



Children's Overseas Learning Opportunities and Resources

www.projectcolors.com

***Operation Haiti & Airline obstacles ***

April 2007

Spotlight Project: Young girls abducted in a Haitian raid receive precious care packages from COLORS, delivered by volunteer United Nations staff!

Through a fortunate contact with United Nations staff in the Dominican Republic, Project COLORS was given a special opportunity to send supplies to young girls aged 12-17; who were unjustly imprisoned in Haiti. As a result, a project was formed with funding and supplies from COLORS and help from UN staff to get the supplies through to the Haitian girls. The packages that consisted of school supplies, feminine products, dry foods, underwear and small gifts, that were given to each of the girls. In addition, beadworks and art supplies were given to the group of girls so they would have something to do during their long and undetermined time in prison. Anti-fungal creams, antibiotic creams and aspirin were also supplied to trusted UN workers based in Haiti who have allocated the supplies to local Haitian doctors.

“...The excitement and joy you could see on each of the girl’s faces when they received the gift packages...it just breaks your heart how some small items that we take for granted every day could mean that much to someone else. It was hard to hold back the tears.” exclaimed Mirna Albaine, one of the UN workers that volunteered to take the supplies to the girls in Haiti.



Ingrid Amaya, who also volunteered her time to bring the girls these supplies was inspired to try and start similar projects that would enable supplies to be directed to those

in need. “We hope more people will help support projects like these...especially concerning educational supplies for these women and girls who have no access to any basic schooling...we hope to eventually hire a teacher for these girls in particular.” Ingrid and Mirna both hope to use their contacts with the Haitian- based UN workers to start an educational program for the girls in the prison.

COLORS hopes that more people like Ingrid and Mirna will use their connections and resources so more projects like these can be possible. If we have the chance to use our contacts and positions for the greater good, we need to utilize those opportunities and help make a difference where we see the need. The story above is a perfect example of that.

Food New Start Baby Project.....airline obstacles!

It was a tense moment at the airport when an airline agent in the United States told Sunyata Choyce, director of Project COLORS International that the baby food collected by many Nova Scotia's would not be allowed to make the journey to the children in the Dominican Republic. Apparently this was due to an embargo in the Dominican Republic restricting supplies, in addition to the airlines weight restrictions.

Despite all the phone calls and official letters appealing for the supplies to get through to the kids...there was still this final obstacle in the way of delivery.

According to the airline agent, the Manager was not available ...and it appeared that nothing could or would be done.

Not one to ever take "no" for an answer, Sunyata politely told the agent the situation of the children at the orphanage....and then started hauling out the donations of baby food, diapers and children's toys from her luggage. Sunyata's mother, Terry Choyce, who brought the supplies half the journey from Canada, also made appeals for the supplies to get to the kids. The agent quickly stopped Sunyata from hauling out the supplies, went into the back and came out with a lady who punched in some computer code...a minimal overweight fee was charged, but the bags were placed on the conveyer-belt and loaded on to the plane!



Yes, the supplies got to the children!

Here is Issa, Kathy, Eva and Julie with the donations from you!

International project photos:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/projectcolors/>

Project updates:

<http://projectcolorsinternational.blogspot.com/>

Sunyata Choyce

Founding Director

Project COLORS International

choyce@projectcolors.com

<http://www.projectcolors.com>