



“After the Indonesian tsunami of 2004, I spent 6 weeks assisting in Sri Lankan tent camps as a volunteer through USAID. I worked primarily with children, hoping to find ways to remind them they were kids, even though they had undergone terrible horror and tragedy. I believed in my heart they could be comforted and healed by taking part in the same activities done by children the world over. So, we played games, sang and danced. And, of course, we colored.

I brought with me suitcases full of pictures, paper, and “magic sticks”—crayons! Kids in every corner of the globe enjoy coloring! The children of Sri Lanka were no different. They covered the sheets of coloring books with the hues of the rainbow. They drew their own pictures, too—expressing thoughts of everyday life, like flying kites or going to school. They

also drew images of their memories of the unthinkable—homes and people floating away. Coloring was a way for Sri Lankan children to be kids again. Adults benefitted, too. The children’s pictures helped give them hope their youth would one day reclaim a bit of the normalcy ripped from them by the tsunami. The power of the crayon was amazing!”

It's time to connect kids through crayons once again, only this time, in Haiti. How can you help?

DONATE NEW CRAYONS!

Let’s collect a mountain of new crayons! They can be any box size from 8 to 128, any brand (Crayola, Roseart, etc...). We’ll take them apart and put them in small bundles with rubber bands to distribute and help your gift spread to as many children as possible. Please—only new, not used, crayons!

CREATE A PICTURE TO GO IN A COLORING BOOK

We are asking kids here to create coloring pictures to be included in small coloring books we assemble to give to the kids in Haiti. Here are the guidelines:

1. Think of themes kids might like to color, nature, school, sports, kids activities, etc.
2. Create your masterpiece! black & white Picture size: ½ sheet computer paper, 4 ¼” by 5 ½”
3. Include your first name, age, school, and city on your drawing.
4. Draw the outlines of the stuff in your picture dark so they can be photocopied easily.
5. Send kind thoughts to the kids in Haiti that may eventually color your picture!
6. Send us your drawing. Aspire.Inspire. Foundation 3350 Mason Ave. Joliet, IL 60431
We’ll review and compile pictures for the completed coloring books.

We will be sending the crayons and coloring books through aid organizations that will be on the ground in Haiti in coming days and weeks. I also hope to once again work, play, and “color” with children in tent camps—this time in Haiti—in my personal future.

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