espwa

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

LES CAYES, HAITI

Mission

To alleviate the devastating effects of poverty on vulnerable children in Southern Haiti

About ESPWA

ESPWA was founded in 1998 as a traditional orphanage. Over the course of 22 years of serving vulnerable Haitian children we have learned much about best practices in child development and the difficulties faced by families in extreme poverty.

As a result, **we evolved from an orphanage to a child development center**– to make every attempt to keep children in the most natural and supportive environment possible

– the family.

We Believe

Children develop best in caring families...
Families strengthen in vibrant communities...
Communities secure the future through their children.

"As a social worker working in the field of child protection, I know that a child who is deprived of a family environment faces significant harm, could suffer developmental problems, long-term psychological injuries, risks academic failure and finally risks being cut off from the social fabric they need to grow up to adulthood."

Clifford CHARLES, PES Social Worker

How we help families

- Provide scholarships for children
- Encourage long-term food support through farming & animal husbandry
- Provide safe shelter through home repairs or new home construction
- Encourage economic growth with training & job creation
- Counseling and vocational skill training is provided for parents

FAMILY PRESERVATION

ESPWA provides services to preserve the family unit.

Our Model of Service

Families offer the best hope of a nurturing environment for developing children. In Haiti however, providing for children and their education is often a challenge.

Through the **reunification of children** previously living at ESPWA, we have learned that Haitian parents relinquish their children when faced with daily economic crises that prevent them from providing basic needs for their children.

Our program strives to keep families together with education and counseling aimed to empower families to achieve long-term success.

Approx.
90%

of children in Haiti have at least one, if not two, living parents

Our desired outcomes for families:

- Families and children live together in their own homes, as much as possible.
- For families in crisis to regain their children within a couple of years of engaging with us.
- For resident children, to maximize the time families build relationships with them at Espwa.

Esta's Story

Esta lived at Espwa for 3 years after her mother, out of desperation, sought help from Espwa to ensure she received the opportunity to receive an education. Her father abandoned her at a young age, leaving Esta's mother, Ketleine, to take care of her and her brother all on her own. With little economic means to support her children, Ketleine made a very difficult decision to be separated from her daughter, only 4 years old.

After 3 years, we celebrate their reunification - Esta has returned home. Here, she is lucky to be guided by two courageous women: her mother and her grandmother. Here, she lives with 7 other extended family members, including her younger brother. Here, she receives the protection, loving relationships, and embracing affection of a family.

Through the Family Preservation Program, Esta and Ketleine still have access to services from Espwa. Since the opportunity for an education was one of Katleine's motivations for finding help for Esta, Espwa is still providing scholarship support, covering the costs of registration, uniforms, and books.

"I missed Esta so much, like any mother would. It feels so good to have my child home with me" - Esta's Mother

Ketleine, who did not finish school and is unable to read and write, will have access to classes on literacy, parenting, and life skills. She will also receive support in starting her own business raising goats - her next goal to help provide for her family.

With services at Espwa, Ketleine will be the best mom she can be for her kids.Esta and Ketleine inspire us with their courage in the face of great adversity, and with their resilient faith, hope and love that bring them together.

AT-RISK CRISIS CARE

Our desired outcomes for children:

- Children under our care develop on task or are caught up-to-task.
- Children transition to permanent family placement
- We care for children with an exceptional staff who are qualified and continually trained.

Exceptional Care

ESPWA's Crisis Care provides temporary placement for children while families regain their ability to care for their child(ren) Children are reunified with their families or alternative family placement is chosen.

DISASTER-PROOF DOME HOUSING

We work collaboratively with IBESR in our assessments and child placement

Children in our residential care receive quality care, education, medical care, and services that will prepare them for reunification.

EDUCATION

Educating for Success

On the campus of Pwoje Espwa Sud (PES), we offer Pre-K through University Prep education. We set high academic standards in our schools while facilitating student achievement through caring assistance beyond the classroom.

Religious education is offered during the school day, which develops the spiritual, moral, ethical, and service culture of our youth.

Our desired outcomes for students:

- Children who attend our schools excel academically, opening their opportunities for professional and vocational careers.
- Our students receive a spiritual, moral and ethical grounding which they practice throughout their lives.
- Our schools are staffed by certified teachers who care about their students' success and freely assist those who are struggling.

An education is one of the most prized and valued possessions for a child in Haiti

We support students by:

- Providing scholarships to vulnerable community students
- Providing books and supplies to resident students on scholarships
- Providing uniforms to resident students and students on scholarships
- Providing hot school lunches to all students

EDUCATION

900 Students at ESPWA

350 Students at Camp Perrin

300+ Scholarships at community schools

Education is offered to families with vulnerable children at a reduced tuition rate or full scholarship.

LIFE SKILLS & VOCATIONAL

Building Confidence & Dreams

Our after school programs enable our children to reach their highest potential, build confidence and dream big. Enrichment activities also include job exploration and professional development opportunities through in-house experiences and internships with key partners.

Our desired outcomes:

- Both resident and community children are prepared for independent living and able to make professional and vocational choices for their futures.
- Our afterschool programs are well structured and provide wholesome experiences that develop our children as leaders in service of their communities and country.
- Our children develop a zeal for life through diverse experiences in music, arts, dance, and sports.

- Internships
- Skill Development
- Job Exploration
- Art, Music, & Dance

- Sports
- Youth Activities
- & Much More

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Faith
Hope
Love

ESPWA

Catholic religious education and pastoral activities are a core element of our child values development and morale decision-making education at ESPWA schools.

Religious Education

- Weekly Classes
- Structured curriculum
- Guided by a local Catholic Priest

Pastoral Programs in After School

- Sacramental development
- Liturgical formation
- Youth Service Activities in the community

Weekly Mass Service

- Offered by a visiting Catholic Priest from local parish
- Open to community families

YOUNG ADULT EMPOWERMENT

Empowering Futures

The **Young Adult Empowerment Program** offers a broad range of services to prepare and guide the students toward a productive career.

Educators and community leaders mentor youth to achieve professional success, live independent lives, develop civic responsibility and life skills.

Inspiring young adults to envision opportunities

Students are:

- Mentored by licensed social workers & psychologists
- Provided opportunities for hands-on job training
- Guided in ethical decision-making
- Taught financial literacy & technical skills
- And, most importantly, provided a network of support for the success for each student.

YOUNG ADULT EMPOWERMENT

Our desired outcomes for young adults:

- Achieve professional success
- Ability to live independent lives to the glory of God, themselves, their families, and Haiti
- Develop a sense of civic responsibility to their community
- Grow through ongoing mentoring & skill development

It's all about the KIDS!

Faith, Hope, & Love

WE SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN EVERY CHILD WE SERVE

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

–1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, 13

This quote from Scripture defines the core values of our mission in Haiti... Faith, Hope and Love.

FAITH

We have faith and trust that God will guide us to the best possible outcomes for the individuals and families we serve.

HOPE

We hope and pray for God's assistance in the midst of difficultly and confusion. Through hope we remain optimistic, looking forward to the future with joy.

LOVE

We look on those most in need with compassion and love. We are compassionate towards those who are helpless, supportive of those in need, and eager to empower those capable of developing their futures.

OVERTURE INTERNATIONAL

Overture International supports the programs & activities at ESPWA in Les Cayes, Haiti.

Support programs at ESPWA

Mail Checks to:

Overture International
Attn: ESPWA
PO Box 16045
High Point NC 27261

Text:

ESPWA
to 44-321

Donate Online at:

www.Overture.International

info@ooihaiti.com
336.870.5723

Overture Outreach International
(dba Overture International)
is a registered 501c3 corporation.
Tax ID: 82-0747699