



# SHARE CARE RAYJON



## RAYJON'S 20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR – 2006!

Join us in celebrating this special milestone!

RAYJON has much to be grateful for, and this is a great opportunity to honour the achievements we have collectively made over the past twenty years. Thousands of people, both locally and abroad, have been positively impacted by our amazing community! So, we decided last spring to identify ways of celebrating to make this a memorable occasion. Some of those ideas were:

**Anniversary Dinner Gala:** This grand event is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2006 at 6 pm at the Sarnia Golf & Curling Club. We anticipate a great turn-out & look forward to welcoming long-time friends and new members alike!

**Gift Card Fundraiser:** A unique gift idea that raises monies for specific projects in the developing world.

**Commemorative Items:** A group is championing the idea of either a scholarship fund or planting much needed trees in Haiti. A DVD is being considered as an anniversary keepsake.

**Media Stories:** RAYJON coverage in the media will include special feature articles, inspiring stories and moving pictures. Collaborative efforts with our media partners are now under discussion.

**Eyeglass Clinic Display:** In June 2006, a special anniversary display will be set up at Lambton Mall during our annual Eyeglass Clinic to inform the public of RAYJON's history, vision and successes.

**Anniversary Trip to Haiti:** In the spring of 2006, a unique trip to Haiti will be planned. The itinerary will be non-traditional.

*Stay tuned for details in upcoming newsletters...*

### What's Inside!

<b>Events &amp; Social</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Social</b>	<b>4, 5</b>
<b>Inspiration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Reports</b>	<b>6, 7</b>
<b>Global Trade</b>	<b>8</b>

## 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.  
#0767228-09-17

P.O. Box 2482  
Sarnia, Ont., N7T 7T1  
Canada

e-mail: rayjon@ebtech.net  
www.sarnia.com/rayjon

### Our Vision

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

### Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

**Chairperson** John Barnfield  
**Vice-chairperson** Peter Westfall  
**Financial Dir. - Treasurer** Brian Murphy  
**Legal Advisor** Peter Westfall  
**Secretary** Maureen Morkin  
Jim Leliveld

**Trips** Peter Westfall  
**Work Groups** Jim Leliveld  
**Eyeglass Program** Joanne Atkinson  
**Community Dev't Project** Armando Notte  
**Urban Dev't Project** Joan Korpan  
**Education** Elizabeth Soltis  
**Member & Public Engagement** Dianne McKillican  
Maggie Barnfield  
**Medical** Dr. Glen Maddison  
**Spiritual** Br. Anthony  
Fr. Tom Lever

#### Members at Large

Deborah Austin  
Colleen Rapaich & Mike Voisey

### Newsletter Editorial Board

Maggie 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

Printed by Haines Sarnia

## Coming Events

### Board meetings

Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
Community Living offices, Exmouth St., Sarnia

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
Community Living offices, Exmouth St., Sarnia

### Membership meetings

Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm  
Sacred Heart Church meeting room  
Election of officers for the RAYJON Board  
Guest speaker: Peter Smith of Amnesty International  
**Everyone welcome!**

### Mark your calendars!

RAYJON Christmas meeting & social  
Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm  
Sacred Heart Church meeting room

### Awareness trips' meetings

Information meeting for Awareness trips to Haiti & the DR  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pm – 4 pm  
Sacred Heart Church meeting room, Lecaron Ave., Sarnia

Interviews for Awareness trip participants  
Saturday & Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm – 4 pm  
Sacred Heart Church meeting room

First preparation meeting for Awareness trips to Haiti & the DR  
Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm – 4 pm  
Sacred Heart Church meeting room

### Starvathon

Saturday & Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
Details in a separate mailing.

Vision without action is merely a dream.  
Action without vision just passes the time.  
Vision with action can change the world.

## RAYJON 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip to Haiti - 2006

Plans for a RAYJON 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Haiti are underway. At this point, we are looking at a one-week trip sometime between late February and May. The exact timing will be determined by those interested in going.

A possible outline is as follows:

- Saturday - arrive in P-au-P & spend 2 nights at St. Joseph's boys' home
- Sunday - attend Mass & spend time with the boys at St. Joseph's
- Monday - Group 'A' fly to Cap Haitien & spend 3 days with Sr. Rosemary  
- Group 'B' travel to St. Marc & spend 3 days in the ICDP Project area  
- Group 'C' spend 3 days at Nos Petits Frères et Sœurs orphanage
- Thursday - Groups 'A' & 'B' attend a RAM concert at the Oloffson Hotel in P-au-P
- Friday - visit Nos Petits Frères et Sœurs orphanage, then return to the Oloffson for a celebration dinner
- Saturday - return home

For logistical reasons, we are limiting participation to the first 20 previous RAYJON trip participants to register. Applications from first time travelers will be accepted but put on a waiting list for the time being.

Anyone interested in applying for the Anniversary trip should contact John and Maggy Barnfield (519) 337-0338 as soon as possible and indicate preferred dates.



Dieudonne was in Sarnia for a few days in August. Most of her time was spent in meetings, helping to compile an exciting three year plan for the St. Marc Intergrated Community Development Project which has to be submitted to CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) later this year. However, some time was spent enjoying our good weather and the views around Sarnia. Dieudonne has now returned to Haiti

*Dieudonne overlooking the River St. Clair with the Bluewater Bridges in the distance.*

**Congratulations** to Marilyn & Phil Palmer on the birth of their third grandchild, Randi, a daughter for Ron and Tracey.

**Best wishes** to Marc Stebbins (Haiti January 2004) who is starting Law School at Dalhousie University this month - September 2005.

**Congratulations** to Dr. Brent Neufeld and his wife Maria, on the birth of their first child, Naomi Anna, born on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2005. Brent has been a volunteer on 3 RAYJON Eyeglass Clinics.

**Congratulations** to Brenda (Haiti Awareness trip 1987) & Greg Hogan (Haiti Awareness trip 1990) on the birth of their 3<sup>rd</sup> grandchild, Liam Ernest, a first child for Matthew & Claire.



*Melissa Yates, Sr. Roberta, nurses' conference surprise guest and Marilyn Couture - leader of the Nurses' trips*

**Congratulations** to Melissa Yates, a Lambton College practical nursing student, who delivered an outstanding presentation on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Nurse Educator's Conference in Toronto. Melissa shared her experiences from the Nurses' trip to the Dominican Republic in March of this year.

**Thank you** to Sr. Roberta Mullin, a Canadian Sister of Charity working in the Dominican Republic, for taking time out of her vacation from the D.R. for a June visit to Sarnia. For the last seven years, Sr. Roberta has been the backbone of the RAYJON nurses' trips. She plans and organizes all the activities for the group in the D.R. She is even the group's bus driver!

**Congratulations** to Marilyn Couture, leader of the Nurses' trip to the D.R. on being nominated for the prestigious, Canadian Nurse's Association award, the 2005 Nightingale Award.

**Best wishes** to Fr. Dan Vere on his assignment as Pastor of St. Ursula's Parish in Chatham. For the past 9 years, Fr. Dan has been Pastor of St. Philip's Church in Petrolia & Holy Rosary Church in Wyoming and inspired the students at St. Philip's school & Holy Rosary School, to 'adopt' a school in Pinson, in the RAYJON Community Development Project area. As a result, students with co-ordinator, Kathy Foisey, have raised hundreds of dollars and collected many school supplies for students in Haiti, as well as communicated by letters & drawings with the students in Pinson. Thanks Fr. Dan & good luck in Chatham.

Kathy Foisey, Fr. Dan, Principle Ernie Hill and students from Holy Rosary School, Wyoming with school supplies



**Congratulations** to Wesley Kramer and Sheena on their June

wedding in Ohio. Wes's parent, Andy & Debbi Kramer, hosted a group of RAYJON members who took part in a Habitat for Humanity build in Arequipa, Peru in 1988. In 1997 they were the hosts for a RAYJON Eyeglass Clinic in Anahuan, Mexico. Together with their daughter, Christen, Andy & Debbie are currently serving as Ameritribes Missionaries with the Tarahumara Tribe in La Mesa, Mexico.

**Congratulations** to Brenda Hogan (Haiti Awareness trip 1987) on her retirement from many years of teaching. Brenda has been a long time volunteer with RAYJON and is one of the proof readers for the newsletter.

**Condolences** to Betty Warnez on the death of her daughter, Kathryn, on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2005. Betty is a volunteer at the annual RAYJON eyeglass workshops.

**Condolences** to Dolores Taylor on the death of her father, James Barnes, on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005

**Condolences** to Chuck Wust on the death of his mother in Holland on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**Congratulations** to Colleen Rapaich & Mike Voisey on the birth of their second child, Adam, on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, a brother for Olivia. Both Colleen & Mike are Members at Large on the RAYJON Board.

**Congratulations** to Phil Litrenta on his retirement from many years of teaching. Phil was most recently the Principal at Sacred Heart School in Sarnia, the venue for the annual RAYJON Fall Fair, and has been instrumental in making sure that the Fall Fair went off without a hitch. Thank you Phil! Maybe now he has more time, he'll become an Awareness trip participant. We look forward to seeing you in Haiti, Phil!



On his retirement, Phil Litrenta donated all his monetary gifts to RAYJON for work in Haiti.

*Phil donating his gift from the students at Sacred Heart*

**Dr. Brian Bradley** March 14, 1929 - August 13, 2005 Dr. Brian Bradley, a Sarnia Ophthalmologist, was a volunteer with RAYJON's first Eyeglass team in 1993. The team, led by Don Burnard, offered a Clinic in Ixmiquilpan, Mexico to provide vision assessment and distribute eyeglasses to the indigenous people of the area. Watching the patients as they lined up for hours in the hot sun, hearing their stories and witnessing their joy when they received improved vision had a profound effect on Brian. He encouraged his wife Rita to join him on the next clinic. In addition to participating in 4 clinics, he offered valuable knowledge and assistance to those of us who were involved in developing the program. We will miss his expert advice, his words of encouragement and his wry sense of humour.

*Joanne Atkinson, Director of the RAYJON Eyeglass Program*

### The Only Sermon

If we dug a huge, huge grave miles wide, miles deep and buried every rifle, pistol, knife, bullet, bomb, bayonet,  
 if we jumped upon fleets of tanks with tool boxes, torches and un-welded them,  
 dismantled them, turned them into scrap metal -  
 if every light-skinned man in a silk tie said to every dark-skinned man in a cotton turban,  
 I vow not to kill your children and heard the same vow in return -  
 if every elected leader agreed to stop lying -  
 if every child was fed as well as Arabian race horses bred to win Derbies -  
 if every person with a second home gave it over to a person with no home -  
 if every mother buried her parents, not her sons and daughters -  
 if every person who has enough said out loud 'I have enough' -  
 if every person violent in the name of God were to find God -  
 we would grow silent, still for a moment, still for a lifetime.  
 We would hear infants nursing at the breast,  
 hummingbirds, hovering in flight,  
 we would touch a canyon wall and feel the earth vibrate,  
 we would hear two loves sigh across the ocean,  
 we would watch old wounds grow new flesh  
 and jagged scars disappear as time was layered upon time,  
 we would slowly be ready to begin.

*Andrea Ayvazian*

## RAYJON and "Relay for Life"

On Friday, June 26th, 10 RAYJON members formed a team and "spent the night together", taking part in the annual cancer fundraiser, "Relay for Life". Each participant needed to raise a minimum of \$100, which we all did easily with the support of family & friends. Then we raised our tent, unfurled the RAYJON banner and joined over 1000 other Relay participants at Canatara Park in Sarnia. From 7 pm until 7 am, at least one team member walked a 300 metre track for one hour, then was relieved by a team mate. If this sounds monotonous, think again. From the inspiring opening ceremonies until the morning wrap-up, there wasn't a dull moment. The enthusiasm of everyone involved was contagious - the fun was non stop - and the company excellent. The "Relay for Life" committee organized an incredibly well-run event and raised over \$200,000.00. We were grateful and proud to be involved.



*Front row Bob Topliffe, Dianne McKillican, Fr, Tom Lever, Brian Murphy, Ryan Devries  
Back row: Ben McKillican, John Barnfield, Elizabeth Soltis, Deb Austin, Maggy Barnfield*

## 'Live 8'

*Wes Bentley*

My wife and I attended the Live 8 concert in Barrie on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. What an awesome experience! At least 35,000 people, ours was the smallest of the 10 concerts that were happening simultaneously all around the world. It was an interesting mix of people ranging in age from teenagers to seniors.

While the music was great, the message was the real reason for the concert. Time and again it was repeated; that the goal of making poverty history is attainable in our lifetime.

These concerts were not fundraisers, they were intended to raise awareness, rally support for the cause and to pressure the governments of the G8 countries to take action.

The pivotal moment was when Will Smith, who was hosting the Philadelphia concert, went around the world via satellite, linking all of the concerts to each other on the Jumbotron screens. Once we had greeted each other, he had all of us hold up our hands and snap our fingers in unison every three seconds. Snap, 'that was someone's daughter', snap, 'that was someone's son', snap, 'that was someone's brother', snap ..... A child dies from extreme poverty every 3 seconds. Ten million children each year, 30 thousand every day, 1 every 3 seconds, all dying of hunger and preventable diseases. In Africa alone, 247 million people try to survive on less than a dollar a day.

We cannot accept this, it isn't right! No one person can solve this problem alone; it will take a concerted effort from a lot of regular people just like us. Helping one person at a time, this battle can be won.

*Wes was a participant of the RAYJON Nurses' trip to the Dominican Republic in 2005*

## Fundraiser

All Saints Church in Windsor organized a "Bike Adventure & Fundraiser" for Haiti through the initiation of Art Roth, church member & Rayjon Awareness trip participant, 2002. The event was held on the weekend of June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and 30 participants raised \$1400 for RAYJON's Haiti projects. All involved wore specially designed T-shirts for the event, which in themselves helped raise awareness about both this event and RAYJON's Haiti projects. The fundraiser will, hopefully, be carried out again next year. Well done, Art!

## **My Lesson from Haiti**

*Lee Kurtz*

As the plane was landing and my journey to Haiti was coming to an end. The woman who was sitting beside me said, " I thanked the good Lord that I was sitting beside someone as nice as you." She had a broken arm, and I had helped her with her seat belt and to open a package of cutlery. Although at first, I thought that reaction was over the top for essentially opening a bag, I realized that the moment with that woman was symbolic of my entire experience in Haiti. On many different occasions, I was taken aback by the kind words of the people I had encountered. The Kinsons, the family I had the privilege of staying with, showed me the utmost kindness that I couldn't even begin to describe here. This is something that cannot be experienced to the same extent in Canada. The ability to communicate affection verbally is somewhat lacking in my everyday life. Now I don't mean to insult my own culture or even the act of giving and receiving gifts, but after my time in Haiti, I realized how much I rely on material things to show my appreciation and affection. Christmas comes to mind. I once tried, in vain, not to receive any gifts, but secretly when I got fewer than usual, which is still more than I needed, I was disappointed. Now gift giving is a part of Christmas culture and I would never suggest that anyone could go cold turkey and remove the gift giving aspect of Christmas time, but what I hope to do, as I still have lots of time to prepare, is to show in words not stuff, what the people I usually spend many hours of stressful worrying on, truly mean to me. And this is what I hope to keep with me from my journey to Haiti. And in the spirit of verbal appreciation, I would like to say thank you to RAYJON for making this opportunity happen for me. It was the experience of a lifetime. And of course thank you to Dieudonne who I learned so much from and, in between learning, had some fun. Thank you

Lee was a participant in the 2005 January Awareness trip to Haiti. She returned to Haiti and spent 3 weeks in the RAYJON Community Development Project area, experiencing a deeper awareness

## **An e-mail from Kira Meadus – Awareness trip to the D.R. in 1995**

After having done some work in Canada, the Caribbean and South East Asia, I am currently working for the National Census project in Timor-Leste (East Timor). Although I am based in a government directorate, I am funded by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) working as a data analyst, assisting the processing and analysis of data collected during the first national census of Timor as an independent country. Everything you have heard about the U.N. is completely right and a little bit wrong. It still has tremendous potential, so it's worth working for. But like anything with unrealized potential, it can be incredibly frustrating to work with, under or around.

As Africa and the Tsunami affected region attract more donor attention, Timor is suddenly, having to compete for funds, and many of the NGO's operating there have not been able to adapt to the newly competitive environment of successfully balancing fundraising and awareness building with goal accomplishment. That is why I read about the activities of RAYJON with such joy and relief. RAYJON makes it seem so simple; you listen to what the Haitians need and do your best to enable them to improve their own lives and communities.

Many people are overly impressed by what I do and the places I have visited. I tell them the story of how I first got introduced to development; that 10 years ago I went on a RAYJON Awareness trip as a way to escape a week of Canadian winter!

I was once asked what the biggest issue facing the world is today. RAYJON showed me that it is 'indifference'. The best way to cure indifference is through building awareness, and I am proof that RAYJON does that exceedingly well. Thanks RAYJON! I have no idea what I would be doing today had I not been on an Awareness trip.

### **Two Wolves**

One evening, an old Cherokee told his grandson about a debate that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between 2 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies false pride, superiority and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

## Debt Relief and Global Trade

*Jennifer Vansteenkiste*

Live 8 and the G8 summit are in today's headlines, and the issues they present can be confusing. Even though we may feel disconnected to two-thirds of the world's population, who are resource-poor, we are actually very connected. This is especially true with the politics of global trade, in fact, what you are wearing right now is probably a product from that world. Allow me to shed some light on the politics of trade and debt relief.

The Western world initiated third world debt with the 1944 Bretton Wood Treaty, designed for the reconstruction and development of Europe after WWII. The liberal economic proposal, a post-colonial scheme, tied all nations together through economic co-dependence in an effort to promote capitalism, and prevent the spread of communism. As such, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) were created to regulate economic activities, and to make available loans to those countries that removed trade barriers.

During the 1970's debt and oil crises, the third world incurred larger debts in order to pay for the crushing cost of fuel. The fuel was needed to complete the development schemes promoted by the WB and IMF, such as large-scale dam construction. Since this time, highly indebted countries have paid back the debt, through interest payments, an estimated three times. In many poor countries, an average 35% of their GNP is used to service such debt, rather than spent on health and education.

Debt Relief is a complicated issue. Often third world debt is not solely routed through the World Bank, or partnered with other governments, but includes private institutions. Debt relief, in some cases, has resulted in an equivalent amount of new borrowing.

The WB, IMF, and G8 believe Third World government reforms are necessary to reduce corruption, but also demand implementing liberalized trading pacts. On the surface this seems like a pragmatic solution, yet when we look deeper, it smells of manipulation. In essence, the powerful developed nations are requiring poor countries to be trade partners with sophisticated technology and highly educated work forces. It is unfair that developed nations took decades to build their industries with protectionist barriers, yet developing countries cannot enjoy this same advantage.

Third World countries are expect to reach their 'comparative advantage,' which, frankly, means that we can have access to cheap labour and raw materials while selling our value added manufactured goods, technology and subsidized agricultural products. The farmers of poorer countries resort to reducing their family's basic needs to remain competitive.

So, what is the answer? Good governance is definitely needed, but with corruption an integral part of human nature, we need to be realistic and understand that good governance takes years to develop. More importantly we need to address the poverty - not only through debt relief, but through the empowerment of people. People in resource-poor areas have the knowledge and wisdom to make decisions that best meet their needs, but we need to ensure that our government is removing barriers, and not creating ones, that prevent the poor from mobilizing their wealth and energy. We need to reflect upon the morality of exporting our subsidized agricultural products when small-scale farmers simply cannot compete. It is not a level playing field. Micro financing, co-operative fair trade agriculture, and manufacturing compatible to the local conditions are examples of appropriate initiatives.

Debt reduction and good governance are necessary, but asking a country to liberalize its trade when they are not sufficiently prepared is just dirty business.

*Jennifer was a participant in the 2000 RAYJON Awareness trip to Haiti and the 2001 RAYJON Work Group trip to Br. Gilles. Inspired by her experiences in Haiti, Jennifer took the "International and Comparative Studies" course at Huron University College at Western and graduated this year with an Honours BA in what she describes as human development. Many congratulations Jennifer!*