

What If? Foundation 2007 Annual Report

March 2008

Board of Directors

Margaret Trost, President
Bonnie Paulson, CFO
Frederick Trost, Secretary

Carolyn Betz
Robert Fisher
Bryan Sirchio
Patricia Stevens

What If? Foundation
1563 Solano Ave., #192
Berkeley, CA 94707
(888) 228-8020
www.whatiffoundation.org

The What If? Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation established for the benefit of children in Haiti. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

What If? Foundation-funded programs operated at record levels in 2007. Supported by generous donations and grants, which, for the first time, exceeded a quarter million dollars, we were able to feed and educate more children in Haiti than in any previous year. But economic factors beyond the Foundation's control, including sharply rising food prices and the declining purchasing power of the dollar, are affecting our ability to sustain these programs at current levels.

The cooks and support staff at St. Clare's Parish in Port-au-Prince, Haiti served approximately 275,000 nutritious meals to hungry children (and some adults) in 2007 – an increase of 60,000 over 2006. Some children walk from as far away as the slums of Cité Soleil (5 miles) to receive a meal. The very popular summer camp at St. Clare's took place for the fifth year, serving 450 children. The Foundation also funded college/technical and elementary/high school educations for a record 18 and 125 students, respectively, in 2007.

Yet, as the financial report below indicates, the rise in expenses in 2007 (31%) was nearly twice as great as the rise in donor/grant income (18%). All of the increase in expenses was connected to the cost of the programs in Haiti. While continuing volunteer work by officers, directors and friends of the Foundation kept our local administrative expense unchanged over 2006 – a remarkable 3.8% of total donated revenue – the predominant factor behind the growth in program expenses is a dramatic rise in the price of food, and this is not expected to abate any time soon. This inflation increases the cost of the meals and drives more hungry children to the food program for the sustenance the meals provide.

During my visit in July 2007, I once again saw the food, education, and summer camp program leadership at St. Clare's Church in full motion. They continue to do an amazing job under the guidance of Fr. Jean-Juste, the priest of St. Clare's, whose vision inspired the programs we support. Fr. Jean-Juste is currently in Miami, recovering from leukemia. He visits Haiti often and is in regular contact with the program leaders. Together, they have guided the programs into strong, self-sufficient operations that are not dependent on his presence.



	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Change</u>
Income:	\$281,252	\$239,143	+18%
Program Expenses:			
Food Program:	\$193,563	\$142,985	+35%
Education Program:	42,460	32,490	+31%
Summer Program:	<u>8,100</u>	<u>7,500</u>	+ 8%
Subtotal	\$244,123	\$182,975	+33%
Administrative Expenses:	\$ 10,591	\$ 10,943	- 3%
Total Expenses:	\$254,714	\$193,918	+31%
Reserve for Emergencies and 2008 Programs	\$ 26,538	\$ 45,225	- 41%

"Because I receive a plate of food everyday, I know my days will go much better, and eating guarantees you life. Because I eat everyday, I have the energy to walk into a classroom and pay attention to a teacher. That helps me think better."

– Charles Marie, age 9



Food Program

2007 was our first full year of serving meals five days a week. Every Monday through Friday, close to 1,000 children gather at the St. Clare's rectory after school to receive a hot meal, including meat, rice, beans, and vegetables from the farmers' market. If there is food left over, adults are served. On average, 5,000 meals are being prepared each week, and during the six weeks of summer camp an additional 500 meals are served daily to student campers and their teachers. The cost of providing a meal has risen 30% to 65 cents. 26 cooks prepare, serve, and clean up after each meal. We continue to provide stipends to the cooks and to four support staff who provide janitorial and security services. Some resources were used last year to replace/repair tables and benches, purchase cooking equipment, and provide safety improvements, an expanded working area, and better ventilation in the kitchen.

Education Program

Only 10% of Haitian children are able to attend public schools because so few are available. Since the majority of Haitians earn less than \$1/day, most families cannot afford the tuition for private schools. In 2007, the What If? Foundation provided 125 students (an increase from 99 in 2006) with full scholarships to attend private elementary and high schools at a cost of approximately \$250 per pupil per year. The scholarships covered tuition, books, and uniforms. 90% of our students passed the June 2007 exam to advance to the next grade – a far higher percentage than is average in Haiti. The What If? Foundation also sponsored 18 technical school/ college students last year, which was an increase of 13 students from the year before. All the students have intentions to use their education to serve their community.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>Food Program</u>		
Approx. # Meals Served	275,000	215,750
<u>Education Program (students)</u>		
Elementary/High School	125	99
Technical/College	18	5
<u>Summer Program</u>		
Children Enrolled	450	400
Camp Length (weeks)	6	4



“My goal is to be a doctor so that I can heal the sick. Doctors are so needed in our country because so many are suffering.”

– Lorite Rosenie, 8th grade

Summer Program

The annual summer arts camp at St. Clare's was expanded from a 4-week program in 2006 to a 6-week program in 2007. It was the highlight of the summer for 450 children. The camp was held at the rectory, where the children were also fed a hot meal. Classes included sewing, basket-making, sandal-making, embroidery, and crochet. In a neighborhood without organized sports or other child enrichment activities, attending the camp offered the children lasting and unique opportunities for friendship, personal growth, and the development of important, potentially income-producing skills and confidence.

The What If? Foundation Board of Directors and I sincerely appreciate and thank you for all of your support over the years.

Margaret Trost
President, What If? Foundation