

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Once a Volunteer, Always a Volunteer
March 20, 2013



Top: Volunteer Alumni Derek and Rebekah Rogalsky (2010-2011) work with LCS students in the rooftop garden. Bottom: Volunteer Alum Rebecca Finney (2010-2012) spends time with the children in Koukouy Sen Kler, LCS's child development program.

One of the most important aspects of The Haitian Project community is our Volunteers (with a capital "V"). During their year or more of direct service to the community in Haiti, the Volunteers provide a great witness to living out our baptismal call, which challenges us to labor toward building the Kingdom by working for the benefit of others. Volunteers specifically provide the students with an example of how to carry out the words "much will be required of the person entrusted with much," (Luke 12:48). Often times, we find that those who have been privileged with an education believe it is important that they engage in their community intellectually, but not necessarily through direct service to the community. At LCS, this type of service is a part of our everyday lives, including picking up trash, educating those who don't have access to formalized school, translating for foreign medical doctors, and creating an environment where people from our neighborhood (young and old) can come to feel safe and supported.

It is also one of my greatest privileges to have the Volunteers' lives become part of our Haitian Project life. It is especially pleasant to see how that relationship continues over the years. Hearing the marriage announcements, birth announcements and how people are moving up in their career pursuits is a true honor.

This week, we have Volunteer Alumni Rebecca Finney, Derek Rogalsky and Rebekah Rogalsky visiting LCS. Finney Volunteered with THP from 2010-2012, and is now completing her master's in social work at Columbia University in New York. While at LCS, Finney helped to formalize our child development program now known as Koukouy Sen Kler (*Fireflies of Saint Clare*). The Rogalskys were at LCS for the 2010/2011 academic year. Finding a break from medical school and teaching 7th grade mathematics in the DC area, the couple is at LCS to, among other things, help with the garden club and athletics, which they played a significant role in during their Volunteer year. Here's what these three have to say about their involvement with THP following their year or two at LCS:

"Being back in the U.S., I've been able to think about our work in a big-picture sense and I'm grateful to Deacon Moynihan for his willingness to stay in touch and respond to my questions. When I meet people in my social work program at Columbia, I tell them about THP and our model of service. They are immediately struck by how what we do is very different from a NGO model. Our work is based in truth. In that way, I've become a sort of spokesman in my home community and at school." --Rebecca Finney

"Though we aren't living on campus, we are still living by the school's mission and example. My Volunteer experiences molded me. A big part of that is internalizing the motto of, 'What you receive for free, you must give for free.' As a family and as individuals we try to bring the fruits of the LCS mission to our home communities." --Rebekah Rogalsky

"For example, our Volunteer experiences influenced our choice of careers. Rebekah has chosen to work in difficult schools and I'm studying medicine. The community here showed us what it means to help someone long-term, and that's what we are trying to do." --Derek Rogalsky

When taking a look at the things necessary to make our community a successful one, Volunteers appear at the top of the list.

Peace, Patrick

--

To make a donation or to read recently posted community updates go to www.haitianproject.org

Elizabeth Cross

Director of Community Development

The Haitian Project, Inc.
(815) 505-1287

P.O. Box 6891
Providence, RI 02940

“What you receive as gift, you must give as gift.”
“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”

---Matthew 10:8