

NUTRITION CENTERS

2011 ANNUAL REPORT – PLANS FOR 2012

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The Nutrition Centers:

In all primitive societies branded by injustice and blatant disregard for human life, the majority of victims lie among the women and children.

Our Nutrition Centers are dedicated to the care of children from infancy through 4 year-olds, with regard to their nutritional, psychological, social and familial dimensions. As they outgrow the age range at the nutrition centers, this same concern for their well-being follows them on into our preschools, primary schools, and secondary schools.

Presently, there are former Nutrition Center beneficiaries who are near completion of their university studies...amazing success stories, considering their origins. The child is a future adult—the future hope of a nation.

This year, we were able to open two additional nutrition centers—we had hoped for five—but couldn't manage it. This brings the current number of centers up to nineteen. It has increased the number of children served in the Nutrition Centers from 1,260 to approximately 1,560 plus an additional 50 school-aged children. We serve a total of approximately 12,400 hot meals per week.

Centre Merceron (one of the two newest additions) also has a small primary school in addition to the Nutrition Center. Approximately 200 younger children and 50 school-aged children receive one hot meal per day. The second center is in Pleine de l'Arbre in the area of l'Artibonite, and approximately 100 young children receive one hot meal per day there.

In all of the other 17 Nutrition Centers, we have been able to provide two hot meals per day (breakfast, and midday dinner), as well as filtered water for drinking. With the addition of the latest two centers, we had to employ an additional 14 people (1 center coordinator, 3 monitors, 1 monitor-aide, and 2 cooks—for each center). We plan to increase the meals served in these last two centers up to what we provide in the other 17—specifically—two hot meals per day (instead of one), and filtered drinking water.

In all of our centers, we celebrate the birthday of each child, with the intention of helping to build their self-esteem. In a society where children are viewed as “little animals”, by the vast majority, it is important to recognize their innate value. We also provide small gifts for them at Christmas and the New Year.

The Nutrition Centers work with the parents to increase their understanding of nutrition, hygiene, child development, health, and to promote better parenting skills and solidarity amongst the

mothers. We strive to educate the parents with regard to old taboos or wives-tales that have a negative effect on the nutritional status of the children (e.g. children who eat eggs will have rotten teeth, etc.)

With the current government, virtually all international aid is at a standstill. Fear of government misappropriation has dried up inter-governmental aid—and the economy is at its lowest point ever. We have received requests from at least 12 other localities to open Nutrition Centers in their areas. We're sure that next year, these requests will probably double.

It is not possible at this time to respond to all of these requests. In the meantime, we have done our best to continue with the construction of neighborhood lakes to encourage agricultural production at the local level. We have provided community liaisons to encourage local participation in the irrigation of farmland, updated agricultural methods, fish-farming, etc. Most recently we have excavated 10 lakes in the area of Thomasique.

We currently have a processing plant in Pandiassou which takes lake water and produces filtered potable water. Plans are underway to build a small factory, in Pandiassou, which will produce the actual filtration equipment itself. With the equipment produced by our own factory, we would like to establish water filtration processing plants nearby all of the lakes that we have created throughout the country.

Although we are not able to open 12 new Nutrition Centers in this coming year—we are not deaf to the needs of these people. On December 21st we plan on offering a day of celebration for young children and their parents at various locations, scattered amongst some of the most remote areas. There will be food and gifts for about 300 additional children who are not enrolled in our Nutrition Centers—for now, that is the most that we can offer them.

As ever, we and they rely on God's Providence...and the faithfulness of His devoted friends.

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