



## REACHING OUT, SEEING AND SHARING



### HERE TO HELP

*By: Nina Thomas from Silver Spring, Maryland*



At my school, students are always willing to do whatever they can to help people who are less privileged than they are. Being a part of a community that is willing to help others so often, I was inspired to help the communities that I am apart of outside of school. As a National Honors Society member, I know it is my duty to go above and beyond for those around me who are in need. National Honors Society is an organization that consists of the very best students in high schools around the country based on the four pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Each chapter of this society has its own rules and standards set by the schools that students must keep up with, and at my school it is very rigorous, but I am glad to be an active member. We were told by our sponsor that spring is the time for individual students to shine, and run drives to help different communities by donating items or volunteering in person to help in a more intimate way. Looking at the many local options I had, I decided to reach out to my aunt so I could help the community I am closest to, the Haitian community.

I was able to get in contact with Mrs. Patty Alley, one of the coordinators for the Have Faith Haiti Mission in Delmas (Haiti), who always finds a way to help the children in Haiti who need it. Through the email exchanges between Patty and I, we were able to formulate a plan that would work well for the Haitian children, herself, and me. I was able to present to other NHS members the items that we need to collect such as backpacks, pencils, notebooks, and other school supplies for the children. Many of the students were eager to help and had items to gather that they could bring over the next few weeks for me to collect. This project will run for a few weeks as we attempt to gather as many supplies as possible so that they can be shipped from Maryland to Patty and eventually the children of Haiti.

Even if this is a small donation, it will make an impact in more ways than I could ever imagine. I was aware of the aid Haiti needed beforehand, but helping out with this drive, made me feel like I am truly making an impact, even if I am just donating school supplies. This project made me realize that what is readily available to me may not be so easily accessible to others, and I want to help in any way I can. I take my education seriously here, and the children in Haiti should be able to do so as well, and I am glad I am contributing to that. ■

### A TRIP TO THE MOTHERLAND

*Sabrina Cesaire*

On 2-14-19, I traveled to Dakar Senegal on a personal missionary trip. My goal and desire have always been to visit the motherland. When I arrived in Senegal, I immediately noticed that the people look like me and we shared the same common language of French. After the initial couple of days, I felt a sense of belonging, family, love and connection. I felt like my soul was at peace. It was like a homecoming. The people are kind, friendly and reminded me so much of being in my native home of Haiti.

On this mission trip, I took 80 book bags filled with supplies and hygiene products. I also took another suitcase of clothing. The home I stayed at was across the street from a dilapidated elementary school to which I was able to donate the bags of books. The clothe drive was a success because I was able to help 30 families ranging from young to older women. I made long lasting relationships and am currently sponsoring a young man's education. I also got a friend to com-



mit to sponsor a young lady for a year toward her education.

My plea is to encourage others to sponsor a child anywhere. I knew this would be a life changing experience for me, but I didn't know how much it would impact and motivate me to do more.

Sabrina Cesaire, LMSW. ■

### THE MAGIC OF AYITI CHERI

*BY KRISTINA GRAHAM*



The first time I went to Haiti was October of 2014. I had signed up for a trip through my church, to head to a remote mountain community in the south-eastern part of the country, called Seguin.

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