

Clowns for Haiti Pencil Case Appeal 2014

Supported by the Irish National Teacher's Organization (INTO)

Building bridges between Irish and Haitian Schools

'1 Child, 1 Teacher, 1 Book, 1 Pen, can change the world...' youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, 16 year old Pakistani school girl, Malala

Clowns for Haiti would like to warmly thank all the Irish schools and teachers who participated in our recent Pencil Case Appeal. We filled 2,500 cases from 14 schools in 7 counties, including a special needs school in Tralee, St. Joseph's, and collected approximately 3,500 euro in donations. The pencil cases will be winging their way to Haiti in August, just in time for a new school term. Many thanks to Digicel Foundation for providing ground support in Haiti. They have built over 150 schools in Haiti, and partner with us distributing pencil cases to these schools and others that we have targeted.

A teacher's yearly salary in Haiti is approximately 600 euro and your donations help with funding. There is no free public education in Haiti, and the parents are required to pay fees to keep their children in school. Although these fees are low, many cannot afford them and when they fail to pay, the teachers are not paid, and the schools lose their teachers. In addition we have painted schools, done refurbishments, erected toilet blocks, built extra classrooms plus roofing and drainage schemes. Recently we collected and dispatched musical instruments and now we have launched the Pencil Case appeal.

It's a very simple project, ideal for busy teachers. Contact us at Clowns for Haiti and tell us who you are, where you are, a contact teacher, and the number of cases required. We deliver them, your students fill them with 4 items and a donation, and we make arrangements to collect them. This year we also visited schools and did fun-filled, educational clown presentations explaining the devastating earthquake and its effects on daily life in Haiti.

St. Fergus' School in Glin, Limerick was visited by our clowns and here's what they had to say. 'It was fabulous to see the enjoyment excitement on the faces as the two men performed their tricks and jokes both on and off the stage. Everyone got a great laugh....It was an Assembly to remember!' See photos below.

Your response this year was overwhelming, we were a little over-extended, and as with any new launch, there were a few hiccups. If you have any thoughts or suggestions we would be delighted to hear from you. We are all clown volunteers doing our best and we ask you all to come on board this year as we try to brighten the future for Haitian school children.

Many thanks to INTO Global Solidarity Co-ordinator John O'Brien and his team for his continued support over the last 5 years. This initiative would not have been possible without them. You have not forgotten the children of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and your partnering with us helps bring a little joy and hope into the lives of these children.

So... Send in the clowns, there ought to be clowns!! See you all next year!

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