

HIGHLIGHT

Woodstock family works at Haitian orphanage

By JANET DOVIDIO
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Since 1997, Charlotte and Joe Scholpp of Woodstock have traveled to Haiti on

humanitarian mission trips. The early trips included their teenage children. They are both nurses who spent many hours going to the homes of very poor families to treat minor illnesses and infections. These experiences had a strong influence on their whole family.

Since then, their trips have included interested fellow congregation members at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woodstock. This year's team was the Scholpps, along with Neena and Debbie Dechant and Curtis Bruce. The congregation assisted with fundraisers, prayer and donations of tools such as paint brushes, hammers, cement trowels and tape measures. The theme of the fundraising ef-

forts was "Our hands, your donations and God's work."

This year's project was organized in cooperation with Gladys Mungo of Haiti's Children Inc. The team worked on a church and orphanage that had been empty for four years. Many local women came by to watch the work of painting, sanding, staining and cement work. Interpreters helped the team communicate with local residents who couldn't wait for their own church to be finished.

"Cement work in Haiti is very labor intensive," said Charlotte. "Not only do you have to get the cement but also sand and water, which is all mixed by hand and passed along a bucket brigade. Our

water supply was a quarter mile from our site. ... There is no such thing as level ground where we were working. Think of the worst gravel road you have experienced and multiply by two.

"The interaction and becoming a part of the community is the thing that I like most," she concluded. "We have found that we make a big difference. We have met wonderful people. I even had a marriage proposal - his wife said I could have him! Many locals have gone on to become prominent people in their church community because of our work."

News of recognitions and milestones can be sent to Janet Dovidio at fetjetjd@aol.com.