

HAITI: Stouffville man at orphanages his family founded

'What you see on the news is nothing'

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The two Freedom House Haiti Christian Orphanages founded by Stouffville's David and Sonya Lock in 2006 also managed to stay intact and all 32 of their female orphans and eight staff members were spared.

Orphans and staff from Jacmel's Freedom House Grace were transported to the Jacmel airport where they are living, while residents and staff of Freedom House Bethesda in Port-au-Prince are living outside in the orphanage's compound.

Mr. Lock left Sunday morning with a small team of volunteers to bring food, tents, water purification tablets and medical supplies to the orphanages and other Haitians.

After a delay that re-routed the team to the Dominican Republic, they arrived at the Port-au-Prince orphanage Tuesday evening.

"Going to the orphanage, it was absolutely heartbreaking and very emotional for Andy (Atkins - a member of the volunteer team) and Dave, it looks as though a bomb has hit the area. There is virtually nothing left," Mrs. Lock wrote in an e-mail update to orphanage supporters.

Road access is blocked to Jacmel, so the team will be unable to visit that orphanage for the time being.

'EARTH SHOOK SIDWAYS'

On Wednesday morning, a 6.1 magnitude aftershock rocked the country.

"Just felt a pretty big aftershock, it is some feeling. The earth shook sideways for three seconds, actually a bit scary. All well with us," read a message Mr. Lock e-mailed to his family.

"I woke up (Wednesday) morning thinking this is a dream," wrote Toronto paramedic Andrew Lock, who travelled with his uncle Dave Lock as part of the volunteer team. "The devastation here cannot be described. What you see on the news is nothing. A strong quake got me out of bed really quickly (Wednesday) morning."

The Locks attend Springvale Baptist Church in Whitchurch-Stouffville where many members support the orphanage.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Christian humanitarian organization CBM has been working in Haiti since 1976, trying to bring quality of life to those with disabilities.

Following the earthquake, the Stouffville Road mission estimates that for every Haitian child who has died, three are alive, but left with life-long disabilities.

"Unlike the tsunami in South Asia, the number of survivors coping with loss of limbs, loss of sight and other disabilities is

catastrophic," said Ed Epp, executive director of CBM Canada. "With partner organizations and hospitals in Haiti, CBM is providing immediate medical attention and is well positioned to provide long-term development solutions for those with disabilities."

EMCC, CBM and Freedom House are accepting donations.

"Financial donations are the easiest, movable piece of commodity we can use," Mr. Geense said.

FUNDRAISERS

To donate to EMCC, go to emcc.ca or cheques, with 'Haiti Disaster Relief' written in the memo line, can be mailed to EMCC, 130 Fergus Ave., Kitchener, Ont., N2A 2H2.

CBM is also accepting donations at cbmcanada.org or in person at 3844 Stouffville Rd.

Donations to Freedom House can be made at freedom-house.org

Up to \$50 million of every dollar donated by Canadian individuals will be matched by the Canadian government in aid relief.

St. James Presbyterian Church will host its Young and Young-at-Heart concert Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. with all proceeds going to Haitian relief through Presbyterian World Services and Development, a relief agency operated by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The funds will be matched dollar for dollar by the federal government.

The concert will feature Innisfil's Mudde Family and Whitchurch-Stouffville vocalist A.J. deBoer.

Other participants will include The Believers children's choir, Jennifer Mason, Doug and Leif Johnson, Elizabeth Carr and Kiana Landry.

The program's emcees are sisters Ceilidh and Colleen Welch.

Refreshments will be served at the concert's conclusion.

Show time is 7 p.m.

For more information, call 905-640-3455. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will be donating \$100 as part of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario challenge.

"If every municipal government makes a minimum \$100 donation, it would result in \$44,400 of additional aid," according to the organization's president, Peter Hume.

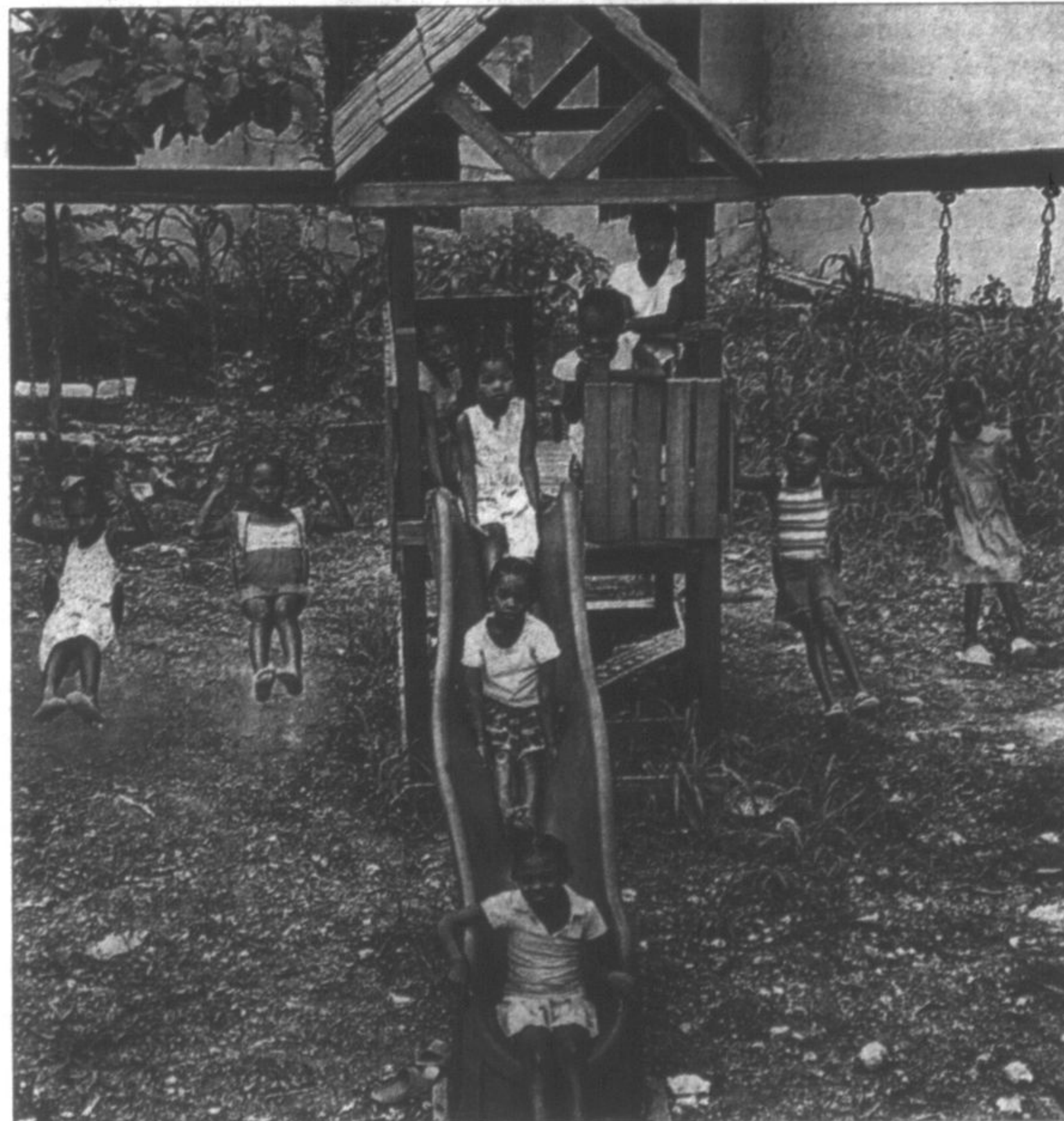
• Sears Canada retail locations are accepting donations, which will go to Red Cross Haiti Appeal. Donations can also be made by calling 1-800-267-3277.

• On Jan. 27 and 28, Canadian Red Cross volunteers will be accepting cash donations inside the GO Transit concourse at Union Station during morning and afternoon rush hours.



PHOTOS/TERRY RATCLIFF

Stouffville's David Lock with some of the girls at one of the orphanages run by his family during happier times in Haiti.



Girls enjoy a Freedom House playground. Money for the project was raised by the Springvale Baptist Church Sunday school in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

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