



KAMI FOUNDATION FOR HAITI

February 2016

ISSUE 10

2300 KAMI Stoves now in Operation in Haiti

Haiti November 2015 Trip

On November 12, 2015 we set off for our annual trip to Haiti. I was fortunate because not only had Leo Lesperance agreed to come again, but we were also accompanied by Yvonne Bowen from Midland, and Marg Frayne representing SHARE.

Every trip to Haiti is an adventure and this trip was no exception. We flew into Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, spent the night, and the next day took the four-hour taxi trip to the border. We were met by Jocelyn Latour, KAMI's agent, and his team which included someone to transport the baggage, another to help with the loading and unloading and keep watch on everything, and another to help shepherd us through customs both in the DR and in Haiti. Once safely through the border, it was into the waiting truck for the 45 minute trip to Terrier Rouge.

In Terrier Rouge we were met by the two boys who were to stay with us to run errands, haul water, keep us company and assure our security. Nazou, our cook, arrived later from the market. Roslyn, the young man who is the night watchman was suffering from a very painful tooth-ache. We provided the money he needed to have the tooth pulled the next day and Marg supplied him with pain pills. By the end of our visit he was feeling better.

During the week we made the usual visit to the co-operatives to see the Jatropha plantations and make contact with their hard-working members. The past year had been very dry so the Jatropha has not been very productive. The Bawochen Co-op was especially grateful for the well financed three years ago by SHARE.

Two Upcoming KAMI Fundraising Events

March 6, 2016

Dinner, Silent Auction - "Le Maitre D" in Penetanguishene, Ont
Contact: Leo Lesperance – 705-526-7259- mreh@sympatico.ca

May 1, 2016 – 3:30 pm

Nonnie Griffin in her play "Marilyn After"
Alton Mills Art Centre in the Village of Alton, Ontario
Contact: Ann Lay – 519-940-3659 - layann81@yahoo.ca

We also visited a school in Phaeton, a village close to the



Students at School

ocean, where we left some school supplies. Jocelyn was then eager to show us the beach. While we were there enjoying the view and watching a few small fishing boats out on the water, the director of a second school nearby, who had heard of our visit, caught up with us. He told us of the many needs his school was facing with the hope that

we might be able to help in some way. It is so difficult to try to explain to people whose needs are so great that KAMI has to keep focused on our main objectives, that if we try to help everyone who needs something we will not be able to do the work we intend to do.

As usual, a group of boys played for us with their home-made musical instruments. The local brass band which plays for all the baptisms, weddings, funerals and special occasions in the village also welcomed us with their music.

We were excited to see a demonstration of the oil press on the day we met with the members of "Les Entreprises KAMI," made up of all the individuals and groups who work with KAMI. The Bawochen Co-op had brought a big bag of Jatropha seeds which they had gotten together to shell. The hopper was filled up, the generator fired up, the oil press turned on, and the oil came gushing out – briefly. The press had plugged up! Everything was taken apart, the press was unplugged, and we were ready to go again. The machine was turned on, the oil gushed out and it plugged up again.



Oil being produced by the

We were able to see that there is abundant oil in the Jatropha seeds and to dip our fingers in the golden oil and feel it. We learned that in the future, the Jatropha seeds should not be dried prior to the extraction process. Live and learn!

During our time in Terrier Rouge we visited homes where stoves were installed, as well as other homes where we could see the destitution and extreme poverty some of the elderly people have to endure.

On our return trip just as we were about to enter the DR on the bridge over the Massacre River, the no-man's land between Haiti and the DR, the whole crowd was stopped and sent back. We had no idea what was going on, but were fortunate to find a bench in the shade to sit down. Questions were going through our mind: What is going on? Will we be here for long? Will Jose, our taxi driver, wait for us?

Luckily it was not too long before the signal was given and we could again cross the bridge. It turned out that a truck carrying cement had tried to cross without paying customs. We then got through our own customs check, Jose arrived, and we all got home safely and in good health.

Kathleen Jobin

Penetanguishene Dinner Supported KAMI

Leo Lesperance and his family once again hosted a dinner in support of KAMI. This was held at Le Maitre D in Penetanguishene, Ontario on June 21, 2015. The evening had a Champlain theme to celebrate 400 years since the arrival of Champlain, with dinner items reminiscent of dinner at Champlain's time. The dinner along with a silent auction, fifty-fifty draw and donations raised \$1,678 for KAMI



Leo Lesperance and Louise Attwood at KAMI dinner

Orangeville Angel Concert Helped KAMI

Ann Lay and Sheila Flattery hosted a concert and art sale on October 18, 2015 at St. Mark's Church in Orangeville. The concert featured Orangeville area musicians with music ranging from classical to modern and from folk to native drumming. Three authors, whose writings represent environmental, metaphysical and residential school perspectives were present for book signings and sales. In addition, local artists donated art works with an Angel theme for sale. The money raised was split between KAMI and Syrian Refugees.



Ann Lay, Singer Mark DuBois and Kathleen Jobin at Angel Concert

Enactus Ryerson Collaborating with KAMI

Enactus is an organization of students with chapters at universities and colleges throughout the world. They work with leaders in business and higher education to use their entrepreneurship skills to improve the quality of life in developing countries. Enactus Ryerson has begun a collaboration with KAMI to help it reach its goals in Haiti. A team of Ryerson students has met with Kathleen Jobin and some KAMI supporters. They are currently planning a trip to Terrier Rouge as soon as the political situation in Haiti settles down. For more on Enactus Ryerson see <http://www.enactusryerson.ca/>



Enactus Ryerson Students who are collaborating with KAMI



Oil Cleaner

A Brief Review of KAMI for 2015

January – Death of the wife of Jocelyn Latour, KAMI's agent in Haiti.

March – Parts for 200 stoves and oil cleaner put in the Lutheran Haiti Mission container bound for Gonaive, Haiti.

June – Roslyn, our night watchman, very ill, taken to the hospital, diagnosed and treated for Typhoid Fever.

July – Parts for 200 stoves obtained in Haiti, 200 oil tanks built and 200 stoves installed.

Jocelyn's daughter very ill and hospitalized. Diagnosis is unclear.

October – Parts for 100 stoves obtained in Haiti, tanks built, and 100 stoves installed.

Container had arrived and arrangements made for Jocelyn to go to Gonaive to retrieve our shipment.

November – Our trip to Haiti.

Bawochen Co-op given money to fence their Jatropha plantation to hold the goats they hope to get.

SHARE Representative Visited Haiti

In November 2015, I accompanied Kathleen Jobin and KAMI supporters Leo Lesperance and Yvonne Bowen on a trip to Terrier Rouge, Haiti. I have visited several other project sites



Marg, Yvonne, Kathleen, Jocelyn, Leo

with S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation and I was very excited to at last visit Haiti and see the work of KAMI there. I was representing SHARE and my husband, the project manager for SHARE who could not travel on this trip. SHARE has worked with KAMI for a several years.

It was very apparent immediately when we crossed the border into Haiti that we were in the poorest and neediest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest countries in the world. The contrast between the bustling touristy Dominican Republic and Haiti is stark. Some of the indicators of poverty that I have seen in the rural land settlements that SHARE supports in Central America were quickly obvious in and around Terrier Rouge. There is a lack of productive work and jobs, poor housing, poor infrastructure, poor schools, lack of health care and lack of social services. Staying for the week above the KAMI office in Terrier Rouge, visits to homes, a school and the market provided opportunities for us to get to know some of the challenges of the Haitian people.

Charcoal made from trees is used throughout Haiti as cheap energy for cooking; this continues to drive deforestation. As we traveled along the road to Terrier Rouge we passed many bags of charcoal set along the road for sale and piles of wood being burned to make that charcoal in newly cleared fields. Michel Jobin's plan with KAMI to find acceptable alternatives to the burning of charcoal is one of many interventions that must be put in place to improve the environment there.

We were grateful that Kathleen and Jocelyn Latour, the KAMI agent, took the time to show us many aspects of the work of the foundation. Our group walked to see the stoves in several homes and to visit the welders who build the stove frames. We could see that the frame is sturdy and made to hold the large pots that women are accustomed to using. We heard how Michel had determined that the Haitian families would value the stove more if they put some of their own funds into attaining a stove. So the women visit the welder and order the stove frame and arrange to pay the welder themselves. The other parts of the KAMI stove are subsidized by generous donations to KAMI.

We also visited the two farming co-operatives growing Jatropha for the KAMI Foundation. The plan to produce an alternative fuel from the Jatropha has been greatly affected by the drought conditions this year.

However, we did witness a demonstration of the oil press in the KAMI office. The Haitian team worked together and was able to use the press to produce some oil from seeds saved from last year. Another achievement and small step forward! We also saw the oil cleaner that had made the trip to Haiti with support from the Collingwood Rotary Club, the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society and SHARE.



Jatropha oil seed removed from outer shell

The KAMI Foundation is working at the grassroots level providing a solution to a challenging problem in Haiti. KAMI continues toward the goal of making "Les Entreprises KAMI" a business operated by Haitians. All development work is difficult; this type of innovative development work is challenging and takes much ongoing effort and determination and steady funding. The KAMI Foundation is working toward the goals of fostering small business development, improving the quality of life especially for women, and helping protect the environment.

I am very aware that one week in a country is only a little introduction. Since my week in Terrier Rouge I often think of the people I met there and the work they are doing there to make "Les Entreprises KAMI" successful. I think of the other Haitians that I met and their great needs that we could not address. My visits and my work with SHARE in other needy communities has taught me not to be overwhelmed by the great needs that are all around but to work along with the people in the communities putting all the funds and effort into our work as we can.

This quote from Helen Keller can inspire us - "*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*" SHARE, KAMI and generous volunteers and donors - we have done so much and can do so much more together!

Marg Frayne

S.H.A.R.E Agriculture Foundation

Financial Summary for 2015

Donations directly to KAMI	\$ 9,271.94
Received from SHARE	<u>14,424.55**</u>
Total Received	<u>23,696.49</u>
Expenditures (as of Nov. 2015)	<u>29,906.48</u>
**\$8,850 forwarded donations from KAMI, \$5,574.55 added to make approved amount.	

Awareness Trip to Haiti

KAMI offers supporters the opportunity to visit Terrier Rouge to see first-hand the KAMI operations and experience the life and culture of Haiti. Attend KAMI stove orientation sessions. Visit homes with KAMI stoves installed. See the welders who make the stove frames and the kerosene containers. See the Co-operatives with Jatropha trees growing to maturity. Visit the Terrier Rouge market and a local school, attend church and be entertained by local musicians.

For information, contact Kathleen Jobin at 705-526-7554
e-mail: kathleenjobin@yahoo.ca



Tayyaba Sakhi, one of the Enactus Ryerson Students, has updated the KAMI Web site. If you have not seen it lately, take a look now.

www.kamifoundationforhaiti.org

Manager:

Kathleen JOBIN

Advisors:

Vitoria MENESES, Finance

Ann LAY

May MASKOW

Jean-Paul GAUTHIER

Stephen WHITE

Sylvie GILALFAU

Leo LESPERANCE

Idalina FERREIRA

WEBMASTER: May MASKOW

NEWSLETTER: Robert WILSON

Contracted Agent in Haiti:

Jocelyn LATOUR

Partner of KAMI

S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation

KAMI'S Goals:

To locally manufacture economical, efficient, environmentally friendly and healthier kerosene stoves to replace wood and charcoal.

To encourage the culture of Jatropha and its transformation into bio-diesel to eventually replace kerosene.

To provide environment education to the local population.

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the Collingwood Rotary Club along with the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation for supporting the purchase of the extractor and oil cleaner. Thanks also to the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation and the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society for funding the transportation of the oil extractor and oil cleaner to Haiti.

Thanks also to:

Leo Lesperance and family for hosting a dinner.

Ann Lay and Sheila Flattery for the Angel Concert in Orangeville

Orangeville Knights of Columbus for donations

Catholic Women's League of Orangeville for donations

Idalina Ferriera and her friends and family for donations

Toronto Funding Network for raising money for 300 KAMI stoves

AND to many individuals such as you, who have made

contributions to KAMI

YOU TOO CAN HELP!

All Donations are most gratefully received!

For Donations of less than \$100, please make cheques to "KAMI Foundation for Haiti" and send to

KAMI, 927 Montreal Street, Midland, Ontario M4R 1H1

To get a Tax Receipt for Donations of \$100 or more, please make cheques payable to "S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation" with "KAMI Project" on the memo line and mail to:

S.H.A.R.E., 14110 Kennedy Rd., Caledon ON L7C 2G3

For more information, contact:

e-mail: kathleenjobin@yahoo.ca

Web: www.kamifoundationforhaiti.org