



VENTURES IN PEOPLE
FOUNDATION, INC.

HELPING HAITIANS HELP THEMSELVES

PO Box 203, Hartland, WI 53029 • www.viphaiti.org

THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE A GIFT THAT MATTERS



\$160.00 Education for a child for one year



\$150.00 4-H Grant multiplies in service in Haiti



\$120.00 for a goat with instruction about its care



\$53.00 Water Filter provides clean water

STUDENT EDUCATION

The children in Mirebalais are now settled in for this school year. The start of school was delayed several days because of Hurricane Isaac. Our children were safe but some of the schools outside Mirebalais had problems so the country



Street outside Adventiste School

delayed the starting time. We are pleased that we now have 172 children in our program thanks to those of you who so kindly contribute to a child's education, and for some of you several children. Karen Hintz is going to Mirebalais with a group Nov 13-20. They will be spending time with our students and hopefully will be able to get pictures of everyone for you. If for some reason, a child is sick or away, George

Schowalter will follow up with those students when he and a group go to Haiti in January. We know you are anxious to hear about and see your students and we thank you for your patience.

For those of you who have students enrolled in Adventiste School, we are including pictures of the outside of the school and of the children playing in the courtyard. You'll notice that the children are wearing green uniforms. Uniforms are required so that all children look alike, and clothing does not determine the family's financial status. Each school has its own color of uniform.

Unfortunately, as everywhere else, things are becoming more and more expensive in Haiti. Consequently the cost of tuition in almost every school has increased. Along with that, the cost to administer the education program has increased. (eg. letters, postage, student pictures, newsletters, the salary we give our coordinator to oversee the 172 students) To continue to track all the students in nine schools and keeping us here in



Outside Adventiste School

the states informed, our coordinator needs a computer, requiring ink and paper and internet service. Up to this point we have never used any of the money that a sponsor sent for his or her child. But on occasion emergencies have occurred like the earthquake and flooding, and we have tried to respond in a helpful manner with funds from our general account. But that fund is stressed. Therefore, beginning next school year, 2013-14 we are raising the cost per student to \$160 per year. Most of the \$10 increase will be for the student's needs of entrance fee, tuition, books and uniforms, and any surplus will be discretely used to continue the program administratively. We trust that you understand our need to do this and thank you for your continued interest and support of Haiti's HOPE for its country... **THE EDUCATION OF ITS CHILDREN.**

VIP Education Co-chairs
Karen Hintz
Barb Seefeldt



Children in playground of Adventiste School

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ventures In People Foundation, Inc. is the product of many people who have supported us over the years with their vision, insight, talents and above all their finances.

It is the duty of the Board of Directors to administer the organization so that all of its programs are functioning properly. This requires a commitment of time and energy from each of the eleven members and six consultants.



We are always delighted and grateful for the people who “catch our mission” and support our various programs, education, 4-H, clean water, goats and English teachers. But what is often forgotten is the cost to administer these various programs. It has always been the hope that contributions of undesignated funds cover the cost for....printing our newsletter, postage, correspondence, money transfers, pictures to all student sponsors, as well as the salaries we give our folk in Haiti to monitor our programs in our behalf. Our general fund is stressed.

We have also learned that in Haiti, school tuition has increased, the cost of a goat for our goat project has increased, and like here the cost of gas that our Haitian monitors need to pay when they travel to do their job for us. These raises in cost come with mixed blessings. It is a sign that the economy in Haiti is improving, but indirectly also demands more from us.

To help cover some of these costs, we have decided that we need to raise the cost of student education sponsorship and the 4-H goat project and request for funds for our general operation.. While we do our best to make sure all designated gifts are used in the appropriate programs, we also like to have funds available for emergencies,... such as floods and earthquakes that happen in Haiti and affect our programs.

I believe we (the board) are good stewards of our (your) funds. We give generously of our time and skills, our phones, computers, printers, and financial support to the program we whole heartedly endorse.. We are asking for increased funds to help keep our organization solvent and functioning

George Schowalter, President

THANKSGIVING REFLECTIONS

I NEVER CONSIDERED IT A PRIVILEGE

- ... to eat bread every meal,
until I learned most Haitians work a full day to earn the \$2.59 I paid for a loaf today,
- ... to go to the spa to exercise,
until I learned that Haitians walk many miles each day just to find water and food.
- ... to send my children to school,
until I learned less than 45% of the Haitians can afford to send children to school.
- ... to call my doctor when I am sick,
until I learned there are thousands of Haitians with no health care available anywhere.

I WALK TO EXERCISE... THEY WALK TO SURVIVE! NOW I KNOW THAT I AM PRIVILEGED.

Heidi Thomas

TO GET THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY:

VISIT US AT VIPHAITI.ORG and sign up on line.
News available the day it is printed.
Reduces postage cost for VIP.

POSTAL SERVICE CONTINUES AS BEFORE:

Send Name and Address to:
VENTURES IN PEOPLE FOUNDATION, INC.
PO BOX 203, HARTLAND, WI 53029

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March – June – September – December

TO MAKE DONATIONS ON-LINE/PAYPAL VISIT
viphaiti.org/donations.html or newindex.html

MEMORIALS

in memory of
James Ruben
given by a good friend

*A great way to remember a friend
or honor a friend upon a special occasion
and support Ventures In People.*

4-H CLUB GRANTS:

EMPOWERING Youth to Make a DIFFERENCE

What is the 4-H Grant Program?

Our 4-H Grant Program helps 4-H clubs leave a positive mark on their communities. Eligible 4-H clubs receive yearly grants of \$150. They must use their grants for **community improvement projects or educational programs**. Clubs are required to be in operation for at least one year before receiving a grant, and they must report back on how they are using their grant at the yearly 4-H leaders' meeting. Read on to see some of the inspiring things that clubs are doing!

What do 4-H clubs do with their grants?

Clubs decide to how use their grants based on the needs of their club and community. Here are some things that clubs are currently doing:

- fixing public water systems
- doing projects to provide clean drinking water
- installing public garbage cans
- cleaning up public spaces
- building community latrines
- educating members about good health (personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS, cholera, etc)
- planting trees/ flowers
- teaching members how to sew
- building shelters so clubs can meet rain or shine
- growing food for the community in club gardens
- raising seedlings
- teaching skilled crafts such as woodworking and basketry
- raising chickens, goats, and pigs
- educating youth about protecting the environment
- teaching members how to bake
- teaching members about financial literacy
- holding night school for parents of 4-H members

I always find it touching to see the ways that 4-H members are reaching out to help others! Won't you consider doing the same? When you donate to the 4-H Grant Program, you are not just giving money; you are empowering Haitian youth to take ownership and make a difference in their communities! What better gift than that?

Blessings to you and your loved ones this holiday season! And on behalf of more than 2000 4-H members in Haiti, THANK YOU for your continued support of Ventures in People!

Jocelyn Ritger
Ventures in People 4-H Coordinator

ENGLISH PROGRAM

When and if possible, most Haitians desire to learn English.

Our English program is underway and three teachers are now working with children in grades 4-6 in five of our nine schools. Our goal is to reach all nine schools and when and if possible to begin in earlier grades. We are including with this article a picture of Louis teaching one of the classes.. The program is very well received by the principals and students for which we are grateful. Of course to grow the program we need to hire more teachers and provide their salaries along with educational materials. A contribution of \$120 will pay the salary of an English teacher for one month.



Louis in a classroom



Trip participants Sarah Parsons and Joy Pebler confer with Louis

NEW BOARD MEMBERS & RECENTLY ELECTED TO THE BOARD

Lou Ann Parson

For many years I listened to the stories of the annual VIP trips to Haiti. For many of those years I was designated driver to pick up the team members at O'Hare.....I loved listening to all the stories and events the team had encountered and wondered if I would ever go. Last January (2012) my daughter, Sarah and I went with my Dad (George Schowalter) to Haiti....My experience there was very humbling and made me grateful for everything that I have. My greatest joy was seeing how happy so many people were even though they seem to have so little.

I am hoping that through my involvement with VIP I am able to help make a difference to someone, somewhere and they in turn will make a difference in my life. I am married to my husband, Dan, have four children, two sons and two daughters. My sons are married and I have one awesome grandson. I am a school secretary for a public school in Milwaukee's inner city.

Bob Steckel

"I'm happily married with three children living in unincorporated Kirchhayn, town of Jackson, mailing address Cedarburg and a member of Pilgrim UCC, Grafton. I traveled with George Schowalter to Haiti in 2010, visiting Port au Prince and Mirebalais. I did a post-earthquake building assessment and report of school buildings in Jeanette for EDOM Haiti project through EWB(Engineers Without Borders). Professionally I am a structural engineer and part owner of Ambrose Engineering in Cedarburg. I am also a hobby farmer, with donkeys, goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, a dog and a cat. I am also a hobby blacksmith and a clown/magician. I am an active member of EWB and recently did a project in Ghana, Africa, mentoring the UW-Platteville student chapter design and built an elementary school.

Ken Schuman

Ken lives in Hartland and has been a consultant to the VIP board for many years, consulting the group on goat management and clean water. He and his wife have made many trips to Haiti, often in conjunction with Rotary focusing on a variety of projects. He is a retired veterinarian and operates a goat farm with about 20 goats along with his wife Gerry...who is also a vet. Ken usually spends about five weeks in Haiti during which time he trains veterinary agents, tests eyes and distributes eye glasses, works with CAPROFORS (Regional Technical School) and oversees micro lending.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE FOR VIP

You can do your Christmas Shopping online. The VIP online shopping site features thousands of partner stores like Walmart, JCPenney, Best Buy, Home Depot and Cabela's. When you make a purchase at "viphaiti.org", VIP receives royalties and you can earn up to 35% cash back on qualified purchases. If you prefer, you may keep the cash back and spend it anyway you like, or you may contribute the cash back that you earn to VIP.

The benefits don't stop there. You can earn an additional 0.5% cash back on the purchases of everyone you refer to our shopping site. Now, you can take advantage of the ease and convenience of shopping online to buy the products and services that you want, while helping the people of Haiti. All proceeds from the shopping site will be contributed to VIP's General Fund.

Go to www.viphaiti.org, click on the "donations" tab, and click on the hyperlink titled "supportviphaiti.com". If you like, you can go directly to the shopping site by going directly to www.supportviphaiti.com.

If you have any questions or need assistance in making the transactions...call Carol at 262-573-5433. Thank you for "Helping Haitians Help Themselves".

SCHOWALTER TO LEAD TRIP TO HAITI IN JANUARY 2013

George Schowalter, VIP President, will lead a group to Haiti, January 11-20. After visiting the Museum of Natural History in Port au Prince... to get a visual picture of Haitian history, the group will embark upon a cultural experience visiting a variety of schools, food programs, handicap facility, group homes and 4-H Clubs in Port au Prince and Mirebalais. They will be noting areas of great need as well as visit places where the Haitians have demonstrated hope for their future.



George Schowalter, Lou Ann Parsons and Sarah Parsons prepare for trip

Sawyer Water Filter

The "Sawyer" Water Filter has been a big success. After experimenting with a variety of clean water filter systems, VIP has discovered the Sawyer system. It is effective and its replacement can be purchased in Haiti.

This past year dozens of filters have been put into action. They are given to families where potable water is scarce or in some places non-existent.

When a family is given a filtering system it is registered by a project coordinator. The project was launched with the help of Rotary.

VIP has noted that there has been no recorded cases of cholera in homes where the filter system is used. The cost per system is \$53. With monies received from grants, more systems will be placed in January 2013.



Ken Schumann awarding a family a Sawyer Water Filter



Each water filter is assigned to a family

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!

The dollars you send are put to work as you designate.

Date: _____

Please mark the lower left hand corner on your check to indicate your wishes.

Undesignated Funds are used at the discretion of the VIP Board to target:

Special and Priority Needs as well as Disasters and Emergencies.

- \$160 - Sponsor a child in school for one year
- \$120 - Salary for an English Teacher for one month
- \$120 - Educate a 4H Member on Goat Care and provide him/her with a goat
- \$150 - Provide a Grant for a 4H Club for a Community Improvement Project
- \$53 - Provide a family with a water filter system

I/WE WISH TO CONTRIBUTE:

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

I/WE WISH TO _____ Remember _____ Honor Name _____

Please Acknowledge to: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All donations will be acknowledged—Memorials and Honorariums to recipient as designated.

THANKS FOR CARING - THANKS FOR SHARING

**You can bring help and hope to
the Haitian People with a Tax
Deductible donation to**



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(501c3 organization.)