



**HELPING HAITIANS HELP THEMSELVES**

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

## VENTURES IN PEOPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONORS HEIDI THOMAS FOR HER THIRTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

After 32 years of involvement in Haiti with Ventures In People Foundation Inc., Heidi Thomas has resigned from its Board of Directors. She, and her late husband Roland, were among the group of people who went to Haiti in 1981, saw the need, and were instrumental in laying the ground work for what we know today as the Ventures In People Foundation.

In those early days, health care was a primary need in the central plateau of Haiti and Heidi with her nursing degree was a "natural" and her "skills" were a plus.



Through the years Heidi has been a strong advocate for the Haitians and the work of the board, and has given countless presentations presenting the needs and programs based on the needs of the Haitians.. She has been successful in soliciting grants from service organizations for the board's work. She has been the leader of many work groups to Haiti often going more than once a year. If she found someone interested in Haiti, she would immediately organize a group and go South. There was no task that was too difficult for Heidi. She has seen the focus of the board's growth from a sole concern to an organization that today includes 4-H Clubs, a Goat Project, and Education Project and a Clean Water Project.

The board is grateful for her many years of service. In recognition of that service she preferred that in lieu of a celebration to honor her work, a monetary gift be given to the work of 4-H in Haiti.. The board has honored that request and is inviting all who know her to join the board in honoring her with a congratulatory note and/or a financial contribution. Send all notes and or contributions to:

HEIDI-HAITI 4-H FUND.

VIP, P.O. Box 203, Hartland, W 53029

THIRTY PLUS YEARS \$3 or \$30 or \$300 or \$\_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been rather quiet these past months, but the work of Ventures in People has continued. You need to read every article in the newsletter, and you will "catch" some of the silent happenings.

- The Sarrizan 4-H club continues to work in their community.
- The Student Education Program is networking with a church in Sheboygan.
- Louis Guerrier, our Education Coordinator received special recognition.
- If you wonder Who's Who on the Board of Directors, The list is included.
- Ken Schumann discovered that a 4-H Club built a wall around a well to help keep the area clean.
- Check out Carol's suggestions regarding Shopping On-Line.
- Plus there is still time and room to join the January 2014 (10-19) trip to Haiti.

George Schowalter, President



## HURRY! THERE IS STILL TIME FOR THE 2014 HAITI TRIP

Even if you missed the September 15 deadline, to Haiti to enroll in the Haiti Trip January 10-19, there is still time to join the group. But you need to act quickly.

Contact George Schowalter, trip leader, at 262-335-3237 or 414-702-4413.

The trip features interaction with Haitians who are making a difference in their country. Visit schools where we sponsor students and teach English and 4-H Clubs.

## WHO IS ON THE VENTURES IN PEOPLE BOARD

The Ventures In People Foundation Board meets five times a year, usually the third Monday of the month at Cedar Ridge Apartment, in West Bend. The officers are:



*Pictured, seated, left to right, Robert Steckel, George Schowalter, Jocelyn Ritger, Barb Seefeldt, standing, Ken Schumann, Marc Shuter, LouAnn Parsons, Ann Neumann, Karen Hintez, Betty Berger, Julie Stauss, Karen Laungrie (not pictured Deanna Tomson)*

President - George Schowalter, West Bend

Vice President - Julie Stauss, Jackson

Secretary - (vacant)

Treasurer - Marc Shuter, Hartland

Recording Secretary - Bette Berger

### BOARD MEMBERS

Barb Seefeldt, West Bend

Deanna Tomson, Menomonee Falls

Ann Neumann, Kewaskum

Jocelyn Ritger, Butler

Ken Schumann, Oconomowoc

Bob Steckel, Cedarburg

LouAnn Parsons, Milwaukee

### CONSULTANTS

Tom Bonesho, Brookfield

Karen Hintz, Milwaukee

Karen Longrie, Glenbeulah

Carol Carpentier, Menomonee Falls

Mary Matthias, Madison

Scott Kandel, West Bend

## Meet the Sarrizan 4-H Clubs

By: Jocelyn Ritger

\*As part of a new series, you'll have a chance to meet one of our 4-H clubs in each issue. You'll learn about the history of the club, projects they're involved in, and other interesting facts. In this issue, we take you to one of the original 4-H clubs: Sarrizan!



Sarrizan is where it all began! In 1996, members of Ventures in People first shared the concept of 4-H with members of the community in Mirebalais. The idea was well-received, and two clubs were formed; Sarrizan being one of them.

Since then, membership has grown tremendously! What started as a club of 20, now boasts over 350 members and 18 volunteer leaders between two clubs. Some leaders have been with the club since the beginning! Club members are active in raising goats, gardening, sewing, Haitian dance, and crocheting.

Sarrizan 1 and 2 have played an important role in their community too. A number of years ago, they used their grant money to tap a mountain spring and build a water fountain that supplied the community with clean water for drinking, laundry, and bathing. In addition, they've built a community latrine, as well as shared their garden produce with those in need. Not only that, but Sarrizan goes above and beyond the grants they receive from VIP, and supports their club by selling goats and produce at the local market.



*Sarrizan Today: 350 members (and two clubs) strong! The woman standing in front has been leading the club for 17 years!*

One of my most profound moments from all the work I've done with VIP came last summer on a visit to the Sarrizan clubs. Rain was pouring down, but that didn't stop the hundreds of eager 4-H members who squeezed into an open-air shelter and welcomed us in song. As we talked with them, they asked us what 4-H clubs in the United States do to help the parents of members. We racked our brains and started to answer their question, but soon learned that they really didn't need to hear our advice- they had already taken action. Just then, a group of about 30 women in the crowd stood up and sang a special song they had prepared. But these weren't just any parents. These were parents who had recently learned to read and write for the very first time, all thanks to a night school that the 4-H club had started! The club had seen a need for literacy and had taken action. Seeing the joy and accomplishment in the faces of these women went beyond words! It is something I will never forget. What this 4-H club did to help their community was truly inspiring and a real example of how 4-H clubs are changing lives in Haiti!

The Sarrizan 4-H clubs continue to be assets to the youth they serve, and their efforts have improved the way of life for everyone in the community!

### QUICK FACTS:

**Members:** 351

**Leaders:** 18

**MEETINGS:** 2x/month

#### PROJECTS:

**Gardening, sewing, basketry, Haitian dance, goats**

#### PAST GRANT PROJECTS:

**Community water fountain, community latrine, goats, and gardening**

#### FUN FACT:

**Sarrizan grew so large that they eventually split into two separate clubs: Sarrizan 1 and 2**

## STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM GROWS

Karen Hintz, Ann Neumann, and Barb Seefeldt

### Another School

We are excited to report to you that for this coming school year Louis Tenior Guerrier, our education coordinator in Mirebalais, Haiti, has added another school in which our VIP program has enrolled students. The name of the school is Ecole Mixte Evagelique du Progres (quite a long name). So we now have ten schools in our program for the 2013-14 school year. At this time we can't give you a definite number of students enrolled, because we are still in the process of arranging class lists and assigning students to new sponsors.



*Ecole Mixte Evagelique du Progres—Simon Bolivar*

We can tell you that the number is well over 200 compared to 171 from last year. For this we say THANK YOU to all of our new sponsors as well as to those who have been a part of our program for some time.

### Another Teacher

Along with that news we want to tell you that we are able, with your help, to provide funding for four English teachers this year who are teaching in six of our schools. Our goal, of course, is to provide an English teacher in all of our schools when funding becomes available.

### Present Teachers

Napoleon is teaching at Presbyteral St. Louis, Esther at Gentille Allouette and Adventist, Jean Clyde at Ebenezer, and Louis at Lucienne Estime and Simon Bolivar.

### NEW TEACHER AND PEN PALS

When Louis was in Wisconsin this past spring and the one previous he visited with the children and adults at First Congregational

Church in Sheboygan, WI. As a result of the relationships that were established, the offerings from their church school this year are going to fund the salary for one of our English teacher's this year. Along with that they are establishing pen

pals with four of the students in our program. We are looking forward to working with them in this new venture and are indeed grateful that they have chosen, as their mission, finding ways to improve education in Haiti. In our next newsletter we will be able to share more of the story along with pictures.



### LOUIS SAYS THANKS

In an email Louis wrote, "Tell Pastor Julia Hollister in the name of all the kids, I say a big thanks." To that we also add our appreciation.

In this newsletter we are highlighting some pictures of Simon Bolivar School and are including a copy of pictures drawn by one of our students to be given to a sponsor. You'll see the word, "Merci"...thanks!



*A classroom of students at Simon Bolivar School.*

## GOOD NEWS FOR LOUIS GUERRIER HAITI VENTURES IN PEOPLE, INC.

On August 26, 2013 I received the following e-mail from Louis. His "message" speaks well for him, VIP and the people of Haiti. I quote.

"Yesterday was Mirebalais 311 anniversary, St. Louis, as we say here. And there is something special I want to share with you.

I was invited by a group of several organizations in a ceremony and I received a prize for VIP.

There is a note writing on a plaque that they gave me: To Louis Tenior Guerrier for all the work you do with Ventures In People in the community.

I wanted to share that credit with you guys, because I believe it's not only me, you're doing a great job helping people here in Haiti through VIP. In the name of all the people here I say thanks to you guys.

I had a good feeling yesterday; it's good to have the recognition of his countrymen. It means that people realize that VIP is doing something good and that touched me and that give me strength to continue.

And I want you guys to know that without you it would be impossible. Thanks for everything.  
Louis" (end of quote)



## SHOPPING ON LINE

Thank you for supporting Ventures In People, Inc. by shopping online! Now you can shop online, earn cashback, save time and money, AND support Ventures In People all at the same time. Simply transfer your online shopping to VIPHaiti.org and Ventures In People will receive a portion of the proceeds from all sales through the online shopping site. Go to VIPHaiti.org, click on the SHOPPING link, and shop! It's that simple. You can use the Search feature on the shopping site to find your favorite online stores and products. And now, introducing... the new HOME ADVISOR! The HOME ADVISOR is located on the home page of the shopping site. Use the HOME ADVISOR to find household items that you are already using. Navigate from room to room in a virtual home. Generate a My List tailored to your shopping needs. Come back, add to, or edit your shopping list anytime. Take our new HOME ADVISOR for a test run and learn for yourself how it can help you save time and money, and earn cashback, while supporting Ventures In People! Thank you again for supporting Ventures in People, Inc. Contact Carol at 262-573-5433 with questions regarding the online shopping site.

## PROTECTED WELL

Ken Schumann was in Mirebalais in July checking on some of the wells that Rotarians funded about 25 years ago. He was happy to see a local 4-H Club built a wall around the well to keep it clean, especially to keep out the animals.



**VISIT VIP ONLINE AT  
VIPHAITI.ORG TO SHOP ONLINE  
AND GET THE NEWSLETTER  
ELECTRONICALLY**



**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

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY:  
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**  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
Helping Haitians Help Themselves

PO Box 203 • Hartland, WI 53029 • www.viphaiti.org  
(501c3 organization.)