



Spring 2010

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Hello again and welcome to another edition of our KidsFirst Foundation newsletter. Thanks to your continued generosity, we have a lot of exciting news to share regarding how your support is helping us change the world one kid at a time.

In this issue, you will read about our inspired effort to help rebuild an orphanage that was destroyed by the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti. This is an exciting initiative and some KidsFirst families will travel to Haiti later this year to help with the build.

You'll also learn about how your donations were put to work to help a handsome little boy get cleft palate surgery after being adopted from Russia. He is doing well and his family thanks you for your generosity.

Finally, this issue also includes several updates on upcoming events that we hope you will attend. We have plans for a family movie event, our annual dinner, a spare change fundraiser and so much more. Come on out and join us. You'll have a lot of fun and you'll be helping some pretty cool kids.

As always, thanks for your time and your generosity.

Dawn Lockwood
KidsFirst Foundation President

KIDSFIRST FOUNDATION TO HELP REBUILD HAITIAN ORPHANAGE

Even before the earthquake hit last January, Haiti was one of the poorest countries in the world with more than 80 percent of the population living in poverty. Then, the earthquake struck killing more than 200,000 and leaving thousands more homeless.

Many of Haiti's homeless are children and far too many of those children are orphans. So, the KidsFirst Foundation has embarked on a new initiative to help more than 50 orphaned kids who are currently living in tents in the small, rural community of Fondwa.

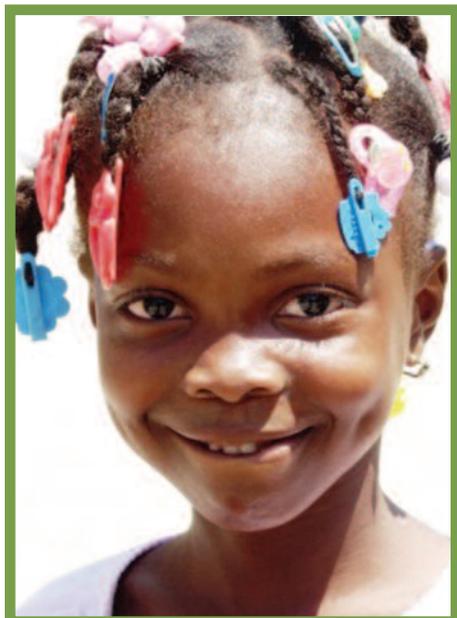
Fondwa is a mountain village located south of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Prior to the quake, there were 50 kids living in an orphanage and they attended a nearby school with approximately 550 other kids from the community. Today, both the orphanage and the school are in ruins and help is needed to rebuild.

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To date, we have raised \$8,000 and we hope to collect even more in the months ahead. Our funds will be put to work in partnership with an organization called Family Health Ministries that has a long and impressive record of service in Haiti. Together, we will rebuild the orphanage in Fondwa and give the kids a home again.

Later this year (tentatively early September), a group from the KidsFirst Foundation will travel to Fondwa to help with the rebuilding process. We will work on the school and the orphanage and we would love to have other KidsFirst members join us in this important endeavor. We encourage everyone to donate what they can and if you'd like to join us on the trip, please let us know soon since spots will be limited.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Mike Marker via email at mike@bringthehope.com.



Following his surgery, Sergei had to wear arm splints for seven weeks to prevent him from touching his mouth.

THE COATES FAMILY: A Very Happy Ending

Next month, Cathy and Aaron Coates will celebrate their one-year anniversary of being Sergei's parents. They all have a lot to be thankful for and one of those things is the KidsFirst Foundation grant that your donations made possible.

When Cathy and Aaron received Sergei's referral, they learned that he had a cleft palate. Like anyone would, they worried about the cost of future surgeries. That's when the Foundation stepped in.

A few years ago, the Foundation instituted a grant program designed to get more special needs kids out of orphanages and into loving families. The grants go up to \$5,000 and that's what the Foundation provided to the Coates family last year.

"We traveled to Vologda in April of 2009 to meet Sergei and what we found was one great little boy," said Cathy. "There was no question that we would be a family. But, we were concerned about the costs associated with one or more surgeries. The Foundation grant helped put us at ease and we really appreciate the generosity of the organization and its donors."

Sergei's surgery was completed just before his second birthday at Riley Hospital for Children last September. Fortunately, insurance picked up the majority of the surgery costs. So, the grant dollars have been put to use funding the weekly speech therapy sessions that Sergei will need for the next several years.

Cathy is busy working as a stay-at-home mom. Aaron works as the chairman of the Performing Arts Department at Zionsville Community High School. Sergei is a happy two-year-old boy and mom tells us that he is coming along nicely with his speech.

Cheers to the Coates family and thanks to all you KidsFirst Foundation donors for helping us create a happy ending.



KidsFirst Foundation

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**KidsFirst Foundation is a
501(c)(3) organization.
Donations are tax deductible.*

DID YOU KNOW?

You can support the KidsFirst Foundation through your upcoming United Way giving at work. When you receive your annual campaign contribution form, just list our Foundation account number (#4167169) and you will be helping us fund future programs.

Airline miles are needed to help us purchase mission trip tickets to Haiti. If you have any frequent flier miles with American Airlines, please let us know. Miles are also needed for families in need who are adopting from Russia. If you have Delta Airline miles, please let us know.

Our friends at WestPoint Financial Group (WPFPG) were recently named one of the “best places to work” in central Indiana by the Indianapolis Star. WPFPG has raised more than \$190,000 for the KidsFirst Foundation over the years and they have made lots of kids happy with new playgrounds, food, medicine and so much more. WPFPG is a very caring company and we love them here at KFF. To learn more about WPFPG, go to www.westpointfinancial-group.com. The next WPFPG golf outing is set for Friday, June 18th.

FIND THE KIDSFIRST FOUNDATION ONLINE AT
www.kidsfirst-foundation.org

KIDSFIRST REUNION – Spare Change Fund Drive

If you are planning on coming to the annual KidsFirst reunion, we hope that you will bring some spare change with you. Last year, KidsFirst families helped raise more than \$600 just by having their kids collect spare change from friends, neighbors, grandparents and classmates. This year we are attempting to fill a five-gallon water bottle and raise more than \$1,000 to help kids in need.

Last year, some KidsFirst kids collected change at school, some collected at church and some went door-to-door through their neighborhoods. Other kids simply raided mom and dad’s spare change containers at home and added that to the cause. Whatever you decide, please bring your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters with you to the reunion and add them to the jug.

A little bit of change from a lot of people can add up quickly. And the kids really get a kick out of knowing that they are helping other kids. Thanks in advance for your help and we’ll look forward to seeing you at the reunion.



**“While we try to teach our children all about life,
our children teach us what life is all about.” –Angela Schwindt**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The KidsFirst Foundation now has a Facebook page and we hope that you will join us. We will post news updates and share information about upcoming events on the page. But, we really hope that our presence on Facebook will allow us to have a frequent and compelling exchange of ideas with you regarding how we can work together to help orphaned kids around the world.

If you are on Facebook, please join us and enlist your friends and family to join us as well. If you haven’t taken the Facebook plunge yet, now is the perfect time to do it. Thanks for your support.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Haiti Fundraising Dinner

Make plans now to join us on Saturday, September 25, at the Robert Irsay Pavilion for our fifth annual fundraising dinner. If you haven’t made it to one of our dinners yet, you’ve missed out on a lot of fun.

This year, we will have a Haitian theme and the funds we raise will go to help rebuild orphanages in Haiti. Tickets will cost \$100 and more information will be available on our web site this summer.



Last year, you helped us raise \$8,400 at our Russian Dinner and those funds have been put to work helping improve the lives of orphaned kids. Come join us to help kids in Haiti. You’ll feel great doing it and it will be more fun than you’ve had in a long time. We promise.



KFF Family Movie Day – Toy Story 3

Come join us on Saturday, July 10, for a special KidsFirst Foundation viewing of Toy Story 3 at the Cinema Grill. Enjoy this great movie with your family and help us raise a few bucks for kids in need. For more details, see the newsletter insert or check out our events page at www.kidsfirst-foundation.org.