



2018

IMPACT REPORT

**A YEAR OF SUMMITED
MOUNTAINS**



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CLIMBING PEAKS

There is a Haitian proverb that goes, “Deye mon, gen mon”. It means, “beyond mountains, there are mountains.” I know this to be true on many levels.

Growing up in Colorado, skiing the Rocky Mountains, this makes sense literally. Spending a good part of 2018 reveling in Haiti's mountain, rolling as far as the eye can see and looking as though someone covered them with a bright green velvet blanket, I understand this. But most importantly, serving and living alongside of the people of Haiti, this makes sense on a spiritual level.

The hardships Haitians face are the mountains in the proverb: the inaccessibility to basic human rights such as food, clean water, shelter, education, and health care. This is paired with a high rate of disease, lack of infrastructure, an essentially nonexistent economy, and a corrupt government. Based on this laundry list, life in Haiti seems like a difficult, miserable, a never-ending climb up a mountain.

Less known is the fact that the mountains of Haiti are absolutely breathtaking. What this mountainous and difficult landscape has created for Haitians is an enduring spirit, one that will summit every mountain placed before it.

With a long history of hardship beginning with the founding of the country, Haitians are well-trained hikers. In addition to this enduring spirit, I have learned from my Haitian friends, that climbing the mountains is easier with partnership, joy and a an uplifting song. Road to Hope is proud to be a climbing partner for our Haitian friends.

Every day, students that haven't before, don uniforms, skip down the street in anticipation of “l'ecole”, or school, that they now get to attend. I see this when visit the 160 children in rural Mathone who did not have access to proper schooling before The Road to Hope. Mountains had been put in their pathway before they were even old enough to write their name and will continuously be put in their path as the years go by. But Road to Hope will be there, supporting and encouraging them every step of their way, making make the next mountain summit more possible and enjoyable.

By providing education, good health, and nutrition, we are stocking Haitians' “backpacks” with tools, snacks, and water bottles. And through international partnerships and kinship, “Road Warriors” are becoming hiking partners. You are filling backpacks. You are climbing mountains. By investing your finances, time, emotions, and interests in The Road to Hope you are making the journey joyful and easier for the citizens of Nordette and Mathone. Because of you, Haitian hikers are educated, healthy, fed, and thus able to invest in their own life and self-worth as well as improve the journey for those around them. The upwards path is becoming easier, steps lighter, and smiles wider. And next summit, we all can revel in the view of Haiti's gorgeous mountains - “Deye mon, gen mon.”

- Cecilia Needham

Newest Climbing Team Member (aka Board Member)

OUR PROGRESS IN 2018

Enriching & Building Communities: We worked with Colorado Academy to host a group of 20 Colorado Academy students in March in Nordette. And we hosted two successful Road Warrior trips in February and October.

Education: 300+ students received free or reduced tuition to our two schools and we provided competitive teachers salaries for Nordette and Mathone schools. Levelled the playing field at the Nordette school.

Improving Food & Agriculture: Planted four mango trees in Nordette and provided lunches to 300+ students and teachers in Mathone and Nordette daily.

Clean Water and Sanitation: Struck water for the well in Nordette and built latrine shells in Nordette.

Health Care: Began initial informal polling phase of determining health care needs in Nordette and Mathone



427 cross-country connections



6 students graduated



62,080 Meals Served



150 Days for Girls Packets Given



Distributed over 100 shoes



4 arts days held



150 musicians at summer camp



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MEET OUR MATHONE CLIMBERS

About Our Work in Mathone: Before The Road to Hope finished the Mathone school, students attended school in a lean-to structure with ceilings of tarps and floors of mud. Many children in the area were not attending school because of the conditions at the school and Mathone's remote location outside of Cap Haitien. But members of The Road to Hope saw something special about Mathone, invested in, filled the backpacks of, and hiked with the community with its beautiful surroundings and friendly residents and now children attend school, making his walk easier and mountaintop brighter, filled with more hope than they'd ever dreamed.



Guervency lives near our school in Mathone with his brother, sister, and parents. He is eight years old, in second grade, and loves math. He aspires to be an engineer when he grows up.

Another Mathone hiker with big dreams is fourth grader Shinaïka Compère. She has three brothers and one sister older than her. Like Guervency, her favorite school subject is math and she wants to be a nurse. When asked how we could help her summit, she asked for thoughts for her parents to get work.



13 year old Mikerlande Pierre would also love for her parents to get jobs (Haiti's unemployment rate is 14% so it's common for parents to not have jobs). She lives at home with her parents and as the baby sibling of her five brothers and sister. A spunky and joyful sixth grader, Mikerlande loves French and dreams of being a doctor.

Learn how you can support Guervency, Shinaïka, Mikerlande and other students at our schools at theroadtohope.org

MEET JOY, THE ART ROAD WARRIOR

In 2010, when news of the earthquake in Haiti came to the US, all the stories and images of the destruction were heartbreaking. Yet it was the footage of the people that really caught my attention. Amidst all the chaos and despair, often we saw people gathered together, singing. Singing! I was so intrigued. I wanted to know more about the country, its culture and its people. I became fascinated by the history of the country and, because I am an Art teacher, its many artists. I knew that one day, I would go to Haiti and experience it for myself.

A few years later a fortunate series of events led me to The Road to Hope. I was so excited to get involved with this organization and even more excited at the prospect of actually getting to go to Haiti and working with the students.

In February 2018, I made my first trip to Haiti with The Road to Hope and brought art projects to the children at the Nordette school! Even though we didn't speak each other's language, we wanted to understand each other and found ways to communicate anyway! It was truly heartwarming to see how proud they all were of their creations.

I loved that trip so much, I couldn't wait to go back. I made my second trip to Haiti a few months later in October. This time we not only went to Nordette, we also went to the other RTH school in Mathone near Cap Hatien.

Again I brought art projects. In Nordette the students made embossed aluminum frames (in honor of Haitian metal art) and drawings with colored pencils. Seeing that sparkle in their eyes when they have a finished art piece in their hands just never gets old! A few days later we walked into the Mathone school, greeted by all the students singing to us! It was a powerful, beautiful moment. There's really nothing quite like a chorus of children singing joyfully and at full volume! There they made colored pencil drawings. This project started off quiet and orderly but when the children started drawing, the excitement level grew and soon I was surrounded by exuberant kids all wanting me to see what they had drawn. I was in heaven!

I loved having the opportunity to visit both schools. I am so grateful for The Road to Hope and that I get to be a part of impacting the lives in children in Haiti!

- Joy Gilies

The Road to Hope Road Warrior, (Feb '18 and Oct '18)



Learn how you can become a Road Warrior at
theroadtohope.org



OUR SUMMIT STATS

THE FINANCES

Campaigns \$5,355.01
Events \$58,951.11
General \$21,913.54
Grants \$17,000.00
Trips \$21,637.60
Haiti Youth Orchestra \$7,524.63
Interest Income \$78.69
Total Revenue \$161,339.01

Administrative \$65,745.87
Fundraising \$32,175.52
Mathone \$21,905.00
Nordette \$32,813.00
Haiti Youth Orchestra \$16,356.71
Total Expenditures \$168,996.10