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## August 2010



Dear Judi,

**"HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?"** What if we were to use that single question as the criteria by which we measure the health of our communities?

**"GOD, please change our lives."** That is today's prayer of the HAPI Peace Pals program and the children of Mizak as they meet every week to share messages of peace, hope and possibility.

**In the words of St Teresa Avila:**

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours, no feet but yours,  
Yours are the eyes through which is to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world;  
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;  
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now."

Since January 12, Peace Pals swelled from 100 children each week to 500.  
Your donations have -

- distributed over \$10,000 in food relief to their families
- created a 'Shalom Zone' where the children meet in a safe space
- provided two trauma-recovery camps
- purchased one festival tent
- established a fund for microloans to qualifying parents



## The most important resources to bring hope to these young lives are *human*.

HAPI has identified 25 local leaders. The 500 Peace Pals are divided into alternating groups of 250. The children play, sing and learn lessons that HAPI hopes will lead to generational changes in attitude towards self-worth, care for the environment, personal health and hygiene, healthier conflict resolution and respect for all persons.

**NEW!!** Peace Pals now receive **TUTORING**. Many parents are unable to assist their children with homework so the leaders are stepping forward to make more of a difference.

**Each leader receives \$4 per week. WE NEED PLEDGES to help us maintain this program to encourage the Peace Pals' hope for a changed life.** "Yours are the hands...."

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## Raise the Roof!

What happens when you remove the walls from a church? *IT GROWS*  
What happens when you create a nurturing space for children? *THEY COME*  
What happens when you invite in the community? *A GATHERING*

Following the earthquake, people were afraid to come together beneath concrete roofs. The artisan co-op which was a multi-purpose building for Peace Pals and the Faith in Action Methodist congregation was no longer a safe space. Thanks to grants from UMCOR and Communities of Shalom, Drew University, a reinforced concrete wall was built around the Peace Park. Latrines have been added and a cistern is in progress. The iron gate entrance proudly proclaims this ground a 'Shalom Zone.' A visible expression of God's Shalom to the community of Mizak.



Peace Pals and the congregation have blossomed in this space. The local women advocacy group and scouts have been invited to utilize the park for their meetings. A Bible study has formed, health care workers trained and meals shared in this community space.

**BUT...**"Baby is it hot outside!" And if the sun isn't shining, it is raining buckets! HAPI has one festival tent, but it is temporary shelter and not enough to meet the need. The United Church of Canada is coming to lay the foundation and raise the columns for a permanent pavillion in the park. But **HAPI will require additional assistance to [RAISE THAT ROOF!](#)** The pavillion roof will provide shelter from the sun and storm with run-off water used to supply the cistern.

"How are the children?" With your help, the children will have leaders in their life dedicated to helping them find hope for a changed life and shelter from sun and rain as they play and learn.

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You can be the difference Judi !

Please remember that all product sold brings income, not just aid. Another way for sustainable change.

Shalom to you,  
Valerie Mossman-Celestin  
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US Executive Director  
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Coming soon:

- "Save the Date: October 10, 2010" Imagine a movement that mobilizes tens of thousands of people in 10 days. It's called [10-Fold](#) by The Advance of The United Methodist Churches. Each day will

feature a different project of The UMC. HAPI Peace Pals will be featured!!

- [Rock Solid Curriculum](#) will be featuring Peace Pals in their Sunday School materials. Proceeds go to Peace Pals playground equipment.
- "What it means to me to be a Peace Pal leader." Short responses from Peace Pal leaders to be featured in upcoming HAPI enews.

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