



Stories of Courage from and for Haiti



Dear Tapori Members,

We are sure you heard about the terrible earthquake that happened in Haiti in January. Many people lost family and friends and many others were hurt. The people lost their homes, schools, churches, and work places. But the people of Haiti are very brave and right away they started to help one another. Children got involved, too!

We received this news from friends of Tapori who live in the large city of Port-au-Prince:

“Flore and her brothers were under the rubble after their house fell down. Others helped Flore get out and even though she was injured, she went around helping others get out. She’s very brave. Flore is a Tapori kid.”

The Haitian people are working together with people from other countries to take care of everyone hurt from the earthquake and to start rebuilding their communities again.

Do you remember the story *Where’s Mackenson?** Mackenson and his friends were from Haiti. They inspired lots of Tapori children from all around the world to come up with new ways of meeting others to create friendship.

(*see Tapori No.269 or go to www.tapori.org)



In the true Tapori story *Where's Mackenson?* a group of children are about to put on a play for their neighbors and parents. Suddenly they notice that 6-year-old Mackenson is not there. Mackenson cannot walk, and the adults who usually carry him had to work. The children can't carry Mackenson by themselves. But Loverline remembers that her brother built a sturdy cart. The kids go get Mackenson with the cart so he can participate. Mackenson adds his singing and applause to the play which is about children from different countries who meet and become friends.



The success of their play gets the children thinking how fun it would be to meet children from other places for real. They brainstorm all sorts of ways they could get to such meetings without leaving anyone behind.



Mackenson's story led Tapori kids from all around the world to exchange their ideas through big colorful posters, called "Togetherness Dazibaos." They also inspired Tapori groups to invent their own "Friendship Vehicles" that would help them go meet people and make friends.

Through all of this sharing of art, ideas, and messages, children were preparing for real gatherings.



In 2009, hundreds of children from different countries and backgrounds got together for Tapori meetings: Bolivia, Burkina Faso, France, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Poland, Senegal, and Switzerland and other places!

Do you know where all these countries are?



At these Tapori gatherings, children taught one another new games and songs and did artwork together. They shared about their lives and the lives of children they know. They exchanged on what they do together to serve their communities and make more fairness, peace, and friendship around them.

You can see some photos in the **colorful 2010 CALENDAR** that we have sent you with this newsletter. You can also **get news, read messages, see artwork,** and give your own input on the Tapori website: www.tapori.org



During their international meetings **Tapori children took their messages to the President of one country, to officials at the United Nations, and to other leaders who work on children's rights!** Who are the adults in your country who need to hear what children like you have to say?

In 2010, Tapori kids in the USA want to get together with others from around the world and deliver a message to President Obama and other decision makers. **Are you ready to help** build this meeting? We will ask you more in future newsletters.



A couple years ago, Jean Rony from Haiti sent us a photo of his silhouette and wrote this message:

Here is what I can say for a better future. I am from Port-au-Prince. I'm going to give a hand to someone who has nothing, so she'll be stronger. Then she'll give a hand to someone else. They'll respect each other, and that's the way the world will change.

Jean Rony, Flore, Mackenson and others from Haiti have made strong links in Tapori's chain of friendship. It's time to "give a hand" back to children and families of Haiti who are working hard to overcome the terrible damage caused by the earthquake. Let's send encouraging messages and beautiful drawings to let them know they are not alone and to support their hope in the future. See the news and activity on the next page.



Tapori is an international network of children whose motto is, "We want all children to have the same chances." www.tapori.org



TAPORI NEWS

F.E.V.E.R. at the Tapori House

Friendship, Education, Volunteerism, Environment, and Responsibility made up St. Margaret's Campers Tapori FEVER this past summer. Children and young adults visited the Tapori House near Washington D.C. They acted out part of Mackenson's story, made their Dazibao posters, and gave their ideas for what to do so kids from different groups and countries can become friends. A big thanks to the campers for all the fun, inspiration, and hard work! Your group can visit the Tapori House, too! Have your group leader contact us.



New York Kids Respond to Earthquake in Haiti

Children from the Street Library in New York City gathered on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and colored Tap-Taps with messages for our friends in Haiti! A Tap-Tap is a colorful Haitian taxi where there is always room for one more person! The

International PreSchool held a coin drive to raise money for Tapori in Haiti. Kindergartners at the East Village Community School made drawings and wrote messages to encourage the people in Haiti. Send news of your efforts and your messages to Tapori. We will make sure children and families in Haiti receive your show of support.



WE HELPED
CHILDREN IN HAITI

New Tapori Video!

"We can't just close our eyes when we see so many children living in poverty." In this new video, Tapori children take you on a Friendship Train around the world, stopping in different countries to find out what children are doing to change things and leave no one behind. Are you ready to get on board? For more info watch this space, or go to www.tapori.org.



A ctivity

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR HAITI

When you go through a hard time, what words help lift you up? Our Tapori friends in Haiti need many basic things like food, medicine, and shelter, but they have also asked for **beautiful and creative messages** to help them through this hard time.

We invite you **write** and **decorate**

a WORD OR SHORT PHRASE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

for the Tapori children and families in Haiti. Choose words you like and that are special for you, like "Peace," "Smile," or "Be Strong." Be sure to write a short message about why you chose this word and what it means to you.

You can also **draw a picture**, **write a poem**, or **make a song!**

Use your imagination and lots of color!

Tapori will collect your encouraging words, messages, and drawings and get them to our friends in Haiti.

Send your **Words of Encouragement** to: TAPORI

7600 Willow Hill Drive
Landover, MD 20785 USA



When big hurricanes flooded most of her city of New Orleans, USA, Kiyondra wrote positive words in large letters on cards. She passed them out to her family and friends who had lost their homes and possessions because of the hurricanes. The adults said it really lifted their spirits! That's a Tapori kid!