



# Ansanm / Together

Giving the Gift of Family



December 2019

Dear Friend of Espwa,

The holiday season is a time to gather with family, friends, and loved ones in the spirit of faith, hope and love. Whichever tradition you celebrate during the holidays, the end of the year is full of the warmth of bright lights and kind hearts as we count our blessings in life and share our warmth with others.

For brothers Jamesley and Robenson, they will celebrate the holidays wrapped in the warmth of their parents' love. The brothers were brought to Pwoje Espwa by their parents who were struggling to care for them and their three other siblings.

“ *What mother and father wouldn't want to raise their children themselves? But we had no means. We have suffered from poverty. We were obliged to seek help with the children.*

– Father of Jamesley and Robenson



**Keeping families together – *ansanm* in Haitian Creole – is the greatest gift that we can give to vulnerable children in southern Haiti.** Children in families learn and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually with the guidance of their parents and the comradery of their siblings.

In a country where nearly 60% of the population lives below the poverty line and cannot access sparse social services, many parents, like Jamesley and Robenson's, search for help from non-governmental organizations and institutions like Pwoje Espwa, placing their children in the care of others.

Our mission recognizes the circumstances that force parents to make these difficult decisions. We are determined to keep children with their families by addressing the reasons they are separated in the first place. Pwoje Espwa also provides residential care for orphan children waiting for a family or whose families are building their capacity to care for them through our Family Preservation Program.

As a father of two and a grandfather of three I can think of no better way to share your warmth with deserving families than through a gift to our cause. Please consider making a year-end gift to Free the Kids so that our staff at Pwoje Espwa can continue their work of keeping families *ansanm*.

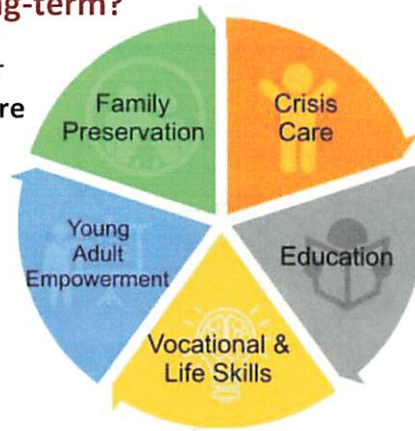
May God bless you and your family this holiday season and bring continued grace into the New Year.

Frank Irr, Executive Director



## How do our programs target to preserve families and empower futures in the long-term?

Our five program areas work together to provide a **wholistic approach to care** for each child and their family. By reinforcing the family and providing educational and empowerment opportunities for children, **we strengthen the child's prospect for a successful, sustainable future.**



*"The children feel so good with us. We appreciate that every time they come back from school, they come to hug us."*

*– Parents of Jamesley and Robenson*

### Focus on Family Preservation

Through our Family Preservation Program, we address the needs that compel families to place their children in institutions.

Working with partner organizations and with the dedication of our staff of social workers, families we support through our program receive assistance for 3 years in the following areas depending on their specific needs:

- **Scholarship support** for children
- **Nutrition support** in the form of initial resources to start a home garden or animal husbandry business
- **Family counseling** for caregivers
- **Training and classes** for caregivers to gain business, literary, and financial skills

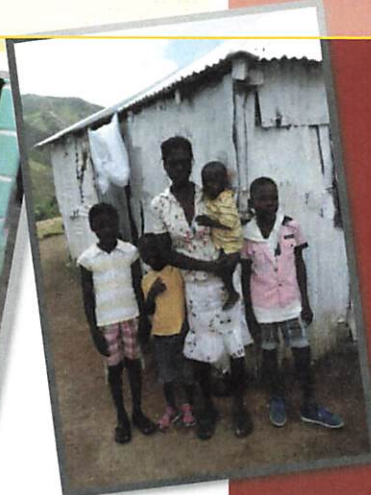


***Ansann/Together**, we can give vulnerable children the opportunity to come home and hug their parents and grow up with their siblings.*

***Ansann/Together**, we can give families an opportunity to live a life of love, health, and dignity.*

***Ansann/Together**, we can give families hope.*

Your gift will *change lives* through our Family Preservation Program.



**Free the Kids**  
HELPING HAITI'S CHILDREN

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