MaranathaKids®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, INC.

BRINGING HOPE | SHARING JESUS | TRANSFORMING LIVES

Quarterly Newsletter | Vol. 3 Issue 1

— THE COMPLETE —

MARANATHA VOICE Newsletter

News & Stories of Hope, Faith & Transformation

Published By Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc. © 2026 All rights reserved | PO Box 1011 Riverview Florida 33578 USA | 800-201-1045 | Info@MaranathaKids.org

Is It Worth *Saving* Haiti?



FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S DESK

A Legacy of Compassion, a Generation of Children, and the Courage to Keep Serving



David Allen A.
President & Founder
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.

Helping one child at a time in Haiti 16 years after devastation

Dear Friends and Family of Maranatha Kids,

Sixteen years after the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, Haiti continues to carry the weight of a tragedy that changed the nation forever. Homes, schools, hospitals, and communities were destroyed, and millions of lives were deeply affected.

But Haiti's story cannot be defined only by disaster. It must also be seen through the eyes of its children.

Children who did not choose the circumstances into which they were born. Children who have experienced hunger, displacement, loss, and uncertainty, yet continue to dream of a safe home, an education, a meal, and a future filled with hope.

For Maranatha Kids International Relief, Haiti is simply a place on a map or a humanitarian crisis in the news. Haiti is part of our story.

For years, we have witnessed the needs of vulnerable children firsthand, and we have also witnessed something equally powerful: Hope that refuses to give up.

With gratitude and faith,

David Allen A.
President & Founder
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.

MaranathaKids®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, INC.

Bringing Hope | Sharing Jesus | Transforming Lives



WHEN HOPE REFUSES TO GIVE UP

A JOURNEY THAT BEGAN WITH CHILDREN

For many years, Maranatha Kids International Relief served vulnerable children in Haiti through Oasis Haiti Children's Home in Port-au-Prince.

During that period, our organization welcomed **96 children** whose circumstances left them in urgent need of care, while many more children had to be turned away because there simply was not enough space or resources to receive them.

Behind those numbers were individual children with extraordinary stories.

Some arrived after experiencing severe neglect. Some had been abandoned as infants. Others had lived in conditions where food, clean water, sanitation, shelter, and basic protection could not be taken for granted.

We remember children who had been left without anyone to care for them, children suffering from malnutrition, and families living in temporary settlements where survival itself became a daily struggle.

These experiences taught us something that remains at the heart of our mission:

> ***A child should never have to earn the right to be protected, loved, educated, and given a future.***

THE CHILDREN DID NOT CREATE THE CRISIS

Haiti's children did not create the instability surrounding them. They did not create the violence. They did not create the poverty. They did not make decisions about government, economics or public policy. Yet they often experience the consequences first and most deeply.

Today, UNICEF reports that millions of Haitian children remain in need of humanitarian assistance. Violence and displacement continue to interrupt education, access to food, healthcare, and child-protection services. More than 1,600 schools were reported closed during the 2024–2025 academic year, affecting more than 240,000 students.

The nutritional situation is also deeply concerning.
A 2026 national nutrition survey found that approximately **one in thirteen children between six months and five years of age is experiencing acute malnutrition**, with the national rate increasing from 5.1% in 2023 to 7.4% in 2026.

These are not simply statistics. Every number represents a child.
A child who is hungry.
A child who has been displaced.
A child who cannot attend school.
A child who needs protection.
A child whose future is still being written.



SERVING HAITI HAS NEVER BEEN WITHOUT RISK



Alexandre Raymond and Mélina Ana Thérèse Raymond

There was a time when Maranatha Kids International Relief volunteers traveled to Haiti in large numbers. Mission teams, churches, students, and humanitarian workers arrived with supplies, energy and a desire to serve.

Over the years, however, Haiti's security environment has become increasingly dangerous. Humanitarian organizations and missionaries have had to reconsider how assistance can safely reach vulnerable communities. Violence, armed groups, kidnapping and insecurity have made some areas extremely difficult to access. The danger is not theoretical.

In November 2019, Alexandre (44) and Mélina (41), a French couple visiting Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for the first time for an adoption process, **were shot and killed shortly after their arrival** in the country. Contemporary reports said investigators considered an attempted armed robbery among the possible explanations, although the circumstances were not fully established.

Then, on May 23, 2024, three Christian missionaries connected with Missions in Haiti, including **Davy and Natalie Lloyd, were killed in an armed attack** in Haiti. Reuters reported that the missionaries were ambushed by gang members after a youth activity at a church.

Their deaths were a heartbreaking reminder that those who enter difficult places to serve others can themselves become victims of violence.

BUT SHOULD FEAR HAVE THE FINAL WORD?

This is one of the most difficult questions facing anyone who cares about Haiti.

When conditions become dangerous, it is natural to ask: Should we continue? For Maranatha Kids, the answer begins with a different question: ***What happens to the children if everyone who cares decides to leave?***

We recognize that no organization can solve Haiti's problems alone. We also recognize that humanitarian work must be responsible. People should not be placed unnecessarily in danger, and programs should never be built on emotion without careful planning.

For humanitarian and faith-based organizations, this reality has changed the meaning of the word mission. Serving is no longer simply about having willing hearts. It also requires preparation, local relationships, security planning, responsible leadership, and a clear understanding of the environment.

But difficult circumstances do not erase the needs of children. In fact, they make responsible humanitarian work even more important.



Davy and Natalie Lloyd

FROM THE

EDITOR'S DESK

A Message of Hope, Reflection, and Renewed Commitment



Marino Rojas Jr.
Editorial Director

Dear Readers, Friends, and Partners of Maranatha Kids International Relief,

Some stories stay with us long after the pages have been turned. They are the stories of children who need protection, families searching for stability, and communities holding on to hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. These are the stories that remind us why our work matters.

In this issue, we reflect on Maranatha Kids' journey in Haiti—a journey shaped by compassion, service, difficult lessons, and an enduring concern for the well-being of vulnerable children.

Yet one truth remains unchanged: every child deserves dignity, protection, opportunity, and hope.

Thank you for being part of the Maranatha Kids story. Your encouragement, prayers, and support help sustain a mission rooted in faith, compassion, and a desire to see children flourish.

May these pages inspire us to keep looking for ways to serve wisely, love generously, and bring hope wherever it is needed.

With gratitude,

Marino Rojas Jr.

Marino Rojas Jr.
Editorial Director
Maranatha Kids International Relief, Inc.

MaranathaKids®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, INC.

Bringing Hope | Sharing Jesus | Transforming Lives



ORPHAN CARE TO A BROADER VISION FOR CHILDREN

Our years of experience in Haiti also taught us an important lesson about the meaning of the word orphan.
A vulnerable child is not necessarily an orphan.

Some children have lost one or both parents. Others have been separated from their families because of poverty, displacement, violence, or circumstances beyond their control.

UNICEF reports that more than 25,000 children in Haiti live in residential institutions and estimates that around 80% are not orphans. UNICEF therefore emphasizes family reunification, foster care, and community-based solutions whenever they can safely meet a child's needs.

That understanding helps shape the future of our work. The goal is not simply to care for children after their families have fallen apart. The goal is also to help strengthen families so that children can remain safe, loved, and connected to their **communities whenever possible.** That means looking beyond the walls of an institution. It means supporting:

- Children
- Families
- Education
- Nutrition
- Child Protection
- Healthcare
- Community Development
- Family Reintegration
- Local Leadership





HOPE MUST BE STRONGER THAN THE CRISIS

Haiti's circumstances are serious. But Haiti is not simply a country of crisis. It is a nation of people with dignity, faith, creativity, resilience, and an extraordinary capacity to endure. The children of Haiti deserve more than emergency assistance.

They deserve opportunities, classrooms, nutritious food, they deserve protection, they deserve families whenever possible. They deserve people who will continue to believe that their lives have value. And they deserve the chance to become the teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, community leaders, parents and servants who will help shape Haiti's future.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR MARANATHA KIDS

Our history in Haiti is not something we want to forget. It is part of who we are. The children we served, the families we encountered, the volunteers who gave their time, and the lessons we learned continue to influence our mission today.

The question before us is not whether Haiti's problems are too large, they are. The question is whether there are children whose lives can still be changed, there are.

And as long as there are children who need protection, education, nourishment and hope, there will be a reason to keep looking for responsible ways to serve.

We may not be able to rebuild an entire nation. We may not be able to eliminate every crisis. We may not be able to reach every community. But we can reach one child, we can strengthen one family, we can help rebuild one community, and sometimes, that is where transformation begins.



OUR COMMITMENT

Maranatha Kids International Relief believes that humanitarian service is not measured only by how much we give, but by whether our efforts help restore dignity, opportunity, and hope. Our future work in Haiti will require wisdom, prayer, strong local partnerships, careful security planning and a commitment to protecting both the children we serve and the people who serve them. We do not go because the road is easy, we go because the children matter. And when circumstances require us to change how we serve, we change the method, not the mission.

Every Child. Every Family. Every Community.

Bringing Hope | Sharing Jesus | Transforming Lives

A MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

To every donor, sponsor, volunteer, church, humanitarian partner and friend who has stood with Maranatha Kids over the years: ***Thank you!***

Your support has allowed us to stand beside vulnerable children in places where their circumstances were often invisible to the rest of the world.

The story of Haiti reminds us that humanitarian work is not always easy, safe or predictable. But it also reminds us of why we began. Because behind every statistic is a child. Behind every crisis is a family. And behind every child is a future worth protecting.