

Reaching out

BY LORI VERNI
STAFF WRITER

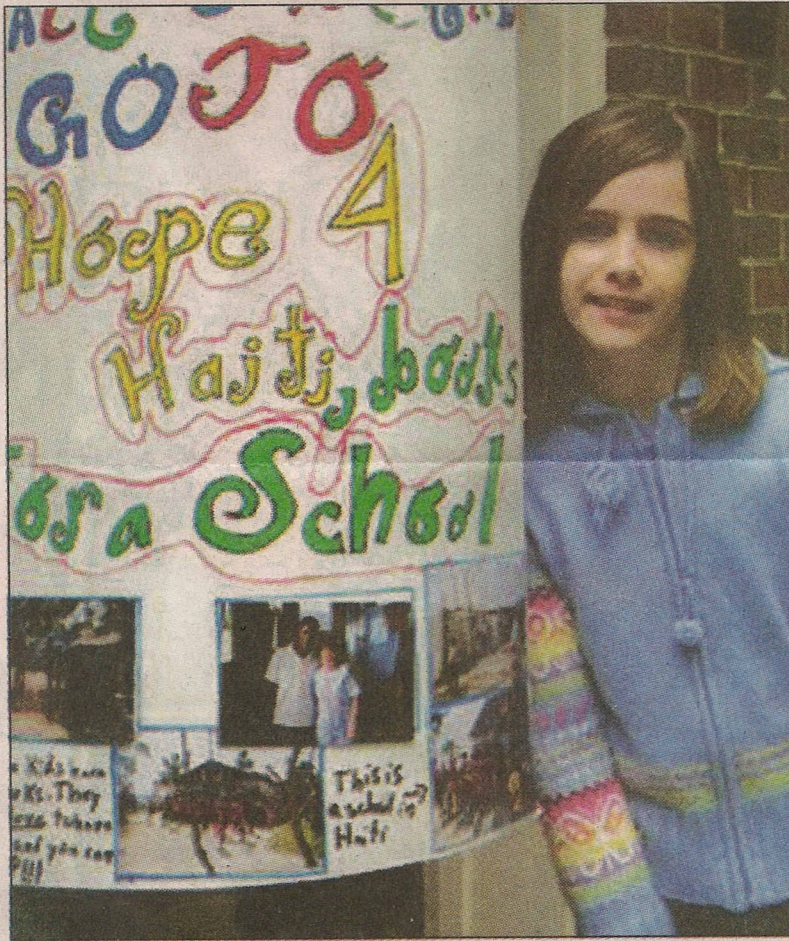


PHOTO PROVIDED BY KIM BOWERS

Audrey Bowers, a 10 year old girl, set about raising funds to purchase books for a school in Zorance, Haiti, where they don't have any books at all. An avid reader, she took an interest in the childrens' plight after learning about their lack of books when her mom returned from a medical mission trip.

In many ways, Audrey Bowers is your average 10-year-old girl. She attends the fourth grade at Ballentine Elementary School and enjoys reading, playing softball, drawing and writing. She has a 6-year-old little brother, Kyle and lives in Fuquay-Varina with her parents, Mark and Kim Bowers.

But there is one thing that makes Audrey Bowers unusual for her age... her interest and hard work in raising funds to buy books for children in Haiti. She became interested in the project after her mom participated in two medical mission trips to Zorance, Haiti.

When her mom returned from her trip in January and Audrey learned that there are no books in the school in Haiti... that the only thing for the children to read are stories handwritten by the teachers... Audrey was inspired to do something about it.

The youngster decided to raise funds to purchase books by having a yard sale. She asked friends and family to donate items to her yard sale and her mom said, "With the exception of pricing items and set-

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ting up for the yard sale, she did it (the work of the yard sale) alone."

Miss Bowers was also excited that along with items for her yard sale, many people made cash donations as well. To date, the young lady has raised \$562 to purchase books with. She and her mom will be purchasing not only the books, but also shelves to put them on in the new school building that just opened in September in Zorance.

They will get the items to the school via the Hope for Haiti Foundation (www.hope-forhaitifoundation.com) and

Miss Bowers says "I'm glad to help the kids in Haiti have books, since I love to read and can't imagine not having books."

Kim Bowers explained that this project has been great for Audrey to work on, not only because it's such a great thing to do, but also because the family has been going through a difficult time. She said, "Audrey was in a serious car accident with her dad on 4/28. Dad was hospitalized for 12 days, but Audrey was okay and wanted to proceed with her project because she had been planning it for three months. It proved to be a distraction and

something positive to focus on during a rough time."

Her whole community is really proud of her, and her mom stated, "I'm really proud of her because she has worked hard, she has a big heart and she'll make those children very happy."

Although the yard sale is already over, people interested in making a tax-deductible donation can send checks to the Bowers' home. The address is 3120 Doulton Lane, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 27526. Checks should be made payable to Hope for Haiti Foundation, with "library" written in the subject line.