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2021 ANNUAL REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The entire year of 2021 resembled the Christian Advent season... a year of blessings and anticipation. Would schools open back up following political unrest and COVID-19 precautions? Would our staff and students remain safe and healthy? Would our on-site missionaries be able to remain in country? Would we be able to travel as a Board to see the progress of our new campus construction? Would we be able to interview candidates for our new Operations Manager position? So much anticipation!

We remained faithful and were rewarded for that faith. While schools remained closed, several of the students not able to return to their families for safety reasons remained at HDA, as did most of our staff. By the grace of God, with new safety precautions in place, both staff and students remained COVID-free and safe from local political unrest.

Since opening our doors in 2013, the vision of our founders and Board members included the provision of a family style housing, a better learning environment for our students and a full-time, on-site Operations Manager. Little did we know that 2021, crazy as it was, would be the year things would actually happen.

Throughout our first nine years, the Lord has blessed us with amazing staff, supervisors and Missionaries. Unfortunately, our on-site Directors/Missionaries, due to safety concerns, transitioned to



stateside service but remained valuable members of the team. Through regular Zoom communication with staff and students, the now stateside Directors/Missionaries, Meredith and Keith Henderson, as well as Board members, were able to stay in touch, continuously impressed by the talents of the Haitian staff, as they stepped up to manage

operations beautifully. (Pictured are Supervisors Badio and Farah with their son and Missionaries, Meredith and Keith Henderson.)

For the 16 students remaining at HDA, staff increased their tutoring efforts, in particular around life skills training, and made much progress teaching the students how to manage sample small businesses by budgeting, purchasing supplies, cooking items in demand and then successfully selling them in the local market.



Meanwhile, in record speed, the promised new campus, graciously offered to us by the Tim Tebow Foundation and Lifesong International at the close of 2020, was under construction, due for completion in January 2022. Despite supply chain

challenges, the local Lifesong MBO leadership team oversaw construction and managed to meet the optimistic timeline. To say this campus is a dream come true is an understatement. Yes, we had faith, but to have the facilities donated and created by such amazing, like-minded partners is further confirmation that hope, faith and prayer are rewarded.

While the timing of our decision to hire a full-time, on-site Operations Manager may have been off, due to the country being somewhat “shut down,” the good Lord sent us an obvious choice. Zoom interviews and an in person visit in the US, confirmed for us that Shauna Thompson was one more blessing for HDA in 2021. In the last days of the year, Shauna and her husband relocated to the Lifesong campus and began their next life's chapter, while fulfilling our dreams of having a full-time, on-site manager.

Please read the highlights section for more detail about HDA life in 2021. As the year ended, we felt blessed that the anticipation with which we started the year ended with our cups full and great excitement for continued growth of this very special ministry.

IMPACT NUMBERS

Students enrolled (ages 4-18 years)	41
Female residential students	16
Female day students	2
Male residential students	19
Male day students	4
Full time staff	20
Part time staff	4
Number of Deaf staff	13
Total impact, including students/student families and staff/staff families	294

FINANCIALS



Operational expenses for the Haiti Deaf Academy are covered by child sponsorships, grants, church partners and individual donors. The annual budget is approximately \$250,000. Our 990 Tax forms are posted on the organization's website, under "About US/Financial Information".

HDA remains committed to using funds to invest in the whole person.

VISION STATEMENT

The Haiti Deaf Academy is a non-profit, nondenominational Christian organization striving to educate, employ, empower and encourage, so that every Haitian child with a hearing loss may know and reach their God-given potential.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Haiti Deaf Academy offers a transformational program, leading to self-reliance by providing language, academic and vocational training and both physical and spiritual nourishment for deaf & hard of hearing children, their families and deaf adult staff.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Our five-member Board of Directors is actively involved in the ministry by providing a weekly operations update and prayer support call with the local Haitian Dorm Supervisor and the American Directors/Missionaries.

2021 Board of Directors

Chairman	Stephanie Deeb, RN Tampa, FL sdeeb71@gmail.com
Treasurer	Leslie Wildermuth Downingtown, PA LHWildermuth@gmail.com
Financial Advisor	Josh Reaktenwalt Iowa Josnreaktenwalt@gmail.com
Sponsorship Coordination	Darwin Covington Walker, Iowa darwin@haitideafacademy.com
Member at Large	Julie Lawson Powder Springs, GA Julie.lawsonhda@gmail.com
Member at Large /Founder	Margaret Spratlin Atlanta, GA margaret@haitideafacademy.com
Advisory Committee	
Hearing Health and Development/Founder	Cathy Jones Ponte Vedra, FL Cathyhjones@gmail.com
Education and Student Family Relationships	Ellen Rolader Atlanta, GA
HDA Directors/ Missionaries	Meredith and Keith Henderson

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 Response

The COVID -19 pandemic closed all schools, including HDA for the entire school year. To our knowledge, our staff, students and their families remained virus free.

Academics

For academic classes, HDA students are enrolled in a local hearing school with several classes dedicated to deaf students. Due to spring 2020 disruption in school attendance for political unrest and COVID-19, all students will repeat the academic year in which they were enrolled during 2020.

Despite the cancellation of academic classes, HDA tutoring continued for those students remaining on campus. With each passing year, tutoring success continues, with HDA staff tutors customizing for each student, in both academic and life skills training.

Prior to the local school's closing shortly after the start of the fall 2021 academic year, our Dorm Supervisor and lead tutor, Badio, visited the school attended by our deaf students. Most of the classes in this school are for hearing students and Badio found himself in a situation where teachers were not present. Needing an activity and a natural teacher himself, he started a competition among the students. Deaf versus hearing... name the 10 departments of Haiti and the capital city in each department.

Then he asked Raudenel C. and Zacari G. to represent the Deaf students. When the hearing students did not know the answers and the Deaf students did, the hearing students asked Badio if



he would please come to school and be their teacher! And it gave the Deaf students a new sense of pride and accomplishment, because they saw that they had more knowledge about Haiti than the hearing students. A great example of the success of the tutoring that occurs at Haiti Deaf Academy and a wonderful integration moment, as the hearing students were shown first hand just how smart the deaf students are!

Life Skills/Vocational Training

- Goat care. As plans were developing for HDA to move to the Lifesong campus, a trio of Life Skills students were chosen to participate in a Goat Care Class on the compound. Two mornings a week they went to Lifesong. On Tuesdays their mornings started by joining the Lifesong employees in their weekly Chapel service. Lifesong already employs two Deaf adults and had an interpreter for the Chapel service so the Life Skills students were able to join right in. They had an opportunity to learn useful skills and observe other aspects of goat care, i.e., vaccinations and medicine doses used to keep the animals healthy. One of these students wants to return home and help his father on their farm when he graduates. He was very grateful for the opportunity to learn goat husbandry.

- Cooking and Selling "Street Food". Weekly the Life Skills students prepare a Haitian street food called Patè. They learned every aspect of the business i.e., purchasing the ingredients, preparing



the dough and meat fillings, starting the charcoal grill, assembling the patès, frying them, and selling them.

Another common food item sold on the street is Egg Sandwiches. Onions and peppers are sauteed and then eggs are scrambled in the same pan. Once cooked, it is

placed in bread and sold.

The third item readily available on the street is spaghetti. It starts with onions and peppers, too. Then cooked spaghetti pasta is combined with the seasoning and sold in a single serving size.

The students are learning all aspects of the business cycle.

Spiritual Development

God is at work. Morning devotionals are a routine start to each day. Weekly Bible classes and church attendance are valued by all. In addition, at the end of each day, students and staff gather in small groups to talk about the day, discussing the challenges, as well as God's work in their lives. Whether one can understand every sign or not, watching students pray in their beautiful sign language is inspiring. HDA continues to provide a spiritually healing community for the students. Making sure they understand God's love is a priority.

Loss in 2021



The HDA family mourned when we learned of the passing of our student, Julbernard, while he was home during the month of July. After visiting his herd of goats up in the mountains, he developed an infection in his foot. The infection became systemic and in spite of seeking medical care, a few days later he passed away. We were sad to hear of his passing, but greatly encouraged because just three months earlier, Julbernard placed his trust in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Haiti is a difficult country and many people die of illnesses that we consider to be minor. All the students were saddened to learn that Julbernard would not be returning for the new school year, but encouraged to think of seeing him again in Heaven. And they were reminded of how valuable their HDA friendships are. A painful but valuable life lesson for the students.

Staff

The HDA staff continue to mature and develop more skills in trauma informed care for the students, as each student arrives having experienced trauma on some level. HDA contracted with Bethany Christian International for 10 hours of training in the summer and fall of 2021 to prepare the staff as they transition from dormitory care to family style care. Our future cottage parents visited other local

organizations that provide student care to learn about their best practices and the challenges for which they can be prepared.

Hear Haiti

Remote hearing clinics were cancelled due to the political unrest and security issues around Haiti. In 2021, the focus shifted to training local talent, building and equipping an Ear Clinic in Bercy and evaluating and remediating those we could locally reach. We are looking forward to the opening of the clinic, which will provide early intervention and regular screenings for the community, as well as hearing devices as needed.

In April 2021 Hear Haiti held a small hearing clinic for the screening of potential new students. One such student was a 4-year-old boy who was found to have greatly enlarged tonsils and thick fluid in his ears. A possible cause of 'medical deafness', HDA arranged for a Haitian ENT to remove his tonsils and adenoids and place ear tubes in his ears.



Funds for his surgery were raised through a grant from a US Ear Nose and Throat medical practice. As an additional hurdle, the child suffered from severe sickle cell anemia and his hemoglobin was at a dangerous level, necessitating pre-op

blood transfusions. Receiving a transfusion in Haiti means you must have family members or friends donate to the blood bank first and then blood will be made available to the patient. This was a temporary setback. Eventually, the blood was made available and he underwent surgery successfully.

We are awaiting his post op hearing screen to assess any improvement in his hearing and to help his mother determine if he should attend HDA or possibly a hearing school. We are proud to have played a part in potentially changing this direction of this boy's life.

Healthcare

- 2021 was a challenging year for medical care in Haiti. After President Moise was assassinated, gang activity in the capital reached such a high level with diesel and gas supplies blocked. Many of the hospitals shut their doors due to lack of power, creating a humanitarian crisis.
- Two HDA students were unable to access follow up care starting in August 2021. Despite these problems our student with seizures has been stable with few breakthrough seizures. Our post operative orthopedic patient has received a heel lift for his shorter leg and we await a fitting for this.
- We received a generous grant this school year for a school nurse who is adding significantly to our team, particularly during the current challenging times when our onsite care is more important than ever.
- An additional “emergency relief” grant provided by Global Ministries (The United Methodist Church) has allowed for the continued provision of nutritious food and clean drinking water for a part of the school year. This assistance was needed as inflation and the unsteady economy greatly impacted the cost of food and the fuel needed to access food.
- All present students received two Haitian Orphanage Medical Support (HOMS) visits, providing Height/Weight and upper arm circumference measurements as well as Albendazole worm and Vitamin A supplements. All students have remained within a healthy height and weight for age.
- All students received daily multivitamins.

Facilities



Diverglas House (Kay Diverglas) in Cabaret has been a wonderful temporary location for HDA in 2021. In addition to being safer structurally, the neighborhood is much quieter than our previous location and the grounds provide a bit more room for soccer, bike riding, and other fun outdoor activities.

The best facility news, however, is the progress toward having a place where HDA will have a permanent home. Lifesong International and the Tim Tebow Foundation are building five cottages for HDA on the Lifesong compound in Bercy, Haiti. 2021 has been a fun year of dreaming and planning for our transition from dormitory housing to family style homes for the HDA students.

Families

When family members interact with Haiti Deaf Academy – bringing the child or picking them up – they have a Haitian Sign Language class. Our goal is to help them communicate more effectively with their child and develop a positive attachment with them. We are in the midst of creating sets of 50 basic sign cards in HSL as a learning tool. There will be a photo of the object or action, with the word in Creole, on one side and a photo of the sign on the other. These cards will be shared with families and interested community members. Lack of sign language creates a huge barrier within family units and in communities in which the Deaf live. The more people exposed to sign language, the more effectively the Deaf can integrate into their surrounding communities.

Looking ahead...

We look forward to sharing the many benefits of being on the new Lifesong campus as things evolve during 2022. Too many to mention in this report, some of them include safety, family style cottages and caregiving more in line with real life in Haiti, greenspace to run and play, integration into a welcoming hearing community, opportunity for life skills development such as goat care/gardening and close proximity to potential vocational training. Thank you for your continued prayers as we end 2021 and enter 2022 with more potential for our students. We pray that we will continue be careful stewards of the resources and students with whom we have been entrusted.

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2021 Staff