cercle de l'Amitie 1992 - 2015



Years of Humanitarian Services & Community Involvement





Annual Charity Ball 2015 Saturday, September 26TH, 2015 Westwood Restaurant • 438 North Avenue Garwood, NJ

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CERCLE DE L'AMITIE DE NEW JERSEY "CERLAM" Fundraising Dinner Dance Saturday, September 26, 2015 Greetings from one of the Founders

Dear Supporters, Generous Donors and Friends,

On behalf of our Members I welcome you and thank you for your presence tonight. Special thanks to the new faces. I hope that you will be satisfied enough to come back next year. For those of you who have been attending religiously our events for years, you deserve a round of applause. Your loyalty and your trust in us mean a lot to us.

As a non-profit organization with tax exempt status 40% of our proceeds raised through various activities will be used to fund many projects in our community such as Health Fairs, Health Forum, Scholarship programs and Youth Events. The remaining 60% of the money collected will be invested in our children's educational needs in Haiti.

Cercle de L'Amitie de New Jersey congratulates this year's honorees for being great examples in our society. Dr. Pierre Ronald Leger will receive the Community Leadership Award. Joseph J. Parlapiano will be the recipient of the Humanitarian Award. The Scholarship Award Recipients are Darline Bernard and Quiston Junior Midy.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to anyone whose input some way or another contributes to the success of this fundraising. I would like to say thanks to the Volunteers, the Youth group of St Michael's Church, especially to Juna Massena and Ernesty Walter, to Wayne Griffin, the manager of Flavuh Band, to our MC for the evening, Mrs. Dgyna Lorquet and her family.

To all former and active members of CERLAM I salute you and thank you for your sacrifice and hard work.

To the audience tonight I would like to present to you a progress report on the orphanage project in Delmas 30 between rue Logan and Codada, Portau-Prince, Haiti. The construction is at its final phase. They are actually scheduled to work on the sanitary installation, electrical work and painting in the next few months. This year we are planning to provide each orphan of the Center for Under Privileged Children with a bed and are seeking sponsorship from you to help with their education, their health and three meals a day. We are working toward raising their standard of living. Thanks to your contribution. From 2012 to 2015 we already forwarded \$58,500 toward the construction of the orphanage and to feed the orphans.

Two of the founding members of CERLAM, Yolette and Daniel Moise and their son Darnell travelled to Haiti in May 2015 to visit the orphanage construction and the school. We will share tonight a short video of their meeting with some of the orphans of CADE. The members will travel in Haiti next spring for the cutting ribbon ceremony.

While we are expressing our appreciation for all your past help and support we are appealing to your generosity, compassion, understanding and your great sense of charity to meet the April 2016 goal.

As you know, we are a non-profit organization with 501 C (3) status, all your donations are tax deductible. Monetary contributions can be made by check payable to Cercle de L'Amitie de New Jersey and mailed to 522 Sheridan Avenue, Roselle, New Jersey 07203. Electronic donations can be made using your Pay Pal account or a credit card by visiting us online at <u>www.cerlam.org</u>. Email us at <u>cerlam1992@gmail.com</u>. Follow us on face book and contact us by phones at (908) 531-6653, (908) 875-7447, (908) 875-8466, (908) 875-3806, (908) 380-7232

Pleas enjoy the event! Have a safe trip home!

May God bless you all!

Yolette D. Moise, President, Cercle de L'Amitie de NJ 9/26/2015

WE WENT, WE SAW AND WE UNDERSTOOD

Last May a few members of Cercle de L'Amitie, de New Jersey (CERLAM) made a short trip to Haiti to visit the construction site of the orphanage that is being built to house more than 30 girls. As a long term commitment to respond to the human tragedy caused by the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010, CERLAM's members have decided to finance the orphanage reconstruction. CERLAM's supervisory committee placed in Haiti has been monitoring all the phases of the project – we are happy to report the construction of the orphanage is moving along accordingly. We observed that all the major phases of the project have been completed, which include: the walls, roof, floor, the stairs and the installation of the windows and doors. A few tasks such as the plumbing, electrical work and the painting were scheduled to be completed within the next month.

During our visit we met with Sister Judith Clerfond, the nun who is running the orphanage, CADE (Centre D'Aide Aux Desherites) (Center of Aid for the Less Fortunate) and the school La Divine Providence (Providence Divine). Sister Judith showed us the school, the Center and the orphanage site and expressed the challenge she faces on a daily basis to meet the needs of these children. We observed 35 girls (ranging from two to seventeen years old) that Sister Judith has taken in her care since the earthquake. Temporarily she also has an orphan boy of eight years that needs to be placed somewhere else. These vulnerable girls were on the streets of Port-au-Prince exposed to human trafficking, child exploitation and sexual assault. Because of Sister Judith's kind heart and devotion to God, the girls have been cared for and provided a safe heaven. Unfortunately Sister Judith has become their sole provider because no family to care for them. She is responsible for the physical, medical, educational, psychosocial and developmental needs of every child under her care and does this without any financial assistance from the Haitian government. In addition to that, Sister Judith has to provide a daily lunch to the 150 children that are attending the school La Divine Providence.

While Sister Judith is under the obedience of a Catholic Congregation called Sister of the Poor which is based in Haiti, they have not been able to assist with the children. The only aid Sister Judith receives is from the World Food Organization (WFO). Although WFO delivers basic food to the Center (which consists of rice, beans, flour and oil), Sister is left at the mercy of others to get the additional necessities needed to prepare daily meals for the girls. In addition Sister Judith cannot accommodate the educational needs of all the children in the school she is running due to academic limitation. Some of the older children have to attend classes in other schools after completing 7th grade, which requires further expenses for tuition, transportation, uniform and school supplies.

While interacting with the children of the orphanage, it came to our understanding that we need to continue to maintain our presence in their lives. These girls are potential political leaders, professional, artists, scientists or valuable members of Haitian society. Our involvement in the lives of these children should not be limited to the gift of a home for them to live. As long as we can, we, members of Cercle de L'Amitie, must do everything in our power to assist Sister Judith caring for these children. She has to rely on a monthly budget to help her defray the cost of daily living. By providing financial assistance to Sister Judith on a monthly basis, her daily stress level will be reduced, thus allowing for her to fully devote to the children.

CERLAM's this year challenge is focused on furnishing the orphanage. We will also have to assist in providing material and supplies needed to sustain a decent life in the orphanage. CERLAM's members will begin collecting clothes, shoes, toiletries, school supplies, linens and non-perishable items to ship to the orphanage, on an annual basis, at the very least. Considering our deep commitment, Members of CERLAM must continue to work with Sister Judith in order to help the children grow, develop and become self-sufficient, respectable and productive individuals.

As you may realize this ambitious project would not have been possible without the help and support from our long time generous donors, contributors and patrons. While CERLAM's members are expressing their gratitude to those who have been contributing to the realization of this project we will continue to rely on our donors to help maintain a secure, healthy and enjoyable life for the girls living in the orphanage.

Daniel, Yolette and Darnell Moise

May 1, 2015

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR DONORS

Today, I want to acknowledge you the donors of Cercle de L'Amitie de New Jersey, every one of you who over the years have supported CERLAM and made it a viable association not only in the Borough of Roselle but in the state of NJ. As a member, I was given the task to thank you for all that you have done. Cercle de l'Amitie de New Jersey was founded in 1992 by a group of friends hence the name Cercle de L'Amitie. They all shared a desire to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

The Circle of friends got together and found a cause in the form of a school. There in Carnifice, they rallied around children who needed to be fed, schooled and nurtured. They built the school in Gros Mornes and for years invested their energy into making sure that 365 youngsters were given academic and nutritional sustenance. In 1993, the school Saint Jean Evangeliste de Kenscoff was repaired and a boy's dormitory was built in Petit Goave in the year 2000. In 2012, a few years after the earthquake, the association decided to embrace another significant cause, that of orphan children. With the help of Councilman Yves Aubourg, the orphanage project started materializing.

Here we are, in September 2015, we want to let you know that thanks to your support, we have been able to accomplish a feat. You, our donors, renovated these buildings. You can individually and collectively take ownership for these establishments. You are the fuel that kept our fire burning. You are helping us realize our humanitarian dream.

Yes, I am well aware that this is an ongoing project and there is a lot more to do, but I can proudly say that we are well on our way. As the year unfolds, we will continue knocking on your door, we will continue calling your homes and cells numbers and on occasions, you will get a text from us. You will hear from us as we engage in our yearly activities and what we consider our duty. That phone will not stop ringing. But tonight, one of our many purposes is to celebrate your presence, your generosity of spirit, your willingness to be here, and your kindness toward the children of CADE, "Centre d'Aide aux Desherites." On their behalf, we thank you.

JUDITH GASTON CERLAM MEMBERS

MISSION OF CERCLE DE L'AMITIE DE NEW JERSEY

- Provide educational and charitable opportunities to families residing in Union & Essex Counties New Jersey.
- Promote social and health development in the Haitian-American community.
- Preserve the Haitian Culture.
- Offer scholarship to college-bound English language learner.
- Educate under-privileged children in Haiti.

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CERLAM COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT Dr. Pierre Ronald Leger



Dr. Pierre Ronald Leger is a pediatrician practicing in Irvington for more than twenty five years. Dr. Leger is married to Nirva Taylor Leger and together they have four children.

As a young child, the second of six siblings, he developed a special bond with his sickly older brother suffering from autism and seizure disorder. This has stimulated his interest in Medicine and informed his decision in becoming a pediatrician and an advocate for children with special needs.

Dr. Pierre Ronald Leger received his medical education at the University Autonoma of Guadalajara School of medicine in Mexico and completed a residency in Pediatric Medicine at the Brooklyn Hospital in New York. He moved to New Jersey where he joined St Michael Medical Center as an Assistant Attending and a Clinical Instructor for medical students, nurse practitioner students, interns and residents. He later served as Chairman of Pediatrics and Director of Ambulatory Pediatrics at the same institution.

Dr.Leger is an active member of the Batey Relief Alliance, a humanitarian organization that seeks to create a safe, productive and self-sufficient

environment. Dr Leger's organization offer healthcare , food security, education and community development programs for children and their families affected by poverty, diseases, hunger in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He has participated in several medical missions for the past 15 years.

Dr. Leger is also a member and vice-president of the Association of Haitian Physicians, NJ chapter. He educates the public at large by conducting health fairs, health forums, radio talk shows and other community activities. Following the devastating earthquake in 2010 in Haiti, He joined the first group of Haitian physicians, nurses and other health professionals who provided medical assistance and care for patients at the State University Hospital of Haiti.

CERLAM HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENT Joseph J. Parlapiano, Esquire



Joseph J. Parlapiano has been practicing in the immigration field for 38 years, which includes six years as a General Attorney at U.S. I.N.S., and in 2007 as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School. Subsequent to his time at U.S. I.N.S., Mr. Parlapiano has been defense counsel in matters arising under U.S. Immigration and Nationality Laws, appearing before USCIS, EOIR, BIA, U.S. District Courts for the District of New Jersey and the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. He is also admitted in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Joseph has lectured before the Federal Bar Association, the N.J. Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and has been elected to "Best Lawyers in America" in 2003-2004, 2008-

2009, 2010-2014 and again for 2015. IN his (spare) time, Joseph is a Roman Catholic Deacon for 20 years, received graduate education in Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall Graduate School of Theology, and is the CEO/President of One Heart for Haiti, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) public charity, providing for the educational needs of up to 1,200 students in elementary and secondary schools in the western mountains of Haiti. We have expanded the primary grades (1-3) to include a high school, a preschool, adult education sewing classes, etc. Mr. Parlapiano, speaks (somewhat) and is (somewhat) literate in Haitian Kreyol, after having attended Berlitz language school, and has generally traveled to Haiti at least twice each year for the past 16 years, to personally oversee the allocation of funds raised in the U.S.

Among other endeavors, Joseph has been a volunteer, part-time hospital chaplain for 5 years, taught an 8 week seminar series for 4 years under the auspices of the Jesuit Community from Georgetown University, entitled "Work Life Ministry" aimed at introducing Managers and Executives to the importance of introducing Christian Values into the workplace, was a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities (Paterson Diocese) for five years, and a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Paterson Diocese for 5 years, and has assisted Most Rev. Willy Romelus, Diocese of Jeremie, Haiti, as a "missionary" raising funds in the Diocese of Paterson for his work in Haiti.

Joseph was born and raised in Newark New Jersey. He has worked as a social worker, a probation officer and an immigration lawyer... the poor, the criminal and the alien. He grew up in the inner city before it was called the inner city.

Joseph has been married for forty-six years to Cathy (the same wife). They have been blessed with three children and 6 grandchildren. If he had to choose a creed it would be..." What the poor do with the gifts they receive is between them and God...What we give when we see the poor is between us and God"

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSEPH PARLAPIANO,

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The NJ Chapter of the Association of Haitian Physicians

Warmly congratulates

Dr Léger on being the Humanitarian Award Recipient

And

CERLAM on being very involved in the progress of the community

Herve Boucard, M.D. & Anne Boucard, MSN, CRNP enthusiastically support Cercle de L'Amitie de New Jersey on its humanitarian work on Haiti and all other community oriented endeavors.

Congratulations and Best wishes to CERLAM Anne Boucard, MSN, RN, APN-C Board Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner

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We would like to acknowledge the members of the Organization of Support to the Development of Plateau Central (OSDPC) from Massachusetts. They came all the way from Boston to bring their support to CERLAM.

Our sincere appreciation to the following non-profit organizations for their support and contribution: Haiti Solidarity Network of the North East (HSNNE), Association Tet Ansanm pou Avancement Potno (TAPPAP), L'Association des Gonaives, the Youth Group of St. Michael's Church (JAC).

We would like to recognize the Readlinger family, the Lorquet family and the Petit Michel family especially Mrs. Marie Andre Petit-Michel for their continuous devotion to the Haitian-American Community and their generous contribution to the success of CERLAM's 23rd Anniversary gala.



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