

You Can Change Someone's Life

Issue 20

Here's How



Thank you!

In March a real difference is being made in Haiti, thanks to the generosity of HelpAge Canada donors. On October 4, last year, Hurricane Matthew hit the south-western tip of Haiti with 230 km/h winds. More than 800 Haitians lost their lives. Much of the city of Camp Perrin was destroyed. The St.Vincent de Paul Society runs a home called The Good Samaritan, where a dozen seniors live, and thanks to funding from the HelpAge sponsors, it also

supports 20 persons who live in their own homes in and around Camp Perrin. With the initial results of the appeal we launched in October, we can start providing help to our Haitian partners who need it most. On the phone, Mrs Yolène Léonard was grateful for a first transfer, to the amount of USD 5,000 (about CAD 6,900). "We are very happy that you can help to fix the damage done by Hurricane Matthew."



Martin had started to build this small house for his family when the storm levelled it. Now his home is about to be rebuilt.



Martin Jean Bart in an earlier photo.



The head of The Good Samaritan, Yolène Léonard, helping a resident.

**HelpAge
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age helps

Responding to extreme poverty



Miloge Orgella's home after Hurricane Matthew. Miloge, her daughter and two granddaughters currently live in a hut. They will return to their little house as soon as repairs are finished.



Miloge Orgella in 2013.

The poverty is such in Haiti that, until now, the St.Vincent de Paul Society did not even have the minimum resources to start repairs on The Good Samaritan or on the homes of the Grans living in the community. Now, thanks to HelpAge donors, things are about to change: "We are going to start by repairing the homes of the Grans," said Mrs. Yolène Léonard, the person in charge of The Good Samaritan Home at the St.Vincent de Paul Society. HelpAge and its Canadian sponsors are the single most important source of revenues for this local

partner (as is often the case in the seven countries where we run out sponsorship program).

Yet there are additional concerns: the hurricane destroyed crops and fruit trees, adding to the misery. The price of food and of most goods has increased substantially. Under these circumstances, the fact that the property of The Good Samaritan is only partly fenced creates a serious problem. At every hour of day or night, people enter the property and steal chickens or eggs.

Another difficulty is the absence of electricity. The local power company struggles to provide

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The Good Samaritan Home needs to be fenced to prevent people from entering the property and stealing chickens and eggs.

There are two sure ways to make a difference for these Haitian seniors:

Responding to extreme poverty
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electricity more than twelve hours per day. Customers sometimes spend weeks without any power. As a result, people use candles in closed spaces, which is a health risk. The Good Samaritan also cannot refrigerate or freeze food.

Solving these two problems, by building a two-meter high fence and installing a protected solar panel system, requires about CAD 11,000. The St.Vincent de Paul Society has a very good record of accomplishment when it comes to such projects, with us and other Canadian donors.

The amount of CAD 11,000 is small considering the immediate and long-term improvements it will make in the lives of dozens of older persons. The hurricane was a local catastrophe, but for some people, your support will mean a lot.



Gérard used to live here with three of his children. Now he is forced to live in a hut, but his home is soon going to be rebuilt.

Gérard François



Louise Barthold cannot live in her home. Except for our partner, she has no one to help her.



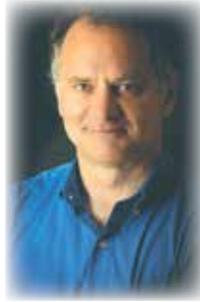
The main structure of The Good Samaritan withstood the hurricane.

1) by making a donation;
2) by sponsoring a person for \$34 per month.

They overcame the hurricane

Jacques Bertrand
Executive Director

Last Fall, just before Hurricane Matthew hit part of Haiti, one of our Canadian volunteers made a monitoring visit to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the town of Camp Perrin. The Society runs the home The Good Samaritan.



Having visited The Good Samaritan myself a couple of years before, I was eager to look at the new photos of the people we sponsor. What never fails to move me is the gratitude in their eyes. One of my best memories is saying hello to Orsève Brutus (pages 1 and 4). I don't know very much about him, except that he used to live off the streets in a different town, all by himself. Then someone noticed his condition and found a place for him at The Good Samaritan. His health is not good and he is confined to a wheelchair, but his life is immensely better than before he moved into the home. When told I was with HelpAge, he gave me the most beautiful smile and said in creole: "merci anpil!" (thank you very much!).

Sponsored seniors like him realize that, against all odds, someone in a far away country cared enough to dedicate \$34 per month to an old person they will never meet. There is something dreamlike to this, and despite all the constraints and difficulties in their environment, the seniors sense that magic.

The strong advantage to the way we provide help is that the partners and the Grans are very familiar to us; they are not numbers. This means that when a natural disaster hits one of our partners, we have a good idea of the suffering that is taking place.

The people who run The Good Samaritan are totally dedicated to the Grans. With strong increases in the price of food and the need to rebuild, they need our solidarity more than ever.

Thank you!

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Ways you can give:

Planned Gift

You can leave behind a legacy that can be arranged through your estate planning or financial plan. Such a gift is your opportunity to participate in the charitable and community works that matter most to you.



Monthly Giving

Our pre-authorized monthly giving option is a simple way to make regular contributions to improve and maintain the quality of life of vulnerable older persons.



Sponsor an Older Person

Through our local partners in seven countries you can respond to the basic needs of an older person for just \$34 a month.

Cataract Surgeries

With a donation of \$20 a month you fund cataract surgeries for seniors in isolated and rural areas of India.



Contributions will be used for the purpose(s), if any, specified by the donor. However, if in the judgment of HelpAge Canada, such purpose(s) become unnecessary, undesirable, impractical or impossible to fill, HelpAge Canada may use such contributions for its general purposes.

Newsletter cover photo: Orsève Brutus, a resident of The Good Samaritan home, in Camp Perrin, Haiti.



Thank you for caring

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