

The Hexagon Project in Gwo Jan Haiti.
by
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During our trip to Haiti from March 6 to 13, 2010, Pat Henneforth, Lamont Carolina and, I spent each night in the village of Gwo Jan. Diane Ford Jones spent most of her time at the Haiti Response Coalition in Port-au-Prince. On Thursday of that week, we gathered during the late afternoon for the daily class session that was held each day. Classes were taught by a volunteer teacher who was provided with a place to sleep and food to eat for his services to the village children. Actually, I believe it worked the other way around, where he simply chose to provide classes in thanks for the village taking him in after the earthquake. Typically, this teacher would

have 15 to 25 children as students in his makeshift classroom. On the day my group was there to provide some alternative activities the class size ballooned to close to 60 children and youth with parents encircling the patio area on which we conducted the class under a small canopy to shelter us from the sun.



This same canopy would have done little to shelter us from rain. **A huge need in Haiti now is for large tents and canopies for use as outdoor classrooms.** The teacher was overcome with emotion at one point seeing so many children for his lessons. He also expressed thanks to us as guests for helping to gather so many children.

This day's classes began with music and an environmental science lesson. Educating children about earth science has been particularly relevant in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Next, we introduced the children to **the Hexagon Project**, explaining that I had brought Hexagon drawings from Tunkhannock High School Art Club, Pat Hahn, Art Teacher, in Pennsylvania, U.S. I explained that these young people from Tunkhannock wanted to share their drawings with children in Haiti, and that is why I am here doing this. The children of Gwo Jan encircled me as I explained the activity and the drawings that I was inviting them to make and to share with the class at Tunkhannock School, if they so choose to do.

I distributed the blank hexagons until I had no more and then distributed small sheets of paper to those who did not get a hexagon.

All children engaged in this art activity for about 30 minutes. The older children helped the younger children. While engaged in the drawings, Lamont Carolina shared letters from children from New York City school classes. As these letters were interpreted and understanding about children caring for each other seemed clear.



When the drawings were complete we discussed as a group through our interpreters what we should do with the drawings. Some of the older children were sure they wanted to share the drawings and to send them back to the U.S. with me.



One of the adults suggested a photograph of the children with the Hexagons sent by the Tunhannock school children.



That was the conclusion of the Hexagon activity. The photograph of the Gwo Jan children with the Tunhannock children's Hexagons.

Thank you to ALL who made this powerful connection possible!!!! Thank you to Mrs. Pat Hahn and the

Tunkhannock High School Art Club – you HAVE made a difference through your ART!