



# COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY



## **MNU Students Raise \$65, 000 for a New School in Haiti**

**Friday, May 9, 2014**

**Olathe, Kansas**

MidAmerica Nazarene University presented a \$50,000 check to Heart to Heart International during the university's last chapel service of the school year on April 29 for the building of a school in Cascade Pichon, Haiti.

"This school [MNU] is unbelievable," said Dr. Gary Morsch, founder of Heart to Heart International, as he and Steve Weber, executive director for Haiti Operations, accepted the check.

The area in Haiti has never had a school. MNU students who traveled there on a mission trip last year spent his school year raising money to help Heart to Heart on the \$250,000 project.

"I travel to a lot of universities," Morsch said to the MNU students. "None of them has ever done what you have done."

Weber reported more exciting news to the MNU community when he shared that Google decided to donate state-of-the-art tablets and other technology to use in the school. Weber stated this is due to the "ripple effect" of MNU's efforts.

"Because of this, we've got a school in Haiti," he added.

The student-driven project, *Dégagé*, utilized a dozen different fundraising methods.

- Students worked as servers at MNU's annual President's Honors Gala and donated their earnings to *Dégagé*.
- A campus-wide coin drive and option to round up one's bill for purchases in the university store were easy ways to bring in funds.
- Individuals used social media to promote the project and \$2 Tuesdays (offerings taken during Tuesday chapel services).
- Through partnerships with major events on campus, students received significant help to raise money.
- MidAmerica Extreme (MAX) participants, largely high school students from the Midwest who come to MNU for two days of athletic, academic, and fine arts competitions, gave more than \$7,000.
- MNU's Board of Trustees agreed to match the MAX participants' gifts.
- St. Joseph Christian High School contributed \$2,400, and pledges are still arriving.

The total raised in pledges to date is \$66,400.

"The impact of this project will go on long after you've left this place," Morsch told the MNU students.

Randy Beckum, MNU chaplain and vice president for Community Formation, said this is the second time MNU students have raised more than \$60,000 for a project for underserved people in another country. Referring to the university's yearly Passion to Serve project, Beckum cited the 2010 effort to raise funds for a health clinic in Patanatic, Guatemala.

"This is the big idea of MNU," Beckum said. "It is service to others, giving to those who have so little, students helping others."

Beckum said the university's emphasis on mission trips is part of what spurs the interest of students to help those in underdeveloped countries. Ninety-one students went on mission trips during the academic year. That number represents another \$200,000 that students raised to fund those trips. Over the last five years, at least \$1 million has been raised by students for mission trips," he said.

"Additionally, Passion to Serve projects have raised more than \$170,000 in the last five years," Beckum added. "There's a village in Guatemala that didn't have a clinic — now they do. There's a village in the most remote part of Haiti that never had a school, and now it will."

--MidAmerica Nazarene University

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