



September 2016

## Helping Haitians Help Themselves

PO Box 1062, West Bend, WI 53095 • [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org)

### A Message from the President



As the seasons change the needs of the Haitian people do not. Their thirst for clean water

and learning continues as we head back to school and watch the leaves change colors and fall. There are many ways to continue to help us with our many projects in Haiti. Visit our website at [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org). Whatever you can give large or small is greatly appreciated. Please check out the 4-H section of this newsletter to read about our first Leadership Conference in Haiti. Thank you to Jocelyn and her team for all your hard work and dedication.

Thanks to all who made it to one of the brat fries this summer to share in conversation and enjoy a brat.

Have a wonderful fall season.

### Your Shopping Can Support VIP

Believe it or not the Holiday Season is just around the corner!! While you start thinking about shopping—let your shopping help Ventures in People! If you are shopping online please check out the shopping tab of our website at [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org). We receive a percentage of your purchase if you shop through our link at [shop.com](http://shop.com) with no additional cost to you!

Do you shop on Amazon? Please visit our website for a link to see how you can help VIP while online shopping!

### We Need Your Help!

**We currently sponsor English Teachers in 6 of the 10 schools where our sponsored students attend. We are very proud of this program, as many of our students are receiving English Education. We are currently \$3,000 short for English Teacher Salaries for this school year. Any and all donations to help continue this program would be greatly appreciated.**

If you are willing and able to contribute please specify English Teacher on your donation.

Thank You

## 4-H Youth Leadership Conference Report: July 20-23, 2016



Overall, the 2016 4-H Youth Leadership Conference was a huge success! It's safe to say that the conference will be etched in the hearts and minds of both participants and volunteers for years to come! Words cannot adequately express the learning and joy that took place, but I will try to offer a glimpse of what the week entailed.

The main components of the four-day conference included guest speakers, leadership seminars, breakout workshops, and recreation.

We were able to find some awesome locals to deliver inspiring keynote messages to the youth. A medical student alumni organization (SMAH) spoke on leadership and public health. Samuel, one of our translators, who also happens to be an international relations student at a university, gave a talk about leadership and communication skills. Finally, Ugentz, a 4-H member, delivered an encouraging message about the history of 4-H in Haiti, its mission and purpose, and how 4-H serves as a catalyst for youth to improve their communities. All in all, we couldn't have been more satisfied with our speakers!

Each day, participants spent an hour and a half in leadership seminars to dive deeper into the daily leadership topics. Youth stayed with the same small group and leaders for the entire week so that a sense of collegiality and trust could be developed. On the first day, youth were asked to brainstorm qualities of a leader. Then, working in small groups, they created and performed skits to illustrate what these various traits DO and DO NOT look like. Everyone got a good laugh over the "non-examples" that groups came up with! On day two, youth completed an inventory to learn what their personal leadership style is and we discussed how there are many different types of leaders (which is a valuable thing!). The third day was all about effective communication. Participants did a variety of communication exercises, such as a blindfolded partner drawing and a blindfolded obstacle course. These games were fun and created a lot of laughter, but carried an important message about giving clear and detailed directions, asking questions, and building trust as a leader. On the final day, we gave participants an opportunity to share about what they had learned, what they liked about the conference, how they became a stronger leader, and what they planned to take back and share with their clubs. Their feedback tells of a powerful and impactful week of learning and fun!

## 4-H Youth Leadership Conference Report: Cont.

Throughout the conference, participants had a chance to attend two different breakout sessions each day. These workshops were facilitated by both Haitian and American volunteers. I'm please to say that we were able to offer 21 different sessions! Our workshop topics included: photography; jewelry; engineering; conversational English; card-making; gardening; sewing; juggling; tours of the local hospital; public health/leadership; embroidery; rocketry; crocheting; conflict resolution; cross stitch; group games; cooking; first aid; mop-making; child development; and leadership. The hardest part for the youth was choosing their classes- they wanted to attend them all!

We dedicated the last day of the conference to celebrating accomplishments, community service, and recreation. Participants spent some time cleaning up the grounds of the technical college where we hosted the conference. Then we held a closing ceremony, in which we awarded certificates to participants and gave out club grants for the year. Finally, we ended the day, and the conference, with a talent show. Youth and adults performed songs, dances, skits, and instrumental acts. It was the perfect way to wrap up the week!

The conference took many hands and tireless effort to make it a success! I can't say thank you enough to those who contributed, both large and small! Thank you to my friend Maria Brown, who helped dream up the idea two years ago. Thank you to the core planning committee; friends and past trip participants who believed enough in this crazy dream to jump on board and never look back: Maria, Jonelle Ritger (my sister), Kelsey Kanenberg, Aaron Brown, Karen Longrie, and Kathy Hetzel. You all gave SO MUCH time! Thank you to additional trip volunteers- Riley Smeaton, Morgan Smeaton, and Rachel Ries- for bringing your enthusiasm and taking time out of your lives to give back to 4-H! Thank you to Karen Longrie, a fellow board member and the founder of our 4-H program, for sharing your wisdom and encouraging us along the way. Thank you to our translators: Mike, Marc, Samuel, JP, and Wilner. Not only did you help us bridge our language differences; you did so with incredible passion for helping the young people of your communities! Thank you to Bernine, our Haitian 4-H Coordinator, and Pastor Francke, our assistant coordinator, for all of the preparations you did! Thank you to the participants who traveled from near and far every day! Thank you to the Haitian guest speakers and workshop presenters. Thanks to Julia Thomson-Philbrook and Julie Head at Partners in Health for connecting us to resources in the community! Thank you to the Ventures in People board members for supporting and trusting in our plans for the conference. Thank you to all the 4-H groups and civic organizations that invited us to speak at your meetings. A special thank-you to Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee county 4-H Leaders' Associations for your incredibly generous sponsorships! Thank you to all the individuals and groups that donated money and supplies towards the conference. United in our efforts, we have truly accomplished so much!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Top row, L to R: Aaron Brown; Mike LaFontant, Kathy Hetzel, Maria Brown, Riley Smeaton, Morgan Smeaton.

Bottom row, L to R: Rachel Ries, Bernine Tirogene, Jocelyn Ritger, Jonelle Ritger.

Blessings,

*Jocelyn Ritger*

4-H Coordinator

Ventures in People Foundation, Inc



## 4-H Youth Leadership Conference Report: Cont.



### FUN FACTS- By the numbers:

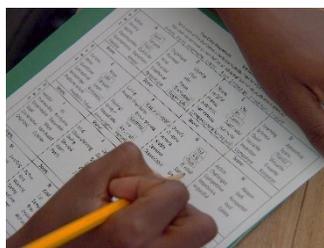
- 5 translators
- 8 Ventures in People volunteers
- 21 workshop offerings
- 96 participants representing 26 clubs
- 200+ hours of planning
- 480 lunches served
- 32,000 miles collectively flown



*For more pictures, visit our Facebook page: "4-H Haiti National Youth Leadership Conference."*



*Clockwise from top: participants laugh during a communication game; photography workshop; candid smiles; cooking workshop; taking the leadership style inventory; our translators; child development workshop; sewing workshop.*



## Education: A Message From One of Our Sponsors: Windsor UCC



“Living and Serving from Generation to Generation in the name of Jesus Christ.”

That is the mission statement of Windsor United Church of Christ present in our lives. Windsor UCC is located in Windsor, Wisconsin, a village of 6,000 founded 168 years ago. Our church family is proud to have 430 members with one member being active since 1930.

Windsor UCC is very active in the community supporting and housing the DeForest Area Food Pantry. We average 20 families each week with the distribution of groceries and needed items. Our pantry staff is caring and faithful. Another dedicated activity is the providing of meals to the homeless shelter at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison. We provide a warm meal to empower the community to the fact that God is still speaking.

Our church reaches out to serve the greater community. We are proud of the fact that for the past 15 years we have been involved with Ventures in People. We are delighted to work with Louis to provide needed funding, support, faithful prayer and continuous fellowship. Our church family has a long partnership with Louis and his devoted efforts to provide continued education to the youth of Marablais, Haiti. We have been fortunate to have Louis visit the WUCC over the years and speak to our congregation, Rotary Club, and various elementary schools in the area about the needs, dreams, concerns, and devastation of his country.

Our church family has been responsive to Ventures in People by supporting the water filter project, Mothers’ Club, 4-H, and education. We pride ourselves on being a presence and witness to justice, peace, healing, and teaching.

VIP and Windsor Church have had a long friendship. Supporting and working with VIP has shown us that God is present and active in our lives. Over the years, seven of our members have gone to Marablais to work and support various projects. The education program run by Louis is by far the largest. Each year it grows with more people becoming involved. Those of us who have traveled to Marablais have had experiences that have been life changing. We have learned new skills, made life-long friends, and had opportunities that continue in our daily lives. Each year we go with visions of being activists for children and parents; being activists for clean water and better hygiene; being activists to bring cultures together in understanding; and being activists to overcome difficulties of daily life.

Bearing witness to the needs of our community and the world have indeed strengthened our faith. We are aware of our responsibility for being an agent of change through our faithful worship, work and witness. These changes can and will establish God’s rule in the world. We are Christians in Christ and must help each other in working for justice and peace.

Windsor United Church of Christ is a church with love and hope to share. We, the faithful, believe God is the Good News in our lives.



## VIP of VIP: Sarah Parsons



My name is Sarah Parsons and I am the editor of Ventures in People Newsletter. In 2013 I graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education from UW-Madison and have taught kindergarten in Milwaukee for the past 2 years. I recently accepted a position teaching 5K in Plymouth, WI. After getting married on October, 22 of this year to my fiancé Jeremy Fischer, we will be moving to Plymouth. We have a 1.5 year old goldendoodle Brewster who is very smart which has its pros and cons!

I have been on the board for the past 2 years but my interest in VIP started long before than. My grandpa, George Schowalter (the former president of the VIP board) always had stories about Haiti and our family together sponsored students through the education program. He often used my technology skills to put together the newsletter and through these experiences my interest for Haiti grew. I had the opportunity to travel to Haiti twice in the past few years to meet with our sponsored student as well as teach English. After these experiences I took the opportunity to join the VIP board as the editor.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!

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

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
- \$55 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**VENTURES IN PEOPLE  
FOUNDATION, INC.**  
Helping Haitians Help Themselves

PO Box 1062  
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www.viphaiti.org  
(501c3 organization.)