

Catching the Joy!

by Gail Fleeman

It started with a blessing, an abundance of mothers bringing their children to Wednesday night youth activities. Most of these moms lived too far away to leave their children and return for them later. Also, many recently emigrated to the United States from Haiti after the earthquake devastated their homeland several years ago. Language differences were a barrier. So the Fort Myers, Florida Women's Ministry team decided to reach out to them with "Catch the Joy," a Christian fellowship.

Our corps contains an active group of former Haitian officers, one of whom helps to bridge the language barrier and often leads the women in Bible Study. They enjoy singing and Bible study (in Creole) followed by a fun activity.. They have been involved in exercise classes, crafts, a baby shower, Women's Ministries activities and skill classes,.

Since these women have gathered together they have been able to share family stories and make some amazing connections. Two of them realized that they had both attended the same Salvation Army school in Haiti when they were children.

Another former Salvation Army school student recalls the Army school uniform she wore proudly and the love she received from her teachers. She has introduced three new mothers and their families to the program and they now attend corps activities regularly.

Several other women attended the Duverger, Haiti Corps as children and have great memories of the time they spent with The Salvation Army. They are excited that their children have become a part of the Army in their newly adopted country. Their children were already sold on the Army's youth activities, rarely missing a week, and now the mothers are a part of this great family as well!