



HELPING HAITIANS HELP THEMSELVES

PO Box 203, Hartland, WI 53029 • [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org)

## LOUIS TENIOR GUERRIER

### EDUCATION COORDINATOR FOR VENTURES IN PEOPLE COMING TO WISCONSIN APRIL 22 – MAY 16

Louis is coming at the invitation of Mary Matthias, Senior Staff Attorney, Wisconsin Legislative Council. He is coming to raise money for Ventures In People Foundation.

Louis knows the history of his country well. He is well aware of its present political and economic conditions.

Unlike most people in Haiti, who manage to get an education, he is dedicated to staying in Haiti trying to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. He sees the need for education, and is especially interested in seeking supporters for VIP's Student Sponsorship program. A year ago he recruited 50 new sponsors. With over 200 students on a waiting list, his goal this year is to seek sponsors for 150 students.

(\$160 will educate a student for a year)

*Come meet Louis and hear his story while he is in Wisconsin.*

**Louis will be in the Madison area,**

April 22 - May 1, contact

Mary Matthais at 608-835-1117 (H)  
608-692-7427 ©

David Lovel 608-852-7581

Rev. Dave MacDonald 608-846-0486

**Louis will be in the West Bend area,**

May 2-May 16, contact

Barb Seefeldt 262-338-1320 (H)  
262-853-5628 ©

George Schowalter 262-335-3237 (H)  
414-702-4413 ©



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ventures In People is alive and well and excited about its future potential. At its recent meeting...

1. Plans were made for a repeat visit of Louis Guerrier, our Haitian Education Coordinator, coming at the request of Mary Matthias, to primarily raise funds for our Education Sponsorship program.
2. The board is taking a serious look at a new marketing program.
3. We celebrated our education program with a new high of 175 students.
4. Our 4-H program has re-organized with the addition of Franke Marcelan, who will be our Haitian-American connection. (See 4-H article for details)
5. On a recent trip, 143 water filters were distributed by VIP participants under the direction of and with the help of Ken Schumann and some Rotarians.
6. With the help of a consultant, a new web site with a new look will be launched by April 1. Thanks to Julie Stauss.
7. The board is looking into the possibility of fund raisers in the coming months.

If you have any questions about the program of VIP, check our web site [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org) or contact me. [gschowalter@att](mailto:gschowalter@att) George Schowalter, President

## \$50 GIFT FROM DRIVER

For three years now we have had to good fortune of using Louis Blanc as our driver. Every year he has become more and more interested in our work. He carefully observed all that we did and said. This past January, having completed his task as our driver I paid him the usual driver fee of \$50 a day. He then returned \$50 saying "I believe in Ventures In People". I want to be part of you." Needless to say I was shocked. Louis was a wonderful driver, courteous to every one, not only to us but to his fellow Haitians, other vehicles, every pedestrian on the road. It was a joy to be with him.



## BRAT FRY

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 7&8**



**AT REIS' SAUSAGE PLUS**  
**1435 W. WASHINGTON ST.**  
**TO BENEFIT VENTURES IN PEOPLE**

## A GOAT AND FILTER AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT

LouAnn Parsons, one of our newest board members works as a secretary for the Milwaukee Public School system. Every year the teaching staff at the school give her a gift. This year they asked what she would like. She replied "give a gift to Ventures In People". As a result she received enough to purchase a goat and a water filter. Thanks LouAnn. Somewhere in Haiti there will be a goat named LouAnn!



*Jenny O'Neil,  
Sunshine Committee,  
HiMount Elementary  
School, Milwaukee and  
Lou Ann Parsons*



## STUDENT EDUCATION

We want to thank the sponsors who have already sent us their student sponsorship renewals for the 2013-2014 school year. We look forward to hearing from everyone before May 1st. Our coordinator, LouisTenior Guerrier, will begin working on the fall term as soon as school ends, and it helps him to know what children will be able to continue in our VIP program. Checks should be made out to Ventures In People and mailed to Ventures In People Student Ed., P.O. Box 203, Hartland, WI 52029. The cost per child for one year's entrance fee, tuition, uniforms and some books is \$160. Payment can also be made through Pay-Pal (check our website for details.)



*Presbyterale St. Louis School*



*Ebenezer School Classroom*



*Ann Neumann and  
Principal Cantzbe  
Sherley  
Presbyterale  
St. Louis School*

In the future newsletter we will highlight more schools. If you have any questions about what you see, please get in touch with us. None of the smiles that you see on the children would be

possible if it were not for your choosing to support them with your contributions to their education.

We look forward to being of service to you, our sponsors, in whatever ways we can. We appreciate your interest in the education of the children in Mirebalais, and your concern for their needs

Karen Hintz and Barb Seefeldt  
VIP Ed. Program Co-Chairs .

## "HATS OFF" TO STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Jean Ruben was a student in our student sponsorship program in the 90's. Today, in LaMarre, with the help of his parents, he operates a children's home for 20 homeless boys and girls. In addition he is director of a school with three teachers and about 40 children. He is also the leader of a 4-H club in the area with about 100 members. His school is special because his pupils get not only the basics, but also music. He teaches guitar and other string instruments. Ventures In People is proud to say that we helped Jean get an education. For \$160 a year you can help educate another "Jean", through our student sponsorship program.



## **HEIDI THOMAS – GROUP LEADER**

Our group consisted of Dr. Greg, Veterinarian, Mindy, Vet Tech; Karen F, RN; Karen L, VIP 4-H Consultant; Ken, Dave & Harriet, Rotary Water Filter project workers; Prof. Emmanuel UW Oshkosh, and UW O students Angie, Kath and Rhonda. We were the first guests in the new CAPROFORS Guest House in Mirebalais. The guest house had ten rooms, each accommodating two persons. Meals were included.

Greg and Mindy teamed with Chris to teach Animal Care in Agriculture Studies. Angie and Kath taught English, Rhonda used her nursing skills to help out in the Nursing classes.

In the mornings the two Karens and I had meetings with the Haitian 4-H team to reorganize the leadership roles since the death of Senival last fall. It was discovered that Bernine, the assistant for the past four years had already stepped into the leadership role and was doing well, with the help of Neval, the Vet Tech who had been in that role for the last three years.

The need for an assistant who could speak English was ultimately filled by Franke Marcelin, who was presently serving as our translator for this trip. He agreed to serve as assistant to keep the club connected to the US VIP Board via e-mails. Board members George and LouAnn were present at the final meeting when all appointments were made.

Afternoons we all went to 4-H meetings, seven in all. Angie and Kath taught English using Flash Cards. Karen F. and Rhonda taught First Aid for Burns. Greg and Mindy taught members how to recognize Wellness and Illness in goats. Heidi and Francke lead the group in singing. It was a surprise to see three members of the 4-H clubs now serving as dedicated adults leaders. It was a pleasure to note that all clubs were putting their 4-H Grants to good use.

Side trips included a Water Project near Mirebalais, where water was pumped from a clean well, filtered and put in small bags to be sold on the streets of PauP. We saw Tent School in Laschobas, while a new school was being built with financial help and sweat equity of the UN Troops from Uruguay. A Saturday trip included pool time and lunch at the Xaragua. Lodging, dinner and a tour that night was at St. Joseph's Guest House, a new building that was resurrected from the rubble of the 2010 earthquake. Sunday morning it was Chapel with the boys followed by a trip to the Metal Arts Works in Cite Sole.

Monday, it was a visit to Wings of Hope, St. Joseph's Home for 40 disabled children and youth, and then a stop at the

National Spiritual Council of Haiti Churches. After complete destruction in 2010, a new K-12 school, a large auditorium for public use and an administration building are now present. Back at St. Joe's that night we were entertained by Josius with guitar and singing.

Tuesday morning it was back to Wisconsin where we were greeted by minus eight degrees.

## **REFLECTIONS FROM RECENT TRIP PARTICIPANTS**

As a frequent traveler to Haiti, I have seen a new Haiti emerging from the rubble of the earthquake. In PauP new construction is taking place; a new remodeled airport terminal, a beautiful six story rebuilt St. Joseph's Home for Boys. In Mirebalais there is the new hospital built by Partners In Health to welcome patients March 1, paved roads and streets. All of it is a tribute to their hard work and love for their country.

Even though receiving reports of "danger" in Cite Soliel, the men who work there bid us welcome. We saw many new homes built of cement blocks, a new hospital, the second floor to a school. We were bid welcome into several homes by the proud owners. We did not have enough hands to hold the hand of everyone wanting to walk with us.

The VIP education program is greatly benefiting the Haitians.

I want to thank you for the "experience of a lifetime"

I find it hard to explain what I feel about Haiti. I feel my little bit I did wasn't nearly enough. I saw all that was being done and I wanted to go right back while I was still there.

Haiti being a poor country, I thought I would find downtrodden people. I was wrong. The people are hard workers trying to improve their country and their lives.

The relationship is the most rewarding and transforming part of the experience and that can't be done with money alone.

Sending money is not enough. It doesn't give the experience and the life of the beautiful people and country or the culture and destruction they have experienced, and yet there still is hope.

The people are eager to learn better techniques to improve their lives and health. The children the future of Haiti with their smiles and eagerness to learn.

## NEW 4-H LEADERSHIP TEAM

It is with bittersweet feelings that I write to introduce our new leadership team for Ventures in People's 4-H program. Sadly, our long-time Haitian 4-H Coordinator, Senivel, passed away in November. These last few months have been a time of transition, but I am happy to announce that a new leadership trio has been appointed and is ready to hit the ground running. You'll find that some of the faces aren't that "new" at all. Here's a look at the team and what they do:



*Left to right: Naval Guillaume, Goat Project Coordinator; Bernine Tirogene, 4-H Coordinator; and Francke Marcelan, 4-H Assistant.*

### 4-H Coordinator: Bernine Tirogene

Bernine has been working with 4-H for the last 4 years; previously as the 4-H Assistant. When a team from VIP traveled to Haiti in January, they were relieved to find out that Bernine had stepped up and kept things running smoothly since Senivel's death. As the 4-H Coordinator, Bernine will be responsible for providing leadership to the 24 clubs. She'll also oversee the 4-H grant program, which provides financial support for clubs to engage in community improvement and educational projects. We are excited for Bernine to work with 4-H in this new capacity!

### 4-H Assistant: Francke Marcelan

Francke Marcelan is new to 4-H, but eager to learn all about it! He speaks English very well and will be our Haitian-American connection. We look forward to the bridges of communication that he will help build between VIP and 4-H in Haiti. Pastor Frank, as he is better known as, also runs a church near Mirebalais. Welcome aboard!

### Goat Project Coordinator: Naval Guillaume

Naval will continue in his current role. He is a vet tech whom we employ to teach a 25-hour class on goat care to any child who receives a goat through our sponsorship program. He also makes follow-up visits to the clubs to check in on the goats. We are thankful for his continued commitment to 4-H!

There you have it- the new 4-H leadership team! We certainly owe it to the dedicated Haitians, such as these folks, who make Ventures in People's mission a reality every day!

Respectfully yours,

Jocelyn Ritger  
Ventures in People 4-H Coordinator

**Did You Know?** The individuals pictured above are not the only leaders involved with 4-H. Dozens of volunteers provide leadership for our 24 community-based 4-H clubs. Some have been with 4-H since the beginning (over 15 years ago). Talk about dedication!



## WATER FILTRATION PROJECT



Ken Schumann, VIP Board member and active Rotarian has been working in Haiti for over 20 years. Recognizing the recent spread of cholera, he has been an advocate of clean water. After several attempts with clean water systems, he has chosen the Sawyer bucket filtering system. It was chosen because it is user friendly and can be purchased in Haiti. He also noted that a check with 26 families who received the system last year, there was no report of diarrhea or cholera.



Trip participants...George, Michelle, Sarah and Louis (driver)

This past January, Ken with the help of participants from the first VIP trip and some Rotarians, placed 144 new filters with people who lived in remote areas where potable water is scarce. With the help of Rotary International, ultimately 550 filters were distributed this past year. Some of the areas could only be reached by a 4WD which Ken rented for this year's trip in Haiti.

At one location, about an hour's drive down an unimaginable road, a load of 125 buckets were delivered. Almost at every location, there were not enough buckets to meet the demand.

Each recipient paid 100 gds (about \$2.50) per bucket. The price is only a fraction of the cost of the system which is about \$2.50. Each bucket was registered in the name of the recipient, who was then instructed how to properly use it.



At the recent meeting of the VIP Board, \$500 matched with a \$250 grant from Rotary was dispersed for additional filters.

An onsite testing of the Sawyer system showed that water passing through the system was purer than the water from the bottled water trip participants were using.

Some of the facts in this report were gleaned from a full report by Dave Wolbrink, Rotary District 6270 Water Coordinator.

**YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT  
WITH A DONATION TO THE  
VIP WATER PROJECT!**

**EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL TRIP  
JANUARY 11-20**



The following is a pictorial summary of the events experienced by (l. to r.) Victoria Parsons, Karen Pehler, George Schowalter (Group Leader) Sarah Parsons, Michelle Pehler, LouAnn Parsons and Dorothy Wetterlin.



In Cite Soliel from tin and cardboard to cement blocks on cement foundations. Proud homeowners invited us into their homes.

A landscape usually covered with discarded plastic bottles cleared of many bottles and gathered for resale. \$8 when the bin is full.

After nine months of pick, shovel and wheelbarrow, a seven story building totally destroyed by the earthquake a new six story stands in its place. Bill Nathan, director of St. Joseph Home for Boys, who fell 60 feet at the time of the quake, tells of the miracle of escaping death. On Sunday morning, the anniversary of the catastrophe, the boys lead the worship service and give thanks to God.



In a remote rural area approximately 100 children, youth, and adults meet with folk from Ventures In People, to learn how to take care of a burn, have a lesson in English, and take care of their goats. The room was too small so a room partition had to be removed. The lessons continued outside and the group learned an English Song, "Head and Shoulders".



Market Day is a way of life. It included the many necessities for Haitian daily living. There was barely room to walk. There were hundreds of buyers and sellers. If you live across the river from the market you have to hire a canot. (a boat hewed out of a log). Our group experienced a ride.



In LaMarre Jean Ruben, a few years ago was a student sponsored by our Education Sponsorship program. Today he, with his parents is director of a home for 20 homeless in the area, a director of a school for 40 pupils, a 4-H leader for a group of 100 youth, a music teacher, and a pastor.

More pictures and stories will appear in the next issue. GHS





**ON LINE CONNECTIONS**

TO SHOP ON-LINE/MARKET AMERICA VISIT-  
viphaiti.org/marketamerica.com

Register by signing in (Follow the prompts)

TO SHOP: viphaiti.org/supportviphaiti.com

CHECK: STORES- for specific stores

SHOP IT ALL: for specific products or services

HOT DEALS: for coupons or special deals

VIP HAITI receives royalties from purchases and you receive Cash Back.

If you prefer you can send the "cash back" you receive to VIP at the above address.

**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 FOUND, 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

**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!**

The dollars you send are put to work as you designate.  
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
- \$150 - 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 DONATE**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**VENTURES IN PEOPLE**  
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PO Box 203 • Hartland, WI 53029 • www.viphaiti.org  
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