



# Share Care RAYJON

## New Outreach Coordinator

As RAYJON continues to grow and to adapt to the changes and challenges constantly presenting themselves to the organization, new ideas and opportunities begin to flourish. One of the more recent opportunities has been the Outreach Coordinator position RAYJON has developed to increase and to improve communication and outreach projects.

My name is Laura Persichetti and I am thrilled to step into this position with gratitude and with confidence to knit the requirements of the job, as well as meet the needs of RAYJON as a whole.

I went on my first RAYJON trip to Haiti in March 2009. As anyone who has had the chance to attend a trip through RAYJON will know, this experience has the power to affect us in a very subtle, yet incredibly impacting way.

I attended this trip at a very vital time in my life. I previously graduated from University of Windsor with a Drama in Education and Community Honours and minor in English and Psychology. I already had the opportunity to travel to various places in the world and was seeking a way to conquer my goal to change the world one person at a time! After the initial awareness trip meeting in September 2008, I was "in".

When I returned from the trip, a light ignited within me and I was determined to *do* something. The world seems like a very big place when you have the desire to change it for the better. If I could take any lesson from university it would be one from Brian Way, "*Start from where you are.*" So I did.

I began to get involved in my community. I looked up volunteer experiences through the Inn of the Good Sheperd and the Family Counseling Centre. I returned to a job through Child and Youth Services at the Community Girls' Home and I pursued a job with Community Living. I began to get more and more involved with RAYJON and united with a group willing to develop the Youth Committee branch of the organization. I was on a quest to get involved with others willing to make a change.

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Outreach Coordinator of RAYJON. I am looking forward to learning every element of the organization and all of the people that make it whole. I offer a welcome to approach me with any questions or concerns that I can answer or direct you to someone who can. Information on upcoming events and projects, as well as information on RAYJON as an organization will become more accessible as the position begins to blossom. More opportunities to get involved and help make a difference locally and internationally will begin to present themselves, and you too, will have the possibility to make a change; one person and one project at a time.

Thank you,

*Laura Persichetti*  
*Rayjon Outreach Coordinator*

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## RAYJON SHARE CARE

Published by

RAYJON Share Care of Sarnia Inc.

An ecumenical Canadian Charity  
for Development and Aid in Haiti,  
Dominican Republic and other  
Developing Countries.  
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### Our Vision

*Caring communities building  
partnerships through education,  
development and aid.*

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*Maggy Barnfield  
Dianne McKillican  
Jim Newton*

### CIDA Support

RAYJON is pleased to acknowledge the role that the *Canadian International Development Agency* (CIDA) has played in support of the St. Marc Community Development Project, HAITI. CIDA has matched funds for the project since 1989.



Canadian International  
Development Agency    Agence canadienne de  
développement international

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## Coming Events

### Annual Starvation

Noon on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> until  
noon on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at St. Joseph's Church hall in Corunna.

*Come and join us if you can for fun,  
laughter, action, learning & comraderie.*

If you're not able to be there,

please consider sponsoring a participant.

For more information call: John Barnfield at 519-337-0338

### Membership meeting & Christmas Party

Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

at Sacred Heart Church meeting room.

Reports from RAYJON's Eyeglass trip to Honduras  
and the work group to Gilbert, Haiti.

Maggy Barnfield will present "Empowered"

the story of the RAYJON Community Development Project  
in Haut de St. Marc, Haiti,

followed by a music presentation entitled "Rise Again".

*You are invited to bring a plate of your favourite  
Christmas finger food to share.*

Third World crafts & vanilla for sale.

Bring family & friends for an enjoyable evening.

### Planning Session

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12noon

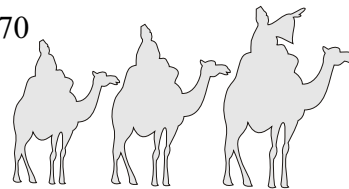
All active RAYJON members are invited to attend.

Come with your ideas and help shape the future of the  
organization.

For more information call:

Den Shannon at 519-542-7270

*They followed a star*



### HOW TO DONATE TO RAYJON

By check or money order made out to Rayjon Share Care  
Send to:

Mrs. Daphne Murray

For Rayjon Share Care

1923 Park Ave

Bright's Grove (ON), N0N 1C0

Canada

OR

by internet payment via [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) using  
your credit card. This is a secure site.



**Congratulations and thanks** to Matt Banninga (Haiti 2008) who has taken 'initiative' to the next level! In September, at the beginning of his second year at Carleton University in Ottawa, Matt organized a fundraiser on campus and raised a significant amount of money. After hearing about RAYJON's first Grade 13 students at St. Patrick's School in Barbe, Haiti, Matt wanted to make it possible for those students moving on to post-secondary education to have the same opportunities as himself & his peers. He organized a starvathon and raised over \$1000 to go towards the tuition & accommodation expenses where needed. While home in Sarnia for the summer Matt also organized a barbecue & a car washing event involving members of RAYJON's Youth Committee. Many thanks Matt ... We're proud of you!

**Congratulations** to husband & wife team of Dr. Monique Dostaler & Dr. Glen Maddison (Glen is RAYJON's Health & Safety Director) on receiving the Outstanding Physician of the Year Award! Their dedication and compassion for patients with cancer and in palliative care was recognized, and they were hailed as "excellent examples for all physicians". Both Monique & Glen have spent time working in Haiti at the RAYJON clinics in Gilbert & Bertrand and with Dr./Fr. Rick Frechette in the slums of Port-au-Prince.

**Congratulations** to Denyse Gervais-Regan (Haiti 2002) on the recent publication of her book "The 13th One". This book follows but does not copy the story of her critically acclaimed play "The 13th One" first staged in Blyth in 2005. Both efforts outline the story of her life as the 13th child in a family of 14 children, growing up in Elie, Manitoba. Both efforts also showcase the voices of her parents, her brothers & sisters, as they battled poverty in their growing up & grown up lives. Some of us have seen the play & marveled at her skill in bringing joy & desperation to a fine finish. Now there's the book - more, for those of us who are greedy to hear more. Denyse is currently working on a screenplay of "The 13th One" & another production of "The 13th One" for the 2011 theatre season in Winnipeg.

Visit her webpage [www.denysegervaisregan.com](http://www.denysegervaisregan.com) for more information on readings/book signings & interview dates. Bien fait, Denyse chere!

**Congratulations** to Rachel Stoesser (Dominican Republic 2009) on being awarded the Norma Cox (Sarnia) Foundation Award for 2009. Rachel was a student at St. Patrick's High School in Sarnia and is now studying at Guelph University.

**Congratulations** to Kathleen McCarthy (Dominican Republic) on receiving a Fulbright U.S. Student scholarship to Switzerland in Ecology/Environmental Studies. Kathleen (Port Huron) is one of 1,500 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2009 – 2010 academic year. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Among prominent Fulbright alumni is Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director & Founder of Grameen Bank (a micro-credit system used in developing countries) and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Well done, Kathleen!

### Fall Fair 2009

Every year, we plan this one day event hoping to make at least what we did the year before. NOT that there's a monetary benchmark, but kind of. This year, in the face of our stressed economy, we surpassed any previous record, raising over \$14,000. \$14,000!!! Amazing. ....Even though everyone on the Fair Committee works so hard to make what we sell attractive, we couldn't do it without the support of so many other people. People like all the extra volunteers, adults & students, who help make the day run smoothly. People like all the shoppers & RAYJON supporters who come back each year, helping us showcase what is best in us all. As proud as we are of the money raised, we are even prouder of the fact that our Fair has such a great "buzz" about it - good people together making all the sounds & noise of a really good party. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked, volunteered, shopped, supported. See you next year!

The winners of the RAYJON Fall Fair Big Raffle were:

**1<sup>st</sup> prize** – a RAYJON tee-shirt with approx. \$650 worth of gift certificates donated by a variety of merchants and businesses was won by **Joe Phibbs of Petrolia**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** – a 7cu. Ft. freezer donated by Ronan O'Donnell of **Northend Appliances** was won by Helène Notte of Sarnia.

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize** – a beautiful topaz pendant and earring set donated anonymously was won by Adele Thrasher of Sarnia.

*Congratulations to the winners & many thanks to all who bought tickets in support of RAYJON's projects in Haiti.*



*Suzanne Oliver  
checking out the baking.  
The Bake Table made  
an astonishing \$1700*

## Current Financial Situation

Over the past 20 years RAYJON Share Care (RAYJON) activities have continued to grow. The development activities have been funded by your generous ongoing financial support and the Canadian Governments matching contributions through CIDA, on a three to one basis, for a large part of our development expenses. The development projects are in two areas, one in St Marc and the other in Cap Haitien. Our efforts continue to focus on community development, which embraces the full extent of basic needs rather than focusing on a single aspect. The major difference between the two projects is that the St. Marc one is in a rural area and that the Cap Haitien one is in an urban setting.

We try to instill in the projects the concept of sustainability and our long-term goal is to empower the Haitians we serve and help them reach their full potential to meet their basic human needs. In a country so poor in resources and so vulnerable to upsets we appreciate that this is a real challenge for them and their resilience is amazing.

For now the political scene is encouraging and hopefully the United Nations along with Haitian leaders will succeed in building a stronger political and law enforcement system which serves the Haitian population and sets the basis for sustained improvement.

The project in St Marc - The Integrated Rural Development Project - focuses on education, health services, building productive and financial capacities of individuals and groups and on agriculture. It is administered by RAYJON Share Care Haiti, (RSCH), a 100% Haitian organization funded by us. They operate three elementary schools, two to grade six and one to grade three with a combined enrollment of about 500 children and one high school up to grade twelve (the only one in the rural area) serving about 100 students. They also operate an important Rural Health Clinic in Gilbert which has grown from a small hut to a five room rural hospital with a maternity room and laboratory able to diagnose illnesses such as tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS. They focus their effort towards adults, mainly on women, to build their capacity to take care of their basic needs. Women's groups play a pivotal role in deciding the priority of community needs. These needs include: improving literacy, health, education, good governance, adult training, setting up small enterprise and enabling them to finance these through micro-credit loans and governance responsibilities. RSCH currently has a major thrust underway in agriculture to help farmers improve their productivity and selection of crops to grow.

The project in Cap Haitien - The Urban Community Project - is administered by the Sacred Heart Center (SHC) also a 100% Haitian organization funded by us. Over the past three years we have been busy adding the "RAYJON experience" to the well-founded and remarkable programs that were initiated by Sr. Rosemary Fry, the founder of the S H C. The center works with the poorest families of the city to provide basic necessities. Due to the initiative of its dedicated staff the lives of the Haitian friends participating are improving. For example, they have augmented the existing programming with improved nutrition through a community garden project so that the children have fresh vegetables to eat. The after school-tutoring program has been expanded. They have established a very successful micro-credit small loan program to move the women into higher income generating opportunities. They have also provided literacy, health, group dynamics and entrepreneurial training, which have resulted in greater success for the participants in their business endeavors. Others have been aided in the reconstruction of their homes.

RAYJON's total spending for development in Haiti this year was close to \$835,000 - about \$650,000 for St Marc and \$150,000 for Cap Haitien and \$35,000 for hurricane disaster relief.

- Awareness trips dedicated to acquiring greater knowledge of the Challenges facing the developing world.
- Eye care trips dedicated to bringing this service to remote areas.
- Work trips dedicated to the support of projects and to the building of skills capacities.
- Georgian College Nursing trips provide an opportunity for nurses and other healthcare practitioners to practice healthcare through field clinics set up in barreos in the Dominican Republic.

Canadian Overheads and Public Engagement are kept to a minimum. We are a mainly volunteer organization. This not only maximizes the use of your financial contributions for development work, it also provides meaningful opportunities for

willing persons to offer their skills and services. To the extent possible we intend to remain that way. However as our activities grow we realize that we have to apply more resources to the proper functioning of the organization and the quality of our development and outreach work. These expenses are now about 4% of our total operations or about \$60,000 per year.

When you add up all the segments of RAYJON's activities you find total expenditures for last year of about \$1,405,000 as follows:

- Development in Haiti	\$835,000
- Trip activities	\$510,000
- Canadian overheads & Public Engagement	\$60,000
- Total Expense	\$1,405,000

This financial reckoning puts no monetary value on the sizable amount of volunteer activities that go into supporting and operating RAYJON

We hope that this gives you a good overview of RAYJON. We thank you for your generous support in the past and hope that we can count on your continued and, if possible, augmented support in the future. Donations can be made as follows:

By mail send to:

**Mrs. Daphne Murray for RAYJON Share Care**  
**1923 Park Ave. Bright's Grove ON, N0N 1C0 Canada.**

or by email through

**[www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)**.

### **Keeping up with the times - on line donations now possible**

For those who prefer the simplified process of donating through the use of their credit card, you can now donate to RAYJON “on line” through the Internet. Simply enter [www.canadahelps.rayjon](http://www.canadahelps.rayjon) in your search engine and proceed to make the donation you wish. You can select a single donation or multiple monthly donations as you wish as well as other ways of donating.

Canada Helps is a charitable organization set up to assist other Canadian charities in their fund raising efforts. It is an economical way for smaller charities to implement secure on line fund raising. It is safe and secure for you and to learn more about Canada Helps just go to “learn more about Canada Helps” on their site [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)  
If it interests you try it, it really is simple.

*Armando Notte- Finance Director*

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### **2010 Awareness Trips**

Preparations for the Awareness trips to Haiti & the Dominican Republic during the March Break of 2010 are already well underway. There are 22 participants for each trip and excitement is building. An information meeting was held at the beginning of October, followed by one-on-one meetings with each participant. The first full group meeting was held towards the end of October. The purpose of the 4 mandatory group meetings is to help prepare the participants for what could be the most meaningful week of their lives: the more they know before they go, the more they will get out of the experience.

Trip leaders for the Haiti trip are :Dianne McKillican, Maggy Barnfield & Ryan DeVries.

Trip leaders for the D.R. trip are: Ben McKillican & John Popiel

“Pye bwa ki wo di li wè lwen, gren pwomennen di li wè pase l’.”

The tall tree says it sees far, the wandering seed says it sees more.

*Travelling opens one's eyes.*

*Haitian proverb.*



## UCP Repairs Homes in Cap Haitien

With a generous donation from the Morrow Foundation, RAYJON's Urban Community Project's Housing and Education Director was able to repair the homes of two large families. It is extraordinary to see impoverished families lifted from a place of vulnerability into a secure home where they may grow and be together in safety and comfort.

### **Family 1**

Madame & Monsieur Jean Baptiste

Community: LaBary

Total price: \$28,358 Haitian or \$3,522US

Time for completion: 23 days

Madame & Monsieur Jean Baptiste have four children; three daughters who the UCP sends to school and one son who does not attend school. Edna, the oldest, is enrolled in a sewing program and is in the final year of a three-year program. Dudline is in primary school and Ernise in secondary.

Monsieur Jean Baptiste works in commerce; his business is selling medicine. Madame Baptiste is sick with stomach problems and does not work. During one of the UCP's regular home visits, their home was identified as needing repairs. The house had a mismatch of exterior covering, a leaky tin roof and a dirt floor worn smooth by rainwater that flowed through the home during storms. Because of the condition of the house, the children were unable to sleep well, which in turn affected the children's performance at school and general health of the family.

When possible, the family must participate in the construction of the house to instill the sense of ownership. Edna and her father carried by hand the water, cement and gravel up through one of the five steep, mud-filled, narrow walkways for the construction of their house. Now the family has a comfortable, three-bedroomed home, constructed in cement and reinforced to prevent damage from future rain water flow, and a door that locks to keep their belongings and food safe.

### **Family 2**

Ivrance Préval

Community: Lourier

Total cost: \$21,855 Haitian or \$2,714US

Total time for completion: 13 days

Ivrance Préval has six children and no husband. She has tried the UCP's commerce classes, but is unable to learn the skills needed to be a business woman and so does not work. The UCP sends two of the children to school and monitors the other four children in the monthly nutrition program.

Her house was worse than the first family. It eventually collapsed, leaving the family separated and living with various neighbours. Because she was pregnant, Ivrance was unable to help with the construction of her new house. The family still faces many challenges but now had a new, thee-roomed house they can call home.



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*May the wonder of the shepherds,  
The generosity of the wise ones,  
The compassion of Mary be in you  
and flow from you this Christmas and always.*

*May the responsiveness of the shepherds,  
The sense of adventure of the wise ones,  
The steadfastness of Joseph, the commitment of Mary,  
Both to her child and the vision of a better world for all  
Motivate you, now and always.*

*May you feel the presence of hope, peace, faith and love,  
With the blessing of the Father, Christ Child and holy Spirit  
within you, beside you and before you.*



## A Steep Learning Curve

At the age of seventeen, March 2006, I embarked on a RAYJON Awareness Trip to Haiti with thirteen others. Little did I know that this eight day trip would serve as a catalyst for further service learning and feed a brewing passion for social justice, sustainable development and community partnership. Although as many young people will find, it is difficult to juggle academic duties while also pursuing other initiatives, the student bubble can become discouraging and many can find that spark once ignited with the initial awareness, slowly burning out as we progress further into the status quo. Finally, in my third year of University I decided I needed to take action. I planned a month trip to Haiti, on my own. To my delight, my love and admiration of this neglected country had not diminished in the least. I had committed to a two weeks stay at an orphanage called God's Littlest Angels (GLA), located just north of Petionville and just south of the Kenscoff region, which cares for hundreds of children pending adoption to 'forever families' in North America or European countries. I was assigned a roster of 8 children, working with each child for one hour a day on development skills, all the while providing that much needed one-on-one attention, love and support. It didn't take longer than 20 minutes for each of these children to gain a full grasp on a piece of my heart and I am convinced they showed me more love than I could ever bestow upon them. These children will never remember me, but I can only hope that I have left a special impact on their growth and development that my presence in their lives will live on.

The following two weeks of my trip I spent in St. Marc with RAYJON ShareCare Haiti working alongside Dieudonne, RAYJON's In-Country director. My position as a volunteer was rather unclear as RAYJON does not usually have volunteers come individually, but I was eager to see more of the projects and get my hands dirty. This part of my trip proved difficult as I no longer had the luxury of English speaking companions, or the company of fellow Canadians or Americans. Dieudonne was able to provide me with numerous opportunities to see the projects and contribute where needed, however, it came as a shock to me, that these projects did not need my help. In fact, they were moving along quite nicely, strictly run and operated by Haitians. Although this was a difficult reality, it was also an incredible feeling to know that RAYJON really has developed sustainable development projects.



*Britt with her eight babies*

My entire trip proved to present a steep learning curve, from language barriers to travelling by my lonesome. I was truly pushed out of my comfort zone into the uncomfortable zone of unfiltered poverty and desperation. I found that travelling alone provided more opportunities to infiltrate into the real Haitian environment. Despite the fact that I could not ask many questions, merely observing the culture and the day to day lifestyle of these people was lesson enough in humble living. There is a great need in the country of Haiti, and I am by no means an expert, but I can say that we as a population have a lot to learn from these strong willed, hardworking people. I admired their strength and resiliency and I envy their confidence. Despite their history, I have hope for this country, I have hope for the children of GLA and I have hope that one day Haiti will be able to stand alone. I have come a long way from that eager seventeen year old self, but I still hold dear to those experiences of my first Awareness Trip and I will continue to call upon those values and lessons instilled upon our group of thirteen. Thank you RAYJON.

*Brittnei Berresford*

“Moun ki pa manje pou kò l' pa janm grangou”  
Those who don't eat alone are never hungry.  
*Those who share will receive.*

*Haitian proverb*



## Sarnia Justice Film Festival ...

continues to bring quality documentaries to the Sarnia Lambton community. All films are screened at Sarnia Public Library Auditorium on Saturday evenings at 7pm. Admission is free ... donations gladly accepted.

Upcoming screenings include:

*“Consuming Kids”* (2008) on Saturday, November 14th at 7pm.

This is a film about North American children and how the intrusion of marketing into their lives has not only robbed them of their childhood, but has given rise to a consumerism that undercuts the social & ethical values they should be learning.

*“Fierce Light: When the Spirit Meets Action”* (2009) on Saturday, January 23rd 2010 at 7pm.

This award winning film is about what should motivate us when we take action to promote justice & peace in the world. Martin Luther King called it “Love in Action”, Ghandi called it “Soul Force”, this film calls it “Fierce Light”.

*“Addicted to Plastic”* (2007) on Saturday, February 20th 2010 at 7pm.

This film took 3 years of filming in 12 countries on 5 continents., and explores the impact plastic has on our lives and our environment. We can all do something about the over-use of plastic ... seeing this film is a start.

*“Waterlife”* (2009) on Saturday, March 20th 2010 at 7pm.

This film follows the epic cascade of the Great Lakes from Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, telling the story of the last huge supply of fresh water on Earth, and the dangers of taking it for granted.

Contact: [justicefilm@sympatico.ca](mailto:justicefilm@sympatico.ca) for more information

### “Ending Poverty in our own Communities”

For over 20 years, the RAYJON organization has been striving to improve the quality of the lives of people in Haiti, DR and other Developing Countries. Our Community Development initiatives in Cap-Haitien and St Marc aim to reduce poverty in those areas of Haiti through Education, Health Care, Good Governance, Agricultural Development, etc.

Sadly we know, too, there is abundant poverty in our own communities here in Canada.

But there is some good news. Sarnia-Lambton has recently declared publicly it is launching a campaign to eliminate poverty in our community in our lifetime.

The “Circle” Campaign originated in the US just a few years ago and is spreading very rapidly throughout the US. Sarnia-Lambton is proud to be the first Canadian community to pilot the program.

The Circles Campaign centres around “Leaders” from poor neighbourhoods within a community who are “matched” with a small team of “allies” from “middle class” backgrounds. These Circle teams, which meet weekly, draw on the support & services of community groups to address issues and opportunities raised by the Circle teams. The teams are also networked together and meet once a month to share common experiences. A Guiding Coalition oversees the process through 6 teams focusing on: Political / Advocacy; Education; Health Promotion; Financial / Donations; Faith Based; Weekly Dinner Meetings.

We will hear much more about this exciting initiative over the next year.

For more information, check out: [www.movethemountain.org](http://www.movethemountain.org) and/or contact:

Gayle Montgomery  
(519) 344-2062 ext 2169

Mary Lou Robb  
(519) 344-2062 ext 2068