

MAMA News



Summer
2016

5

Reasons to Support MAMA Project!

(in no particular order)

#1

Children receive an education!

Katie Mast recently traveled to Haiti to visit the student she and her husband sponsor. She shares her experience below.

Long before the dawn's early light, we heard the roosters. And barking dogs. Here we were, waking up in Haiti! In December, we had responded to the invitation given by Bob Delp, MAMA Project Haiti Sponsorship Coordinator, for sponsors to accompany him on his trip. Now we were in Labaleine, living out that invitation.

Our sponsored student, Maquilaine is in university, studying nursing. Her picture hangs from a magnetized clip on our refrigerator door. We had received an appreciative letter from her, greeting us in the name of Jesus. But now we were in her world, experiencing it first-hand, and would soon get to meet her face-to-face.

Her father appeared at the gate first, then Maquilaine. They were warm and gentle and a little bit shy. I asked Maquilaine why she wanted to become a nurse. She said she has a desire to take care of people, to help people in her community and in her country, that she sees the needs. She asked that we pray that she learns well and remains healthy. We shared hugs and took pictures before Maquilaine had to leave to go back to where she attends school. It was a sweet and moving encounter for us.

The next day we visited the family's house. There we met Maquilaine's father again, and her mother, who has a mental illness. The family is poor and life has been hard, but her father's face reflected contentment and peace. When asked what gives him joy in life, he answered without hesitation, "my faith in God." It gives him strength, he said. And there are things God has given him that he never would have imagined on his own, like his daughter getting a university education.

Prior to sponsoring Maquilaine, we supported Osner. He was studying

Agriculture, and we learned that after graduating from university he returned to Labaleine, where he currently teaches at the school and works with the tree nursery. After church on Sunday we had the great pleasure of personally meeting him and his new wife of 2 months.

On Monday morning, the previously quiet Tree of Life school grounds came to life with the energy of children's voices as the 450 students gathered to begin the day. We learned that some of these students walk as much as 4.5 km each day, each way, to attend school. We peeked in classrooms, watched boys playing soccer with a tennis ball and kids eating lunch that the school provides. We helped Bob take individual pictures of sponsored students and those needing a sponsor. Despite the language barrier, smiles were abundant and the joyful presence of children felt everywhere.

We were wonderfully cared for throughout our visit by our host, Richard. He shared his home and his time, patiently answering questions, explaining and showing us so many things which helped us gain a multidimensional understanding of Haiti. Crippling poverty, lack of infrastructure, high unemployment, and deforestation are obvious problems. Lack of opportunity looms large. Education there is a lifeline, a pathway to move forward. And this not just for the individual, but for the benefit of the entire family, which strengthens the community as well.

For us, sponsoring a child at Tree of Life school or at the university is an investment in children and families that brings maximum benefit. By sharing some of the resources God has given us, we can partner with God to help bring healing and hope to our brothers and sisters around the world. Experiencing this directly by visiting Labaleine in person and connecting with the people there was deeply joyous and life changing for us.

"And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8



Photo Credit: Katie Mast

#2 Many receive material aid!

Donations Wanted: School Supplies

Throughout the year, we collect material donations that will be shipped with teams in their suitcases or in the 40 foot container. MAMA commits to sending 1 container each year.

Recently we expressed our needs for finances to send all of the donations in our warehouse. **THANK YOU** to each of you that sent donations, helped pack the container, and helped pay for the shipment of goods.

The donations are being distributed right now in Honduras. Some medical equipment was given to a public hospital in Comayagua and other items were given to other local public clinics. A lot of the donations will be used in our Nutrition Center and in the communities we visit.



When you see the school supplies in the aisles of the stores, don't forget to purchase for the children in Honduras. We are always short in supplies to distribute in schools in the poor, rural communities as well as for use in our Nutrition Center.

- Spiral or Composition Notebooks
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pencils, erasers & pencil sharpeners
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Watercolor paints & paintbrushes
- Glue
- Backpacks

Mail donations or drop off at the office at:
MAMA Project, Inc. , 2781A Geryville Pike, Pennsburg, PA 18073

To find a list of other acceptable donations, visit www.MAMAProject.org or contact the office at 215-679-4338



#3 Expanding Programs!

Recently land became available in Honduras behind the mission house and towards the Nutrition Center and MAMA could not pass it up, it was a decision that needed to be made quickly. Although MAMA does not have plans to build on these properties, possessing them would allow for expansion in the future. We are looking forward to expanding our gardens and poultry programs onto part of this property. Please consider helping to cover the cost of this plot of land.



Photo Credit:
Kristen Kidd Photography



Mission House



**Nutritional
Rehabilitation
Center**



#4 Children's lives are saved!

MAMA Project's Nutrition Center saves lives! Malnourished children are brought with their families to stay at the Center. The mothers learn about 20 different topics during their stay - all about healthy living. They also learn about fortifying their food at home with MAMA's micronutrient powder. The children receive the necessary medicines and care but most of all they all receive healthy food.

Once the children have recuperated from malnutrition, the families return to their homes, empowered with new knowledge. Many of the mothers become leaders in their communities, helping more families to live healthy lives.

Below a family arrives at the Nutrition Center. Many times the mothers look forward to learning from other mothers during their stay. The children participate in many activities as well.

A mother and daughter in the Center help prepare dinner for everyone.



When a family leaves the Nutrition Center, they return to their villages with a lot of knowledge, an in-home water purification system, suitcases of clothes, plants for their garden, and some keets (baby guinea hens).

#5 *It's our responsibility!*

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts.” Romans 12:4-6 (NIV)

We each have a way to contribute to the needs around the world. We encourage you to use your gifts where you see fit.

- Is it by joining a mission team and serving in Honduras?
- Is it by collecting material donations to send to the people in need?
- Is it by donating financially so that MAMA can continue Child Survival Programs?
- Is it by praying for MAMA Project, the Staff, and the people MAMA serves?

Often times the job of helping children and families in need seems impossible to complete but we think of *The Starfish Story* and remember that we'll continue helping *one more child*, just as we believe God desires us to!

The Starfish Story

Original Story by: Loren Easley

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?”

The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die.”

“Son,” the man said, “Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!”

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, “I made a difference for that one.”



*Consider supporting MAMA's
Child Survival Programs Today!*

Help make a difference for **that one child** (or family)!

Donations can be made online at www.MAMAProject.org or by check to MAMA Project, Inc., 2781A Geryville Pike, Pennsburg, PA 18073

Please remember to take advantage of company matching gifts, Amazon Smile, Goodsearch, Network for Good, or the Combined Federal Campaign (for PA state & national employees), and planned giving.

For more information see www.MAMAProject.org or contact the Office at 215-679-4338 or info@mamaproject.org

A Glance at MAMA Project

Statistics from January-June 2016

56

communities visited in poor, rural Honduras this year

12

teams in Honduras in 2016

580

malnourished children found in communities (some will be treated in their communities; others at the Center when space allows)

47

children were given care at the Nutrition Center this year

180

volunteers to Honduras in 2016

10,350

people receiving micronutrient bags

20

mothers were given education at the Nutrition Center this year

90

children sponsored in Haiti

144

cement floors poured in homes

MAMA Project

Mujeres Amigas-Miles Apart
(Women Friends-Miles Apart)

Nutritional Rehabilitation
Medical & Dental Brigades
Work Teams

Cross Cultural Training

Deworming &
Vitamin A Campaigns

Donating Medical & Dental
Equipment & Supplies

Community Development
Scholarships

Child Survival Training

The MAMA News is a quarterly newsletter available for free to anyone who would like to receive it. To add, remove or change your address on our mailing list, contact:

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MAMA Project is a Non-Profit Charitable Organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code— Federal Tax Identification #23-2993647.

All donations given to MAMA Project are tax-deductible and a receipt will be sent to donor.

All photos were taken by MAMA Project Staff or Service Team Members.