

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

PO Box 1062, West Bend, WI 53095 • www.viphaiti.org

A Message from the President



Here in Wisconsin, where I live, in the last month we have had 31 inches of snow, ice and -50 degrees wind chill. My aching back and shoulders from shoveling are only

temporary. They will eventually heal and the snow will melt. Flowers will find their way out of the frozen ground over the next few weeks. The people of Haiti must deal daily with problems and challenges we will never have. I read an article recently that said most Haitians are living on less than \$5 a day. I know I couldn't do it! How about you?

Sponsor a child's education, purchase a water filter for a family, contribute to a class about teaching about goat care or help with a 4-H grant. There are so many opportunities to help. Please check out our website at www.viphaiti.org for more information. Any donation is greatly appreciated, if you can't donate money, how about your time to serve on the board of directors, please contact me.

Neither of these are possible for you right now, I ask that you please pray for the people of Haiti. For weeks they have been protesting to bring about changes in their country.

Thank you, Julie Stauss—President

AYITI VINI NAN WISCONSIN

HAITI COMES TO WISCONSIN...

in the person of LOUIS TENIOR GUERRIER (Education Coordinator for VIP) He arrives in West Bend, Wisconsin on Wednesday, April 24th and leaves Wednesday, May 8th. While he is here, Louis is anxious to tell the story of VIP to as many people as possible. If you know of a group or organization that would be interested in hosting an event where Louis would speak, please be in touch with us. We're willing to take him within a reasonable distance. Please call Barb Seefeldt (262-338-1320) to reserve a day and time. Want to meet Louis? See page 2 for a unique opportunity.

In Honor Of

Water Filter donated in memory of
Dave Jaeger.

~Given by Linda Braunschweig

4-H Donation donated in memory of
Roland Thomas.

~Given by Heidi Thomas

Donation donated in honor of
Donald & Jean Coshun

~Given by Karen & Tom Hopp Family

THIS IS A MESSAGE FOR STUDENT SPONSORS

Spring is just around the corner and, if you have not already done so, we would appreciate receiving your renewal for your students for the 2019-20 school year. The cost remains the same at \$160 a year for the entrance fee, tuition, books and uniforms. The amount should be sent to: Ventures in People P. O. Box 1062 West Bend, Wi. 53095. Thank you to those who have already paid. Especially at this time, we realize that it is very important that the children in Haiti become educated so that one day they will be responsible leaders in their country-leaders who care about all the people in their homeland.

“MEET AND GREET”

LOUIS TENIOR GUERRIER

VIP’s Education Coordinator in Mirebalais, Haiti

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th

4:00 p.m. at



Restaurant

105 South Main St.

West Bend, WI



COST: \$20 per person

\$10 will be for food and \$10 will go toward VIP’s English Teaching Program in its participating schools in Mirebalais, Haiti. Each person is responsible for purchasing one’s own beverage.

This will be an opportunity to hear first-hand what is happening in the schools in Mirebalais and education in general in Haiti. Louis will also be available to respond to questions you many have.

Please send your reservation to Ventures in People – P.O. Box 1062, West Bend, WI 53095 BEFORE April 14th. Thank you.

NAME/S _____

Number attending _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Tele. No. _____

4-H Youth Compete in Goat Show

This January, a VIP delegation led by board member Ken Schumann helped facilitate a goat competition for 4-H youth. Approximately 15 members of the Mirebalais club gathered with their goats for a unique learning experience. The goats were divided into categories by age and sex. They were judged on their conformation by Gerry Schumann, who has many years of goat judging experience in the US. Goats and handlers were awarded ribbons for first, second, and third place in each division, and the overall male and female winners received a trophy. The event, which was the first of its kind for our 4-H clubs, was deemed a success by all!



2019 VIP Cultural Trip



The VIP Cultural Trip to Haiti far exceeded our expectations and even our imagination. Six talented, generous and adventurous travelers accompanied LouAnn and I to Port-au-Prince and Mirebalais to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of a new culture. While meeting the people and interacting with the children, the poverty of Haiti disappears. We saw the energy and joy in the Haitian faces as we listened to their stories, held their hands, and allowed them to touch our hair and sit on our laps (for children only).

With more people than a transportation system can handle, we traveled around Port-au-Prince. Our first stop was the Red

Cross construction site of a new blood bank. The six million dollar building was carefully planned for the ease of donating blood and the security of the plasma. The construction will be finished in May 2019. We also caught a glimpse of Haitian history at the National Museum. On Sunday we joined Haitians in a Bible study and worship service. Although we didn't understand the Creole, we realized through their translated greeting that our presence was a blessing. They asked us to be their ambassadors to spread the word that we are welcome in Haiti. With a stop in Croix des Bouquets we saw and heard how the sheets of metal are skillfully pounded into works of art. With a little bit of bargaining all of us had souvenirs to remind us of the sunny days in Haiti.

After crossing the mountains we saw and heard the excitement of Mirebalais. Sunday afternoon we were entertained by 4-H youth from three different clubs with songs, skits, and dances. In the following afternoons we met 30 students for two hours each day to enrich their English language skills. Songs and games were a big hit as well as learning numbers. The finale was an afternoon with a prize filled BINGO game! In the mornings we toured the local market, took a boat ride along the Artibonite River, toured the Mirebalais Hospital, visited schools, took a walk over the dam, cooled off in the waterfall and visited an orphanage. Some of the participants choose to get a glimpse of another VIP project by spending the day distributing water filters.



To be on the safe side when we learned that the roads to Mirebalais would be blocked, we added an extra day in Port-au-Prince. That was a day of relaxation, fun in the pool and some additional shopping. We were all happy that our flexible schedule worked out so well. Our future cultural trips will be referred to as adventures since we all agreed that nine days in Haiti is an ADVENTURE! Planning ahead for 2020? You'll have a choice of dates—either Friday, January 10 to Saturday, January 18 or Saturday, January 18 to Sunday, January 26. Contact Kathy.hetzel53027@gmail.com for additional information or to register, go to www.viphaiti.org. --Kathy Hetzel