

- Annual Report for 2014 -

Charitable and Humanitarian Activities of Fraternite Notre Dame in the Port-au-Prince area of Haiti

Fraternite Notre Dame warmly thanks the MINUSTAH (*United Nations Mission for Stabilization in Haiti*) for their efficient help, provided through the intervention of military and civil contingents, to benefit our Mission in Haiti.

Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame, set the priority in his activities

on the rights of the poorest of the poor, to have access to health care, food and education; he insisted on the protection of children and families, the protection of women and mothers.

His concern is also to provide education so that the population may provide for their

own needs, and facilitate access to potable water.

Fraternite Notre Dame, thanks to the efforts of His Excellency, Bishop Jean Marie, has had an incredible impact in the region, with the valuable help from the UN, represented there by the members of MINUSTAH.

“Thank you very much to all those who, directly or indirectly, work along with us to make a difference in the lives of so many poor persons and suffering minorities.”

Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie Roger Kozik

Here is a summary of all the actions undertaken by the various countries, represented within MINUSTAH, during the year 2014.

February 2014 – The Jordanian Military contingent came to visit our Mission, and brought numerous presents for a group of children.

Each was given a very warm blazer to withstand the winter season, which is cold here, in the mountains where we have settled.

March 2014 – The Peruvian contingent came to offer

a CIMIC Activity (*Civil Military Cooperation Activity*) to another group of children from our area, which consisted in a feast, accompanied by sanitary animations, such as offering hair dressing and tooth cleaning services to the people.

During that month of March, Carl Alexandre (*Assistant Secretary General for the MINUSTAH*)

came in person with his security team, to pay us a visit in order to better assess the work to be done, to benefit these populations in need. Indeed, a project is underway to level the grounds that will be used in the near future, to build a dispensary and school.

May 2014 – A visit from the Deputy Force Commander Jorge Pena Leiva, and the Base Commander for the Chilean-Ecuadorian forces, Juan Pablo Diaz, to evaluate the scope of the project. During that visit, a group of military persons took advantage to show the children how to plant trees.

The Chili Base Commander invited a group of children to his Base, for another CIMIC Activity.



June 2014 – Having been granted financial approval from the civil authorities to proceed with the work, the Chili-Ecuador contingent took all the heavy machinery up into the mountain to proceed with their road works and to level the new spot of land. This marked the onset of the construction tasks for both, a school and dispensary, an essential project for this entire area, extremely disfavored.

August 2014 – A visit from Force Commander Lt Gen José Luiz Jaborandy Jr. and Deputy Force Commander Jorge Pena Leiva, who examined the work that was underway. Along with the Chilean contingent, they distributed gifts to the children.

During that month, the construction team was able to complete their ground leveling tasks, and “Food for the Poor” built four little 2-room houses, which will be useful for the Mission. Fraternite Notre Dame has been working hand in hand with Food for the Poor for many years, so as to fight hunger and poverty.

September 2014 – A visit in the mountain, from Peru’s Base Commander, Lizandro Mao Cordova Roman; he came to assess first hand the poverty of the children living in an area where we are active. Following his visit, he invited about fifty children to engage in a CIMIC Activity at the Base; he asked the Colombia Police to lend him large inflatable toys for the occasion, which was highly appreciated...



Early that same month, the new Commander for the Chilean Base, Rodrigo Cabrera, came up with his team, to continue the work underway. Besides, the religious members of Fraternite Notre Dame attended a meeting organized by the Ministry of Education Nationale, to express themselves in relation to the education personnel in Haiti.

November 2014 – Completion of the road work, to link the area by the river in the valley, all the way to the Mission. The job was performed by the Chilean military personnel of the MINUSTAH.

The US and Canadian troops, accompanied by Colonel Mario Leblanc (*Military Chief of Staff*), came up to the mountain, and organized a barbecue for our children.

December 2014 – For Christmas, the Peruvian, Paraguayan, Bolivian, Argentinian, Chilean and Equatorian contingents gathered together to organize Christmas

celebrations for numerous groups of children in the mountains that are under our responsibility. They distributed to them some presents, to the greatest joy of these destitute children.

Jordanian S.W.A.T. Police Commander, Mahmoud Al Azzam, came up with his team to distribute clothes and sweets to a small group of children.

Along the year, the Brazilian contingent helped us on several occasions, to fix our ambulance vehicle, which proves very useful to transport the sick or injured to the hospital. This aid was especially precious, and we express our deep grati-

tude to them here.

Once a week, the Chilean contingent brings to our Mission a full trailer of potable water, which proves extremely useful for both, our school and dispensary. They also brought up all the building materials needed in the constructions that have been started.

Again, on a weekly basis, we welcome a team of doctors from the MINUSTAH, who come up in turn, from the Chilean, Equatorian or Peruvian contingents; they come up all the way to our dispensary, to offer free consultations to the less-favored residents of the area and surroundings. At times, they even visit one home after another.

There are so few health centers in these mountains, that sick people do not hesitate to walk for miles and miles, at times, for an entire day, to be offered a consultation with a medical doctor or dentist at our Mission. In the place where we live, we take care of about 500 families in the near vicinity, and another 1,500 in remote areas.

We are very grateful to Force Commander Lt Gen José Luiz Jaborandy Jr. and Deputy Force Commander Jorge Pena Leiva, who make sure that their troops help us, because we are in a very poor area, where there are no water and electricity utilities.

During the year 2014, Fraternite Notre Dame has worked in various fields in Haiti, at the service of the most



neglected.

Thrice a week, we pay visits to families, and bring them a pantry bag of food; they are always very happy and they thank His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame, who gave it all for them.

We manage and run a dispensary on a 24 hour basis, and this year, about 10,000 patients were treated there, and we facilitated child birth in close to 50 deliveries, whether directly at our dispensary, or at the City Hospital, when serious cases required to evacuate the mother in an emergency.

Therefore, quite often, and at any time in the day or night, we are on call with an ambulance service, for serious cases which require an immediate trip to the hospital. Our dispensary is not yet fully equipped to treat every medical condition in the premises. That is why we are eager to complete the construction of our new dispensary, which will be more adapted to meet these needs.

We have saved the lives of about fifty adults and children, affected with Cholera, and assisted a total of 100 persons. Cholera still wreaks havoc, unfortunately, with each rainy season, that is, twice a year. The absence of toilets in people's homes leads to water contamination. Springs are also contaminated through a lack of hygiene, and Cholera spreads rapidly, given the poverty situation and extreme precariousness of sanitary conditions.



In the month of December, we were able to save the life of a little 1-month-old girl. A victim of malnourishment, she was on the fringe of falling into a

coma. Her mother had become insane, and to sum up their misfortune, the grand mother used her mother's breast milk to prepare baby food for herself, so much had poverty brought these people to last resorts; thus, we were able to take the little one in for several weeks and restore her to health.

During the week, our school opens from 8am to 12:30pm, and then we serve the pupils a hot meal, before they leave, as some of them will walk for over two hours to return home.

We also visit some country families, and pay regular visits to the most abandoned sick at the Hospital General of Port-au-Prince. The sick who are admitted at Port-au-Prince General Hospital and who have no family member are placed in a room without sanitary installations, if they receive food from someone outside the hospital, at least once a week. In the uttermost of destitution, they can



certainly not afford to pay for medical care or medicine, and their fate is just bare survival until death comes their way. We provide indispensable medical care to them, free of charge.



The construction of the new dispensary and school have kept up very busy. Indeed, we had to take down the 5 classrooms, which had been built with wood after the hearthquake, and set them up again on the new level grounds. Much efforts, but the new set up is much less precarious, and features more amenities.

In addition, we maintain a garden (*corn, tomatoes, peppers, banana trees*). We also go to town, to request food donations, which are redistributed to people in the mountains, and we take advantage to take the necessary steps needed to further the mission.

All these undertakings have made a tremendous difference in the lives of hundreds of families, living in the surroundings. Everyone knows that here, there is a



place where help can be found. The presence of the Mission of Fraternite Notre Dame – established and supported by Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie – represents an undeniable positive impact and brings much hope to these populations, who seemed forgotten by all.

Again, we salute the members of the MINUSTAH who help us through their dedication in our endeavors with the poorest of the poor and with the sick. May God bless each and every one of them!

For any additional information or to contact Fraternite Notre Dame:

<http://www.FraterniteNotreDame.org>

