

## Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

### A Message from the President



CHANGES!  
What does this one word bring to mind? As they say 'change is the only constant'. We change jobs

and homes, people come and go from our lives and countless things are different with each day.

Since the beginning of Ventures In People we have tried to help make positive changes in Haiti. Along with your contributions and the people we employ in Haiti, changes are happening. There is so much more that we can do!

Ever thought about visiting Haiti? We are planning a trip in January of 2019 as a cultural experience. Please check the website @ [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org) for info and a reservation form. If traveling is not for you there are many ways to help make changes. Water filters, 4-H grants, student sponsorship and English Teacher's salaries. Each of our programs have made changes in

so many lives. Only with your help can we continue to make positive changes for the people of Haiti.

Thank you for visiting us at our brat fry in Kewaskum or in Jackson. We had fun as board members continuing to get to know each other away from decision making. It was a very successful season of selling brats, burgers and hot dogs.

Are you looking for a great cause to become involved in? Go to the Ventures In People website and see how to contact me. Getting to know about all the things that the people of Haiti go thru to survive has certainly changed my life. Feel like making a change in your life?

-Julie Stauss, President

### In Honor/Memory Of

Cheri Hron donated a student sponsorship in honor of **Heidi Thomas**.

George & Joyce Schowalter donated to General Fund in honor of **Kristy Schumann**.

Kathy Hetzel donated to General Fund in honor of **Kristy Schumann**.

## Water Filters

Dr. Ken Schumann (retired veterinarian) has been involved with Ventures In People, as a board member for 12 years. He has traveled to Haiti for 24 years. On a trip, organized by Ken and accompanied by Kathy Hetzel another board member and several other volunteers, the group returned with a glowing report about their many and varied work projects. Once again, the number one project was water filters. With some financial help from Rotarians, 1,150 families received water filters. It was estimated that up to 9,000 people could now receive clean water. When asked about the result of water filters distributed in past years, those who could be contacted said that the number of people with diarrhea due to unclean water, was greatly reduced. Providing the means to get clean water has been a priority project for several years.



Kathy and Samuel assign buckets to families.

On his recent trip Ken was invited by a water purification company to experiment with a product that would use salt (readily available) to produce chlorine to purify water. The goal was to set people up in the business of water purification.

In addition to clean water, Ken organized a two-week training program for Haitian veterinary technicians. These persons are especially helpful in treating livestock and goats, a main stay of Haitian economy. At an earlier visit Ken organized a lending/co-op program for Haitians. The program is making progress. The chicken project is doing well as well as a program of reforestation.

Another project that has been growing and with the help of his wife Gerry and support from Lake Country Rotary Club, in two weeks 1990 Haitian were given a minimal eye exam and fitted with glasses. Ken usually gives five weeks of service to Haiti each year tending to the many projects. On one occasion he also provided transportation and a home for a young Haitian boy who needed special medical care. In addition to his volunteer work Ken has a farm and raises goats. The latest report was 14 "kids" so far this spring. Ventures In People is proud of Ken. He continually invites others to join him in this adventure of "Helping Haitians To Help Themselves."

Ventures In People will sponsor two trips this January. One trip will expose travelers to the culture of Haiti. The other will be a working trip to distribute water filters.



Families get instructions to care for filters.



6000 Bucket Filters distributed since start of program.



Ken helps with the distribution of glasses.

## 4-H Program Receives Unique Donation



*L to R: Mike Hartwell of Shorewest Realtors and recent homebuyers, Jonelle and Peter Nelson, present a check to Jocelyn Ritger, on behalf of Ventures in People Foundation. Through a creative initiative called #MHGivesBack, Hartwell donates a percentage of each home sold to a charity of the buyers' choice.*

Ventures in People recently received a unique donation from Mike Hartwell with Shorewest Realtors and new homeowners Jonelle and Peter Nelson. Mike donates a percentage of the final sale price of any home he sells to a charity of the buyers' choice. In his first two years of real estate, he has donated over \$11,000 to local charities. This time around, Ventures in People was the lucky recipient, thanks to the Nelsons!

Jonelle has traveled to Haiti with Ventures in People on a number of occasions and played an integral role in planning the 2016 Youth Leadership Conference, so choosing Ventures in People as their charity was a natural fit. Their donation will fund four yearly grants for our 4-H clubs.

We are honored that Jonelle and Peter chose to continue to support the work of Ventures in People through the purchase of their home, and we admire the way Mike Hartwell has made giving back to his community an integral part of his work!

***In what creative ways can you support Ventures in People?***

Blessings!

Jocelyn Ritger



## Education

As it is the beginning of the school year for our students in Mirebalais, Haiti, we wish we were there to give them the following words of encouragement from A. A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh":

**"Promise me you'll always remember:**

**You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and**

**Smarter than you think."**

Ann Neumann will be going to Haiti on October 7th to be Venture in People's encourager for our students and teachers. She will be taking their pictures, visiting their classrooms, and spending time with them as they study, share their stories, and just have fun together.

When Ann returns, she will send our student sponsors pictures of their children and information about them. Some of our children graduated last June and some have failed their classes so they won't be able to return this fall. Consequently, a few of our sponsors will receive a new student. In each case we will explain to you what happened and trust you will embrace your new student!

We thought you would appreciate seeing some pictures of what it is like for children as they begin school. Enjoy—and hopefully one day you may want to go to Haiti to visit the children in person and see the areas in which VIP works. A group will be going in January 2019 so check out our website for more information!



Students in Haiti get to school in different ways. Some kids walk over 10 miles, some ride on a motorcycle taxi with their siblings, and others pile into the back of a transport truck.