

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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A Message from the President



Do you love enough? This is the last line of a book I read months ago. I guess this question stuck with me. Love isn't always dealing with your

heart. It may be sharing time, talents or whatever you feel you have in abundance. Spending time doing things for others is a way to show love. A phone call or visit can brighten someone's day.

As we try to find normalcy again, Haitians are struggling with price increases and so many hardships. The cost of many things has doubled but not their wages. We are in contact with our coordinators in Haiti and we hope that some of our board members are able to travel there in the near future.

Please consider showing the people of Haiti some love in whatever way you can. Thank you for your continued support. Love to you and your family!!

Julie Stauss—President

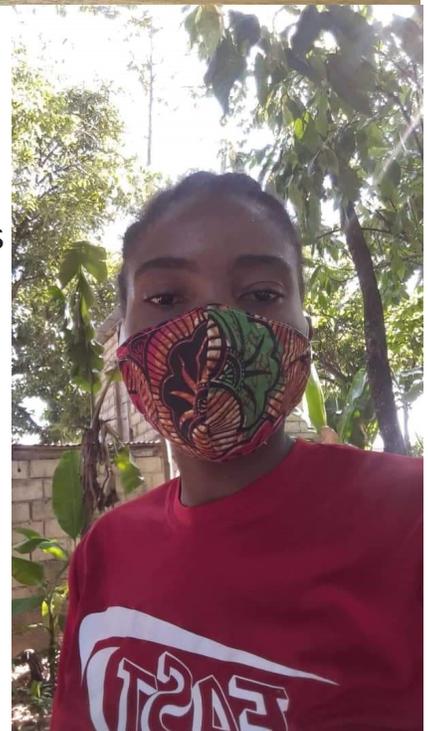
VIP Sends Aid to Mirebalais, Haiti to Help Fight Covid-19

Louis Tenior Guerrier, VIP'S education coordinator in Haiti, sent a request asking for financial assistance to make needed masks to help combat the virus.



Ventures in People was able to send \$900 from VIP's catastrophe fund and as you're reading this, masks are being properly made for him to distribute.

Thank you for your donations.



Current Events in Haiti: Reflections from Louis Tenior Guerrier

There hasn't been much rain this year. That means the electric dam doesn't have enough water to generate electricity so they don't have power.

A big problem is that they don't have enough hospital beds to care for patients with Covid-19. Many people are coming to Mirebalais because they are sick, but there aren't enough beds. People are very frustrated and Louis is concerned there may be protests. They also don't have enough testing materials.



Everything is now very expensive. What cost 125 gourdes in January of this year Now costs 225 gourdes.

Due to Covid-19, some of the people don't go out unless they need to. However, most of the population has to go in to the streets to survive.

Clean Water Project

Water filter distribution has been on hold. The January distribution was cancelled due to the political unrest which would have prevented us from getting around and now because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The country is not equipped to meet the demand for treatment that is expected. The Cholera epidemic of 2010-11 did give them some idea of how to go about it.

The need for clean water is still very high. We continue to raise funds so we can distribute as many water filters as possible whenever we can. We may need additional volunteers to assemble and distribute.

Cultural Trips

The Haitian children are looking forward to the time we can play “duck, duck, goose” and “London Bridge” or read to them, but to be safe for everyone, we are not planning any cultural trips in 2021. Save some vacation time and hopefully we can again travel to Haiti in January 2022.



To VIP Student Sponsors



This is just a reminder that the cost for sponsoring a child in Mirebalais is \$175. Because of the rising costs there, the VIP Board made the decision to raise the cost for the 2020-21 school year \$15 a year. At present we have only heard from a few of you and are hoping to hear from others soon. Despite the situation there right now, Louis will be working on enrollments soon for fall. We don't know what the future holds, but he needs to be prepared and ready for when the children will be able to return to school. We look forward to hearing from you. We thank those sponsors from whom we have received their support. The address for sending renewals is: Ventures in People - P.O. Box 1062 - West Bend, WI. Thank you!



4-H Clubs Carry On

Just like everything else, our 4-H clubs in Haiti have not been able to meet since about mid-March, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Up until that point, Bernine, the coordinator, reports that clubs were engaging in worthy community projects with the help of their grant funds. Some of them repaired roads, fixed school pipes, taught children how to dance, and worked on club meeting places.



Bernine Tirogene, our Haitian 4-H coordinator, displays a mask made by the Lozama 4-H club. Several 4-H clubs have sewing machines and have been making masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Even though things have been quiet lately, several of the clubs with sewing machines are making face masks to fight the spread of the pandemic.

We continue to hold Bernine and our 4-H youth in our hearts during this time, knowing that epidemics such as this hit poor communities so much harder.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Ritger

Ventures in People 4-H Coordinator



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