for school supplies for 400 children. We have continued to help with educational supplies and school tuition when we can. Each child received a backpack, notebook, pens, pencils, protractor and ruler. Over the past 5 years, we have worked closely with the Kay Kok Community Center.

SoWC has provided funding for the art program and has paid the music and art teachers' salaries through 2021. The Community Center is the only place where children and young adults can receive free instruction in art, music and basic computer skills. They have learned enough about playing instruments in the past five years to earn money and perform at hotels and events. We have purchased performance sound equipment and speakers for them also. We gave funds to the Community Center to purchase conga drums, acoustic guitars keyboards and we brought down recorders, harmonicas and some steel drums and purchased and sent, via our friend's sailboat, a drum kit and two electric guitars and are sending more instruments this Fall.



Île-à-Vache is alive with wooden boat building. There is activity on every beachfront. They cast and haul their nets in Biblical fashion, then sail home to sell at the market and feed their families. Fishing and farming are the means of livelihood for most Haitians. At this time, there are no facilities to haul, repair and maintain the boats. We have proposed to build a slipway and a small woodworking shop on the Kay Kok harbor. After several meetings with town and island officials, local businessmen and waterfront property owners, all parties have responded in favor of the project.

The Kay Kok town well that was damaged during hurricane Matthew is back in operation. Thanks to generous donations to Pam's 501c3 nonprofit, Sense of Wonder Creations (SoWC), we were able to assist in funding a project to build a pumping station. Now the water is pumped to a header tank at the top of the hill, which feeds a number of water sources in the village and is powered by solar panels.



Following the devastation from hurricane Matthew in 2016, SoWC received a generous outpouring of donations for the Haiti Fund. We have been able to partner with other philanthropic organizations to rebuild homes, clean wells, repair cisterns, provide food, replace animals, plant trees, supply seeds and plant gardens.

SoWC has donated funds to lease a 6.1 acre community garden that has been planted, beautifully maintained and is flourishing with vegetable crops for the community. Last year we donated enough funds for the local people to build a goat shed, chicken coop, chicken tractor and purchase 75 chickens and 12 goats. We sent them funds to lease another piece of land for the goats and chickens to graze.



Sense of Wonder Creations is involved with several projects on [Île-à-Vache](#), a beautiful little island seven miles off the southwest coast of Haiti. Nat, Pam's husband has sailed to Haiti three times from Vineyard Haven with boatloads of supplies for Sister Flora's Orphanage, and the Haitian Community bringing used sails, rigging and fishing gear for the fishermen, tools for the local boat builders, as well as bags of dried beans and rice, educational supplies, art and music materials and equipment and more.

We sincerely thank all of you who have donated to the Haitian community. If you would like to help keep these projects moving forward, please make your **tax-deductible donation** payable to:

Sense of Wonder Creations.

Note: "Haiti Fund" on the memo line.

P.O. Box 1558 Vineyard Haven, Ma. 02568.

Online donations may be made to the SoWC website [homepage](#) . Click on the Pay Pal donate button, and write "Haiti Fund" in the message line. Remember that this would be a donation, not a purchase. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and SoWC does not take out any administrative fees. 100% of the funds are passed on to Haiti. We wish you Fair Winds and Following Seas, With Lots of Love and Gratitude,
Pam and Nat Benjamin

For further information, See also:

Nat's publication: [Passage to Haiti](#)

The Vineyard Gazette Article: [Heading Out to Sea to Share the Bounty](#) by Katherine Scott

The MV Times Article: [Nat Benjamin sails Charlotte into warm welcome in Haiti and Cuba](#)