

Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

Serving the Lord in Haiti



“VINI ANSANM”: COME TOGETHER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY MUSIC DEVELOPMENT IN PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI

We are happy to announce that the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education has been selected to receive an International Society for Music Education Grant to help to further the work of music education for children with disabilities in Haiti. Our Haitian Center for Inclusive Education (HCIE) board is comprised of Gertrude Bien Aime, Donald DeVito, Hannah Ehrli, Jamie Schumacher and Sandy Jones.

Grant leaders: Gertrude Bien Aime (Notre Maison Orphanage and Founder of the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education and Dr. Donald DeVito HCIE advisory board member. The Haitian Center for Inclusive Education advisory board partners and works with Harvest International to help carry out the important work of inclusion in Haiti.

A recipient of the 2016 International Society for Music Education's World Conference Award, Gertrude Bien Aime stated at the conference there are currently no formalized community music activities available to children. Haiti ranks 149th out of 177 countries on the 2009 United Nations Human Development Index and 90 percent unemployment prior to the earthquake, hurricane and recent riots.

Dr. Donald DeVito is developing a special education program at the Notre Maison Orphanage in Haiti for children with and without disabilities. During this time, Bien Aime and DeVito have developed an inclusive music ensemble for the 50 children at Notre Maison, delivered inclusive education training through music for 400 Haitian school teachers and DeVito has edited the first book on inclusive education for Haitian teachers. Through their work, community music is now in a position to act as an exemplar for inclusive special education in Haiti and has begun to transform the perception of Special Educational Needs (SEN) children in the community. In 2017, Bien Aime and DeVito established a team of six Haitian and four US educators who founded the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education, which in its first year served academic instruction for 60 children and nearly 100 this August, 2018. This work is partnered with Harvest International.

a. Innovation:

This innovative approach utilizes social media technology, best practice of special education and music education approaches implemented at Notre Maison, and a philosophy of social justice. As a result, community music is now in a position to act as an exemplar for inclusive special education in Haiti and has begun to transform the way that children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are perceived in the community.

b. Direct impact:

We will have a direct impact on the strategic possibilities of this work by: identifying, training and professionalizing 10 musicians and educators from across all of Haiti to become music leaders (5 per year); creating an appropriate bank of musical and pedagogical resources for Haitian children both with and without disabilities; and raising the profile of inclusive music education within the whole of Haiti. The work led by Gertrude Bien Aime and Dr. Donald DeVito will primarily take place at the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education and Notre Maison Orphanage.

<https://m.soundcloud.com/wuft/don-devito>

c. Potential for wider influence and/or sustainability:

This approach will act as a pilot for further development both in Haiti and as an example for implementation in other low HDI countries and settings internationally.

d. Cost-effectiveness:

The ISME grant provides a \$6,000 funding source, which given the economy in Haiti will be sufficient for implementation. This is due to the groundwork of social capital that has taken place through positive collaboration and communication leading up to the awarding of this grant. Outputs:

- Year One: Piloting of Community Music Training in partnership with Notre Maison through two separate week-long intensive courses and further training through social media (see attachment).
- Year Two: Piloting use of Haitian learning resources (SEN and non-SEN) across four orphanages and schools in Port au Prince and Cap-Haitien. Present a seminar on Developing Inclusive Music Education and Community Music. Continue dialogue with government agencies to consult on a draft curriculum for nation-wide inclusive music in Haiti.

A link to the Haitian inclusion school Facebook page. It won't open at work but you can see video there of our progress. <https://www.facebook.com/hcie17/>

The Soundcloud link below is about the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education. If the Soundcloud doesn't open they informed me you can copy the link into your browser and it will open without having to download soundcloud. <https://m.soundcloud.com/wuft/don-devito>

Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

Serving the Lord in Haiti



The Haitian Center for Inclusive Education has begun collaborating with the Helping Haitian Angels organization and their school near Cap-Haitien. They wish to implement special education for local students with disabilities and have invited a team from the HCIE to travel to Cap-Haitien to implement training.

Education and acceptance in society for children with disabilities is growing in Haiti thanks to your support. Our biggest challenge right now is the increased violence and protests taking place in Haiti and particularly in Port-au-Prince which is making it difficult for parents to work and to send their children to school.



Here is an article about what we are dealing with in Haiti.

Armed Bandits Take Over Valley That Was Long Haiti's Breadbasket

Decades after rice tariff dropped, agriculture struggles;
in economic void, gangs thrive in capital and countryside

<https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/news/articles/2019-06-11/armed-bandits-take-over-valley-that-was-long-haiti-s-breadbasket>

Your support in helping us to meet the needs of our inclusion school are greatly appreciated. You can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/hcie17/>