

# HopeWorks

**Welcome Packet**

**Danita's Children  
Ouanaminthe, Haiti**

**2018**

## About Danita's Children Foreign Mission Society

The Danita's Children Foreign Mission Society is an organization established to recruit, train, and establish missionaries for mission service in foreign countries. Our missionaries are currently being trained and sent to work in Haiti.

The Danita's Children Foreign Mission Society also facilitates short-term mission trips through the HopeWorks program, sending teams to work at Danita's Children in Haiti.

## About Danita's Children

Danita's Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a nurturing environment for vulnerable children and families. We believe that caring for a child is a lifetime investment. Founded by Danita Estrella Watts in January 1999, the organization began with a small house and fourteen children in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. Currently, Danita's Children is home to over 80 children. A school provides a Christian-based education to over 300 children and 16,000 meals are provided each month through the feeding program. A church and congregation of more than 500 Haitians provides a place of spiritual hope. The Pediatric Medical Center provides care to children of all ages living on our campus and in the community, and the Malnutrition Center provides 24/7 care for severely malnourished children.

According to UNICEF and the US Agency for International Development, there are more than 153 million orphans globally. Every day, more than 6,008 children become orphans. There are 300,000 child slaves in Haiti and an additional 490,000 orphans. The median age in Haiti is 18 years, meaning that 50% of the population is children, and roughly 8% of those children are without parents. Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Danita's Children exists to answer the need for orphan rescue and care in Haiti and around the world.

Danita's Children is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with its headquarters located in Nashville, Tennessee. The organization is governed by a board of directors and is managed by a CEO, a Field Director, and a 90-member staff.

## Our Mission

We are dedicated to educating, empowering, and equipping the children and families of Haiti to become Christ-like leaders.

## Our Vision

The vision of Danita's Children is to provide education, nutrition, medical and dental care, and Christ-like love to the children and families we serve. We believe through our teachers, mentors, and house parents we are raising children to discover their purpose and become the future leaders of Haiti.

## Our Governing Values

- We follow the biblical directive and standards to rescue, love, and care for orphaned and impoverished children.
- We alleviate the suffering of children.

- We restore and demonstrate dignity and respect for orphaned and impoverished children.
- We prevent the exploitation of the vulnerable, abandoned, neglected, rejected, and suffering child.
- We develop and maintain a holistic approach to rescuing and caring for orphaned and impoverished children that meets their needs spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

## Welcome!

We're so excited you have chosen to serve on a mission team for Danita's Children in Ouanaminthe, Haiti! You are an important part of our ministry and work in Haiti. Your involvement makes it possible for us to carry out the mission to educate, empower, and equip the children and families of Haiti to become Christ-like leaders. We have designed this Welcome Packet to make you aware of certain policies and procedures, to provide answers to questions that you may have, and to encourage you in your ministry at Danita's Children.

**Please read through each section carefully. All of the information is very important. If you have other questions or inquiries, please contact the Danita's Children stateside office at [usoffice@danitaschildren.org](mailto:usoffice@danitaschildren.org) or by calling 615-721-8433.**

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## 1. Application Process

Mission trips are typically five (5) days in length from Monday through Friday and are scheduled throughout the year.

- (1) Each team member must complete and submit a *HopeWorks Mission Team Member Application*, along with a \$50 non-refundable application fee for first-time visitors.
- (2) The stateside office staff will process your application for new visitors within two (2) weeks of receipt, and will communicate with you once the process has been completed. Upon application approval:
  - a. **DEPOSIT:** We require a reservation deposit to hold your spot. The deposit is \$100 for individuals or \$500 for a team and must be submitted within two (2) weeks of application approval. This reservation deposit will be applied towards the total HopeWorks fee, except when visits are cancelled less than eight (8) weeks prior to the first day of the mission trip. In the case of a late cancellation, the reservation deposit is non-refundable, as late cancellations prevent other individuals or teams from filling these spaces and participating in the ministry.
  - b. **FLIGHT INFORMATION:** Specific flight information/requirements will be provided with your application approval. **Please do not make airline reservations prior to receiving these instructions.** Once you have received approval from the stateside office staff, you may book your flight. After your flight(s) have been booked, please forward your flight information to our stateside office.
- (3) The following documents must be submitted eight (8) weeks prior to the mission trip:
  - a. An original notarized copy of the *Release of Liability to Danita's Children and Responsibility of Traveler* form for each trip participant
  - b. A photocopy of each visitor's passport.
  - c. A letter of recommendation from each visitor's pastor or employer
  - d. A *Team Roster and Medical/Emergency Information Sheet* for each team.
- (4) All HopeWorks fees must be submitted at least four (4) weeks prior to the mission trip.
- (5) Proof of short-term medical insurance with emergency air evacuation coverage must be emailed to the stateside office ([hopeworks@danitaschildren.org](mailto:hopeworks@danitaschildren.org)) at least two (2) weeks prior to the mission trip.

## 2. HopeWorks Fees, Medical Missions, Accommodations and Travel Information

### **HopeWorks Fees**

HopeWorks trip fees total **\$500 per person**. This fee covers ground transportation to/from the Danita's Children campus, food, lodging, security, internet, translators, and other additional expenses while at the center. It DOES NOT cover airline tickets, a \$10 USD cash "tourist" fee upon arrival at airport, or spending money.

### **Medical Mission Team**

Serving on a medical mission trip with Danita's Children Medical Center (DCMC) is a great opportunity to serve those in Haiti that are in need of quality medical care. DCMC is a pediatric medical center that currently has an outpatient clinic and a 24/7 inpatient malnutrition ward. We provide full service x-ray, pharmaceuticals, and a fully functioning laboratory. Our Medical Director/Nurse, Linzi A. Nouel Sosa (RN,BSN) will oversee all the medical mission teams.

A medical mission trip consists of three days of clinic, which serve the medical needs of the community as well as the school and children's home at Danita's Children. The visiting team will be working directly with our Haitian pediatrician, nurses, and staff.

As an operating pediatric medical center, we are overseen by the Haitian Health Department (MSPP) and have several expectations and standards. We are required to keep records/charts on each patient that is seen and we are not able to accept any expired medications/supplies or personal medication prescriptions at our facility. Each visiting medical professional that is serving at DCMC must have a valid and current medical license. A copy of each person's medical license must be turned into our stateside office three months prior to the medical mission trip. If your team brings donated medical items (medications, supplies, formula/milk, etc.) to be used at DCMC, a "Gift in Kind" form must be filled out prior to the trip, and is included in this packet.

While volunteering at DCMC a medical professional (RN, APRN, MD, etc.) **MUST ONLY** work with/treat patients in which their medical license pertains and in line with their "scope of practice" allowed in the United States.

In addition to the \$500 HopeWorks fees, there will be an additional fee for medical teams/individuals. If you are NOT bringing your own medication to run clinic, then we will require an additional **\$250 USD per person**. The extra cost covers both the medications needed to treat the patients for a three day clinic and a translator for each team member. If your team provides the medications needed to run clinic, then the additional fee would be lowered to \$60 USD per person to cover the cost of translators.

### **Accommodations**

The Danita's Children campus is located in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. Lodging is provided on campus, in men and women dormitory-style rooms with bunk beds and restrooms. Visitors will need to bring a set of sheets and a pillowcase for a twin-sized bed. Pillows will be provided. Visitors should also bring a bath towel and basic toiletries.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided.

### **Travel Information**

Visitors fly into Cap Haitien, Haiti (airport code: CAP) on flights arriving or departing on the scheduled travel days. We have specific flight arrival and departure day constraints which the stateside office will provide for you once your application has been approved. **Please do not book flights until all team applications have been approved.**

The HopeWorks Field Coordinator or a Danita's Children staff member will be at the airport to greet you with appropriate ground transportation and will accompany you throughout the length of the visit.

### 3. Personal Documents and Spending Money

#### **Personal Documents**

When traveling to Haiti, you MUST have a passport; you are not required to obtain a Visa.

It is advisable to have your immunization record in your possession when traveling to Haiti.

**Before you leave the United States, please make a copy of your passport and immunization records and leave these copies with your emergency contact in the US.**

#### **Spending Money**

If you would like to bring United States currency (USD), small bills (i.e. \$5 and \$10 bills) are suggested, as they are easiest to exchange. If you would like to buy any souvenirs, you will use Haitian Gourdes (HTG) or Dominican Pesos (DOP) for these items.

### 4. Immunizations, Medicine, and Medical Attention

#### **Immunizations**

Danita's Children recommends that all visitors have all their immunizations up-to-date. **It is at your discretion to obtain malaria medication for your trip, but it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.** You should have an up-to-date tetanus shot.

Danita's Children recommends that you **visit the U.S. Center for Disease Control website** ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) for the most current recommendations for malaria prevention and other immunizations for visitors to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It is at your own risk should you choose not to follow these recommendations.

#### **Medicine**

Please be sure that you have enough of your personal medication(s) or prescription(s) for the duration of your mission trip.

#### **Medical Attention**

If you should require medical attention while in Haiti, there are hospitals in the Dominican Republic where you can be admitted for treatment. These hospitals are well-run and we have many connections with several doctors at various hospitals and clinics, should there be a medical emergency. **You will be responsible for all financial expenses involved in your medical care and treatment, should it be required.** You are required to have short-term medical insurance with emergency air evacuation coverage.

#### **Short-term Medical Insurance**

Team members are required to buy short-term medical insurance with emergency air evacuation coverage and are required to provide proof of this coverage two (2) weeks prior to departing to Haiti. See [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com) or [www.imglobal.com](http://www.imglobal.com) for further information. The usual cost for this type of travel insurance is approximately \$3 to \$10 per day. Once medical insurance has been obtained, please forward a copy of your confirmation to the stateside office.

Should you require medication, hospitalization, or other medical care, you are responsible for your own medical expenses.

## 5. Customs Forms and Fees

While on the airplane (before you arrive at immigration/customs at the Cap Haitien airport), you will be required to fill out an "Arrival" form. We have included an example to show you how to fill out the form (see next page). The "Departure" portion should be completed prior to your return to the airport to depart at the end of your trip.

**Upon arrival at the airport, there will be a \$10 USD cash "tourist" fee due.** This is not included in the HopeWorks trip cost and it must be exact change.

**FORMULAIRE POUR PASSEPORT ETRANGER**  
**REPUBLIC OF HAITI**  
 MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET DES COLLECTIVITES TERRITORIALES  
 DIRECTION DE L'IMMIGRATION ET DE L'ÉMIGRATION  
 Formulaire d'Arrivée / Départ  
*Bienvenue en Haïti*  
 Remplir ce formulaire en caractères d'imprimerie. Les informations doivent être identiques à celles contenues dans le passeport.

**FORM FOR FOREIGN PASSPORT**  
**REPUBLIC OF HAITI**  
 MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET DES COLLECTIVITES TERRITORIALES  
 DIRECTION OF IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION  
 Form of Arrival / Departure  
*Welcome to Haiti*  
 Fill this form in capital letters. Information must match data in your passport.

**Arrivée / Arrival**

1. Nom / Last name  
 2. Prénom(s) / First name(s)  
 3. Date de naissance (JJ/MM/AAAA) / Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)  
 4. Sexe / Sex  
 Male / Masculin  Female / Féminin  
 5. Pays de naissance / Country of birth  
 6. Nationalité / Nationality  
 Air / Air  Mer / Sea  Terre / Land  
 7. Numéro de passeport / Passport number  
 8. Port d'entrée / Port of entry  
 9. Numéro de Transporteur / Carrier number  
 10. But du voyage / Travel purpose  
 Affaires / Business  Vacances / Recreation  Autre / Other  
 11. Type et Numéro de l'autorisation d'entrée (si nécessaire) / Type and number of entry authorization (if required)  
 Visas  Permis Séjour  
 12. Lieu d'émission / Issued from  
 13. Adresse de résidence / Residence address  
 Rue / Street  
 Ville / City  
 Pays / Country  
 14. Adresse en Haïti / Address in Haiti  
 Rue / Street  
 Ville / City  
 Téléphone / Phone  
 Utilisation officielle / Official Use  
 Signature / Signature

**Départ / Departure**

1. Nom / Last name  
 2. Prénom(s) / First name(s)  
 3. Date de naissance (JJ/MM/AAAA) / Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)  
 4. Sexe / Sex  
 Male / Masculin  Female / Féminin  
 5. Pays de naissance / Country of birth  
 6. Nationalité / Nationality  
 7. Numéro de passeport / Passport number  
 8. Port d'entrée / Port of entry  
 Air / Air  Mer / Sea  Terre / Land  
 Signature / Signature

Conservation de ce document. Il vous sera demandé lors de votre départ.  
 Retain this document. You must present it when you leave Haiti.

**Annotations:**  
 [Your Last Name]  
 [Your First Name]  
 [Your Gender]  
 American  
 [Your Birthdate]  
 [Your Birth Country]  
 [Your Passport Number]  
 [Your Flight Number]  
 Leave blank  
 USA  
 [Your Residential Address]  
 225 Rue Espagnole  
 Ouanaminthe  
 529-821-0556  
 [Your Signature]  
 [Your Last Name]  
 [Your First Name]  
 [Your Gender]  
 American  
 [Your Birthdate]  
 [Your Birth Country]  
 [Your Passport Number]  
 Select "Air"  
 [Your Signature]

## 6. Packing List, Proper Clothing, and Behavior

### **Dress, Tattoos, and Piercings**

Haiti is a very conservative country as it pertains to dress and customs. Please keep this in mind while visiting. It is important to remember that you are a visitor to the country of Haiti and the children at the children's home like to imitate American visitors, so please be respectful and mindful of this as well.

We ask that all visitors abide by the following guidelines:

- Casual/work clothing:
  - Men: Shorts, pants, jeans, t-shirts, and polo shirts are appropriate. Please do not wear white tank tops without a shirt over top.
  - Women: Knee-length shorts, capri pants, or knee-length skirts and dresses are appropriate. Please make sure no cleavage can be seen. Wear tank tops under low-cut shirts. Yoga pants, leggings, strapless tops, spaghetti strap tops, and tight or revealing clothing are not acceptable to wear in Haiti. Undergarments should not be seen, including sports bras.
- Church clothing: If your trip includes a Sunday, there are separate guidelines for church outfits. Please keep the following in mind when packing:
  - Men: Dress pants or khaki pants and a button down shirt or polo shirt with dress shoes. Jeans, shorts, and flip flops are not appropriate for church.
  - Women: Either a knee-length skirt or dress with a top that is not sleeveless and dress shoes. Jeans, shorts, and flip flops are not appropriate for church.
- Other dress guidelines:
  - Any tattoos should be conservative in nature, and covered if inappropriate.
  - Any extra body piercings, besides standard ear piercings, need to be either removed or covered.
  - Hair coloring should be conservative in nature.

### **Behavior**

Please consider the following:

- Be sure any messages on t-shirts or clothing are appropriate for Haiti and children. Skulls of any sorts are not allowed as it resembles voodooism.
- Do not bring or consume alcohol or tobacco while on your mission trip to Haiti.
- Only use appropriate language and music while on your visit.

### **Suggested Packing List**

- Set of twin sheets and pillowcase
- Active wear appropriate for hot weather and outdoor activity with children (not yoga pants or leggings)
- (If visiting on a Sunday) Church clothing and dress shoes
- Underclothing
- Sleep clothing
- Bath towel
- Hand towel
- Washcloth
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, shave gear, comb/brush, etc.)
- Flip flops for the shower
- Tennis Shoes

- Closed toed shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat to protect against the sun
- Sunscreen with zinc
- Aloe (beware of sunburn!)
- Bug spray with DEET
- Small first aid kit
- Hand sanitizer
- Personal medications
- Anti-diarrheal medication
- Flashlight and batteries
- Small bag to carry your money and personal documentation
- Reusable water bottle (we have clean water on our campus to refill your water bottle)
- Watch
- Alarm clock
- Camera
- Bible, journal, pen/pencil
- *HopeWorks Welcome Packet*
- Snacks: please only bring items that won't melt or spoil (i.e. protein/granola-type bars)

**We recommend that you pack a complete change of clothes and travel-sized toiletries in your carry-on bag in case of lost or misplaced luggage.** If you are taking any medications or have contact lenses, be sure to pack these inside your carry-on bag as well.

## 7. Airline and TSA Requirements

Please call or go online to your airline to view the most current travel and TSA requirements. Please be aware that airlines may charge additional fees for overweight luggage and/or for additional pieces of luggage.

## 8. Food

Danita's Children has bottled water; we use large 5-gallon jugs of water on our campus, so your team can drink as much as needed. It is very important to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Please bring a refillable water bottle to keep with you during your visit.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served on the Danita's Children campus. Typical meals include:

- Breakfast – eggs, fruit, pancakes, cereal, bread, jams, and coffee
- Lunch (the largest meal each day) – rice, pinto beans, black beans, chicken, fish, salad, fruit, okra, and/or eggplant
- Dinner – lasagna, potato casserole, spaghetti, chicken tacos, etc.

**If you have any food allergies or other restrictions, please communicate this with our stateside office so that preparations can be made.**

## 9. Contact Information

Should your family or loved ones need to contact you **IN AN EMERGENCY** while you are on your mission trip, they can contact the stateside office of Danita's Children, located in Nashville, Tennessee at 615-721-8433 or [usoffice@danitaschildren.org](mailto:usoffice@danitaschildren.org). The office is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm (CST) Monday through Friday.

After office hours and on weekends, IN AN EMERGENCY, the Field Director, Karris Hudson, can be contacted at (829) 521-0556 or our Children's Home Director, Brenda Sapp, can be contacted at (829) 521-0557. These numbers may be contacted for AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES ONLY.

## 10. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How long is a mission team trip?**

A: Mission team trips usually last five (5) days.

### **Q: What can I expect to do?**

A: Typically, your first day in Haiti will be spent settling into your rooms, meeting the missionaries and children, and touring the Danita's Children campus. The other days will be spent doing activities that support the mission and vision of Danita's Children. Over 80 children live at the center, and a few hundred more attend the school from the surrounding community, so there is plenty of opportunity for relational ministry based around VBS programs, games, sports, Bible studies, and one-on-one discipleship. We also have a Malnutrition Center, Special Needs Home, and a Medical Clinic that have a constant need for assistance. Opportunities will be available to hold babies and work with these children based on visiting hours. There will also be an opportunity to tour the surrounding community and the local Haitian Market. In addition, there will be free time for prayer, devotions, reflection, rest, and visiting with the children. Breakfast, lunch, and dinners will all be served on the Danita's Children campus.

### **Q: Are there any age requirements?**

A: You must be 18 years of age or older, unless traveling with a parent or legal guardian.

### **Q: Are smoking and/or alcohol allowed?**

A: Once you leave your airport of origin, no alcohol or tobacco use is permitted at any time.

### **Q: What about giving gifts to children and adults I meet?**

A: Please **DO NOT** give any money and/or gifts to any of the locals, children, or staff, as it makes it difficult on the mission team leaders after you leave Haiti. If you feel compelled to give money or gifts, please do so through your HopeWorks Field Coordinator. This is for your safety, as well as that of the recipient and members of our team. If you would like to leave such things as clothing, tools, shoes, etc., please give them to a team leader or HopeWorks Field Coordinator; they will divide the donated goods among those individuals who need these items the most.

### **Q: Is internet available?**

A: The Danita's Children campus has internet access available, but please note that the internet isn't always reliable.

### **Q: Can I use my cell phone in Haiti?**

A: If you'd like to use your cell phone while in Haiti, please check with your cell phone provider to be sure you have international phone service. The HopeWorks Field Coordinator will have a cell phone for emergencies or short calls to family members back home.

**Q: Can I give out my contact information to people I meet?**

A: Please **DO NOT** exchange names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, Facebook, or any social media accounts with any locals or children in the center. If you would like to communicate with someone in Haiti after you leave, please make arrangements through your HopeWorks Field Coordinator. Please do not make promises to the children or locals, such as "I will come back for you," "I will write to you every week," or "I will send you money."

**Q: What type of luggage do I need?**

A: It is best to buy a large, inexpensive square or long duffle bag. Make sure to check with your airline regarding carry-on and checked baggage requirements. Please do not bring hard-shell luggage, if possible, as it is difficult to pack on a truck and may get broken.

**Q: What about money and exchange rates?**

A: Haiti's currency is Gourdes (HTG) and the Dominican Republic's currency is Pesos (DOP). As of the date of this publication, there are approximately 61 Gourdes to every US dollar and 46 Dominican Pesos to each US dollar. The currency exchange rate changes daily. Please check online at [www.coinmill.com](http://www.coinmill.com) to learn the most current exchange rates. Your HopeWorks Field Coordinator can help you with currency exchange when you arrive.

## 11. Additional Information

### Information on Haiti

We suggest you learn as much about Haiti, the culture, geography, language and people, as possible. There are many websites, including the Danita's Children website ([www.danitaschildren.org](http://www.danitaschildren.org)), that will help you learn all you can before you arrive. The following information is to help you prepare for your upcoming trip to Danita's Children.

Quick facts about Haiti:

- Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, with 80% of its 8.7 million citizens living in dire poverty.
- There are 490,000 orphaned children and 300,000 children in bonded service (slavery).
- Less than 60% of Haitians have access to even basic medical care.
- Haiti is a vibrant country with beautiful land, colorful art, and fantastic music.
- Haitians speak Creole, "the people's language," and French, the language of the well-educated and affluent. 80% of the population claims to be Roman Catholic, but half of the Haitian population practices Voodoo.
- The Danita's Children campus is located in northeast Haiti, on the border of the Dominican Republic where Spanish is the national language.

A few helpful Creole phrases:

Hello/Good morning	Bonjou
Good afternoon/Good evening	Bonswa
Welcome!	Bien-vini
How are you?	Kouman ou ye?
I'm fine.	Mwen bien
Thank you.	Merci
You're welcome.	Padekwa
I'm very well, thank God.	Mwen tre bien grace a Dieu
What is your name?	Kouman ou rele?
Yes	Wi
Child	Ti moun
Friend	Zanmi
Married woman	Madame
Man	Mesye
How old are you?	Ki lag ou



**Please return form to:**  
 Danita's Children/Hope for Haiti Children's Center, Inc.  
 PO Box 23270  
 Nashville, TN 37202  
 615-721-8433  
 usoffice@danaschildren.org

**GIFT-IN-KIND DONOR FORM**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: Receipt cannot be issued without complete information.**

**Donor Information**

Donor is:  Individual  Organization/Company

Donor Name (as it should appear on receipt and in print): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person (for Organization/Company): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Information**

Description of item	Number of items	Price per item	Total
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$

**TOTAL In-Kind Donation \$**

**Donor Signature**

Donor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Donor Signature line must be signed to verify that the "fair market value" amount was provided by the actual donor.

Danita's Children/Hope for Haiti Children's Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax I.D. No. 59-3735653.