



## Project Update from Haiti

<b>Fundraising Goal for 2022-2023</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Amount Raised for Haiti in 2021-2022:</b>	<b>\$29,786</b>
<b>Countries of Focus:</b>	<b>Benin, Sierra Leone, Haiti</b>
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For a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the Multiple District 19 Lions are raising funds to fight hunger and help children from very poor communities in Haiti.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is estimated that half of the people in the country do not have enough to eat, and Haiti ranks 170<sup>th</sup> of 189 countries on the Human Development Index. While Haiti has made great strides in the past two decades, the country has been faced with devastating setbacks that are pushing a majority of the population back into poverty. Hunger is rising around the world due to complex combination of factors including increased droughts, the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation. The war in Ukraine has worsened the crisis, with shortages of fertilizer and lack of food production in Europe creating a cascading affect. Haiti is among the countries most affected, and in the past year, violence in the country and natural disasters such as hurricanes and the earthquake of 2021 have made the situation even more dire. In addition to increasing hunger in the country, many people like basic necessities such as clean water, sanitation and healthcare. And literacy rates are extremely low, with two out of ten children not attending primary school.

It is for these reasons that Multiple District 19 Lions has been working to raise funds for some of the most vulnerable in Haiti – children. **Through CARE, MD19 is helping provide meals and snacks in schools to decrease hunger among children and to increase school attendance.**

**Last year, MD19 raised \$29,786 which was used by CARE from March-August 2022 to provide a daily snack and nutritious hot meal to 522 students and 60 teachers and staff in four different schools in the Cayes-Jacmel and Jacmel Valley region.** As a result of the MD19-CARE project, the schools have reported that the health of students has increased along with attendance rates. The project also benefits the local community by providing employment to local vendors who prepare and serve the

meals.

MD19 Lions are raising funds for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row to provide nutritious meals to school children. Your support of the MD19-CARE project in Haiti for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year will provide more meals to school children, helping prevent malnutrition and ensuring kids stay in school!

**Help us fight hunger in Haiti! Please encourage your club to give generously so we can reach our goal of \$40,000 before June 30th – thank you!**



### Meet Emerson:

Emerson is a five-year-old boy who is in his first year of school in Haiti. He is an orphan who lives with his aunt and uncle in Dos Tessiers, a small town in the Cayes-Jacmel region. The Head Master of the school and his teacher reported to CARE that when Emerson started at the school, he appeared to be extremely malnourished. He missed school frequently and had difficulty paying attention in class. But then Emerson's school started providing nutritious hot meals and snacks through the support of the MD19-CARE project. The staff has noticed visible improvement in Emerson's physical condition since the meal program began. And they report that his grades and attendance have also improved. The school board has expressed its appreciation for the program and hopes it can be expanded to support more schoolchildren in other communities.

### Meet Serge:



Serge is a 16-year-old boy who is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of school in Haiti. He attends the School of the Redemption in Ternier, a small town in Jacmel Valley. Serge is from a single parent home, and his mother supports the family by washing laundry. Before the school meal program began, Serge's teachers reported that he was often absent. Previous teachers doubted his ability to succeed because he missed class so frequently and showed little interest in school. And when he was there, he was unfocused and often distracted his classmates until he was sent home. But once the school started providing meals, Serge's performance and attitude changed considerably. His teachers now report that he has doubled the effort he puts into his work and studies. Serge said that he really likes the recipes that the canteen serves at school, and so he makes an effort now to be punctual and not miss the morning snack. His behavior has also improved in class because he is happier to be there and doesn't want to miss getting a nutritious meal. And his teachers report another

remarkable change: His overall grade improved from 5.95 to 6.83 since last year. CARE hopes to

expand the school meals program to make sure more children in Haiti aren't going hungry, helping them stay in school and succeed!