

A Message From MPP to the Family of Mironda

Dear friends,

It is unbelievable... but what we never imagined has happened...

The Directors of MPP, all the membership, women, men and young people bow their heads and salute the memory of our friend, our child Mironda Heston...a person who can never die in MPP.

Mironda was a person with unlimited intelligence, devotion, a person who loved MPP, loved without limit the children, who had a capacity without limit to help. In the year she spent with us we learned about her home, her family, how she lived with you. We say to the parents of Mironda thank you so very much, bravo because you have raised this child, a child who is an example for all people. She had time to show that in the short time she spent with us.

The grief we in MPP feel is limitless because we cannot yet accept that Mironda has passed away. We don't yet have the courage. We know that her family's grief is unimaginable. The members of MPP will do all that is possible to keep Mironda living among us because she gave her life. Far from her home she worked to build a world of solidarity, love and sharing. Mironda dedicated her life so that women and men could be equal in society, she dedicated her youth to the struggle against AIDS, she dedicated her life to build a new world on this earth.

In MPP we want her to remain a living symbol for all time in the work we do in health for all Haitians. It is the area where Mironda put so much of her energy. Because of that, from the time of the service for Mironda in Mineral IL, Saturday the 25th of September, the health clinic will be named the **Mironda Heston Community Health Center**.

We don't want to hold you too long and speak too much. But we think it is important to give some details about the experiences Mironda had in Haiti, which will keep her alive with us:

Popular Education

One month after Mironda arrived in MPP, she was selected to begin a very difficult program of study in Creole about the political, economic and social reality of the country of Haiti, of the world, the about the methods and techniques of popular education. She said it was especially important for her so that when she returned to University in the US she could help young people and students better understand the world from another perspective. Despite the fact that Creole was not her language, Mironda was always in the top four of her class in all examinations.

The following is the testimony of her classmates, 30 peasant leaders from all over Haiti: Mironda is a simple, sensible, courageous, dynamic, respectful person. She participated

without hesitation in all types of work assigned to the group including planting and soil conservation. She decided to put her knowledge as a sociologist and animator in the service of the poor. She did not want to leave her class though she had to miss a session while in the US last May. But she would continue with her same class beginning Monday October 4th in Papay. Mironda will remain deeply in the spirit of all of us. We will work to keep her alive not only in our spirit but in the work she began. Mironda will always remain an animator in MPP.

The Community Health Program

As a sociologist, Mironda studied the health problems facing Haiti, and she told Dr. Agathe that she wanted to work with her in the MPP integrated health program which treats all aspects of health-- biological, psychological, social. Mironda jumped into the work with all her strength and energy. She visited homes in the community to understand the life, the health problems of the people. Mironda wanted to work to create a model health program for the region, and eventually for the country.

Mironda was the principal advisor to the health program. She worked tirelessly to write proposals for the center with Agathe, to translate documents, to search for funds. Dr. Agathe knew that with Mironda theirs was a solid team. They believed in what they were planning and creating together. Mironda, we will stand strong for your dream and turn it into a reality. It is certain that you are present in the work of the **Mironda Heston Community Health Center**.

Testimony of Manmie who lived with Mironda

September 8, 2003- September 21, 2004, exactly one year and 13 days since we met. Since that day, Mironda and I lived together in our house in Papay. The way that Mironda lived changed my life a great deal. She is a person who marked my life forever. The life of Mironda is a symbol, a guide for everyone who had the opportunity to live near her. She was a young woman full of wisdom, love, respect for all around her. Mironda was a good advisor, a good friend, a good co-worker. She offered all her strength to help those weaker than she. She showed how she loved the process of development, how she wanted change in the lives of those who suffer.

Mironda was always ready to share whatever she had, what she knew. One cannot finally describe how kind she was. The way she lived in the community made everyone love her. The death of Mironda is a great blow for all of us. We wish for all her qualities to infuse our spirits us so that we can continue the work she began.

Finally there are many people who want to testify about the life of Mironda and we have organized an evening to do that. In that way Mironda's spirit can be with all of us. (That memorial was last Friday in Papay).

All of us in MPP wish to be at the side of Mironda's family but the problems we encounter with visas makes this impossible. For this reason we give Louise our mandate to represent MPP to represent the friends of Mironda,

For all the Members of MPP:

Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, Marie Agathe Jean-Baptiste, Juslene Tiresias (Manmi), Jean-Claude Monerot