



Let's Do Better Together! A Family Preservation Symposium

A symposium of faith-based practitioners and partners serving in Haiti. Together we will work to improve outcomes for Haitian children and families. We are the experts. As poet Maya Angelou said, "When we know better, we do better."
Let's do better together!

September 29th, 2017
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Servotel, Tabarre
Port Au Prince, Haiti

The Symposium

Overview

*September 29th, 2017
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Servotel, Tabarre
Port Au Prince, Haiti*

*95 Participants from 39+ organizations
12 Speakers, Facilitators & Presenters
6 Breakout Sessions
7 Presentation Sessions*



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Organizing the Symposium

ZoeRoots : Lead Partner, Host

Trauma, whether it is in the form of deprivation, violence, exploitation, institutional care, or living through a disaster or war leaves wounded hearts, wounded caregivers, wounded leaders. ZoeRoots exists to encourage life and hope at the root of trauma by connecting Christian counselors, educators, and advocates to international ministries and NGOs.

Founded by Tamara White in 2010 and focused on Haiti, ZoeRoots has been providing psychological support, counseling, education, retreats and advocacy to traumatized people and the missionaries and relief workers supporting them. ZoeRoots believes in helping the whole person, body, mind and spirit. Many relief organizations meet physical needs. Many missionaries meet spiritual needs. But many working in these fields encounter psychological and social needs and trauma that they don't know how to address or need help addressing. Often these relief workers and missionaries are themselves the victims of primary or secondary trauma. ZoeRoots provides counseling, education and support to address these needs.

The ZoeRoots model is to connect professionals who are too small, grassroots, humanitarian organizations in need. We believe these small organizations have a unique ability to understand the needs of the people that they serve.

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Process

Tamara White, Founder and Executive Director of ZoeRoots gathered partners to contribute to the logistics, planning, and, most importantly, the content of this symposium. To do so, she traveled to Port Au Prince for planning meetings twice during the year preceding the symposium. She identified and engaged key partners who were instrumental in spreading the word and inviting staff and colleagues.

Partners

- » *Espere Community Counseling Center*
- » *Haiti Home of Hope Orphanage*
- » *Haiti Mama*
- » *Healing Hearts International*
- » *Heartline Ministries*
- » *Jesus in Haiti Ministries*
- » *Kay Angel Children's Home*
- » *Little Footprints, Big Steps*
- » *myLIFEspeaks*
- » *Picture Impact*
- » *The Chance to Dream*

Presentations & Breakout Sessions

Schedule

- 8:30 *Check-in*
- 8:50 *Welcome, overview, keynote*
- 10:00 *Breakout Sessions*
- 11:00 *Presentation Sessions*
- Noon *Lunch & Networking*
- 1:00 *Presentation Sessions*
- 2:00 *Breakout Sessions*
- 3:00 *Presentation Sessions*
- 4:00 *Q&A, Final Remarks, Where do we go from here?*
- 5:00 *Adjourn*

Opening Remarks & Keynote

- » Opening Remarks with Tamara White, ZoeRoots
- » Keynote: A Global View of Child Protection: Your Work Matters with Sara Thompson, Picture Impact

Breakout Sessions:

- » Maintaining Healthy Kids in Community & Group Care with Debi Lammert, Healing Hearts International/Titanyen
- » Creating Jobs for At-Risk Families with Holly & Dan Ravenhorst, Mama Zwazo/PAP
- » Attachment and Healing for Displaced Children (Lower) with Tamara White, ZoeRoots/Ganthier & PAP
- » Family Preservation as Trafficking Prevention with Heather Nozea, Rapha House/PAP
- » Family Crisis in Rural Communities with Tamara White, ZoeRoots/Ganthier & PAP
- » Supporting Families with Special Needs with Anne Marie Stern, MyLIFESpeaks/Nepley

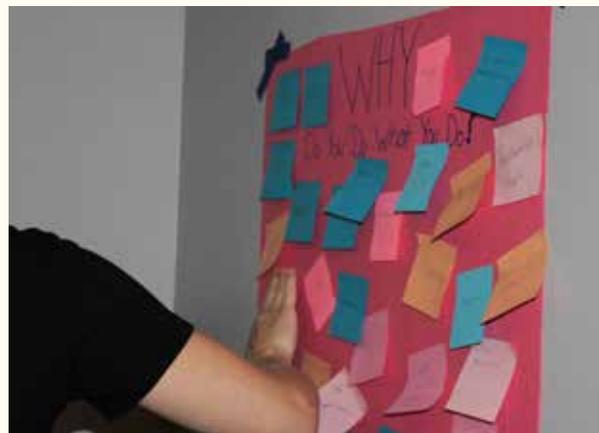
Presentation Sessions

- » Excellence in Care: A Family Based Model with Anne Marie Stern, MyLIFESpeaks/Nepley
- » Cultural Barriers to Family Preservation with Scindie Saint Fleur & Lauren Neal, Jesus in Haiti Ministries/PAP
- » Holistic Family Mental Health Care with Erika Charles, Espere Community Counseling Center/PAP
- » New Language: Communicating with Donors with Sara Thompson & Tamara White
- » Child Participation: a key component for successful family preservation work with Natacha Pierre, Lumos/Haiti Child Participation Officer and Eugene Jr. Guillaume, Lumos/Haiti Program Director
- » Family Reunification: Success & Failure with Morgan Weinberg, Little Footprints, Big Steps/Jacmel

Presentations & Breakout Sessions

Highlights

"I was very surprised to see the importance they gave to the family in all the interventions, because in Haiti we have so many orphanages. I was even more surprised still when I saw all the foreigners that were there to support you in guiding orphanages in Haiti." Adeline Bien-Aime, Restevék Freedom



Presenters

Keynote Speakers



Tamara White, ZoeRoots
Founder & Executive Director



Sara Thompson, Picture Impact
Co-Founder



Anne Marie Stern
myLIFEspeaks



Scindie Saint Fleur
+ Lauren Neal
Jesus in Haiti Ministries



Natacha Pierre +
Eugene Jr. Guillaume
Lumos



Erika Childs
*Espere Community
Counseling Center*



Morgan Weinberg
Little Footprints Big Steps



Debi Lammert
Healing Hearts International



Holly + Dan Ravenhorst
*Mama Zwazo,
Heartline Ministries*

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Participation

102 people registered, 95 attended; 14 scholarships awarded

Let's Do Better Together! attracted 95 participants from over 40 organizations throughout Haiti from as far as Cap-Haitien. We are pleased with the turn-out, as it far exceeded our expectation of 50 participants. We are even more pleased with the evident demand for another symposium.

All the participants were united in their passion for child protection in Haiti. This strength-based symposium lifted up and relied upon the expertise of our participants as practitioners in their field. Sessions were participatory, drawing from the substantial experience in the room in order to all work together towards family preservation. We were also very pleased to have Haitians represent 32% of our participants at an English-only symposium. We look forward to increasing this percentage as we plan to offer Creole sessions in the next symposium.

In addition to the partners and presenters listed above and several independent missionaries and aid-workers, participants came from the following organizations:

Ansanm, Arise Ministries, Back2Back, Bethany, But God Ministries, Celebrate Recovery, Charisma's Compassion, Child Hope international, Children of the Promise, Church of the Nazarene, Good Neighbor Missions International, Hands & Feet Project, Hope for Children of Haiti, Hope Rising Children's Home, In Haiti Ministries, Kay Refy, Little by Little, Live Beyond, One Gift One Child, Real Hope for Haiti, Renewed Haiti Connections, Restevik Freedom, Salem's Rescue Home, Shoulder to Shoulder with Haiti, Three Trees, United Hearts Haiti, Voyage Together, Wings of Rescue.

Registration fee was \$50 per person; a limited number of scholarships were available for local participants.

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Highlights

"As a director of an orphanage, who has decided to change the vision back to Family Care and locating the families of our 27 kids (for the purpose of reunification), I felt this symposium was helpful for networking and learning about others' approaches while working towards reunification. I believe there are more orphanages out there wanting to do this but without the know-how. I am looking forward to the next symposium." - Spencer Reeves of Child Hope International

Results

Highlights

"As someone new to Haiti and its particular challenges, the Symposium provided an opportunity to refocus and remind us of our shared vision for Haitians to experience abundant life and opportunities, however differently we may approach the challenges. It was a beautiful time to put faces to names and FB thumbnails, and begin connecting and partnering better with others who have experience in our various fields. Thanks for providing this opportunity!" Becky Ong of Little by Little

Goal: facilitate a collaboration of front-line workers in the child protection and orphan prevention space in Haiti.

The hope was for the collaboration to bring forth shared learning and experience so that we can all collectively do better together for the purpose of helping children live abundant lives within their families and communities.

The plenary address systems level alternative care reform - the policies and players that are reforming child protection worldwide. She encouraged front-line workers that their jobs are hard yet very important. She asked front-line workers to reflect on what they were willing to do to not undermine the government of Haiti and to reflect on what they would be willing to receive from systems and policy-level players in this space.

Subsequent sessions focused on health and nutrition, maternal and infant health, livelihoods, special needs integration, family-based care models, family reunification, child participation in reunification efforts, and the traumatic effects of institutionalization and family separation.

There were many different moments of clarity for the attendees. During the plenary session it was explained that \$70-\$100 million in unrestricted funds from U.S. donors flows into Haitian orphanages each year. Attendees were able to see both the extent of the problem, but also the possible of solutions with such access to unrestricted funds. Attendees were also encouraged to hear that policy change in coming to Haiti and that explaining these policy changes to their boards might help the stateside boards to develop new Theories of Change. The attendees asked for help in communicating the policies, implications, and most importantly the "how to" of converting from a residential care to a family preservation model.



Feedback and Next Steps

A next symposium will need to build on this one by providing more hands-on, practical how-to applications for family preservation. This symposium revealed the need for many Kreyol session options as well as executive track options for board members and donors.

Trust, relationships and new energy around family preservation was built in Haiti among the faith-based front-line workers in institutional care and child welfare. We would like to broaden this base of collaboration and learning to be more ecumenical in nature - primarily by reaching out to Catholic orphanages - and more inclusive of secular grassroots organizations. The more service providers taking tangible steps to working better together, the more successful family preservation efforts in Haiti will be.

Contact:

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Sara Thompson, Picture Impact
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Highlights

"It was so encouraging to see so many come together wanting to improve the ways we're working in Haiti toward a common goal. One problem in Haiti is the sheer number of organizations working here that never have a chance to network and collaborate. So many people doing great work - any chance to gather and collaborate is so valuable!" Anne Marie Stern of myLIFEspeaks