



# Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

## A Message from the President



My hope is that you and your family are healthy and safe. Each new day brings changes with it, some good and some bad. We must adapt to these changes even though we

may not like it. Anyone who knows will tell you, I fight change! If it's not broken, don't fix it. Many of us are broken in different ways—health, emotionally, financially or spiritually. How do we fix it? I have found, if I think about someone in trouble or someone is need of my help, my life seems a little better.

I personally sponsor two children in Haiti. I have contributed to all of the different programs that Ventures In People has. Making someone else's life easier makes such a difference. There are so many ways to help in Haiti. Water filters, 4-H club grants, student sponsorship and English teacher salaries. Do feel you need to make a change in your life? How about helping make a change in Haiti? Please check out our website

[www.vipahaiti.org](http://www.vipahaiti.org).

Make a difference in someone's life today! Thank you for your continued support!

Julie Stauss—VIP President

## VIP Water

While we were unable to distribute water filters in January 2020, we are hoping to be able to do it again in January 2021 as the need is still great. Here is a picture of our volunteers hard at work assembling and distributing water filters.



## In Honor Of

Student Sponsorships donated in honor of **Pat Feldman**

~Given by Dorothy Tuttle

Donation made in honor of

**Heidi Thomas**

~Given by Barbara Justman

## 4-H Reflections

Karen Longrie, a long-time VIP board member and past 4-H coordinator shares this reflection on the hospitality and generosity of our 4-H clubs:

*“When VIP members visit 4-H clubs in Haiti, we are met with a greeting of thank you in song and items presented to us. The members bring produce from home and the club sing their thank you song, the members line up and each one gives us a present. 4-H members have little of their own but yet they are sharing it with us as a way of saying thank you for what VIP has done for them. It's a humbling experience for us and you would like to give it all back, but we were told not to. They bring items such as eggs, corn, grapefruit, oranges, bananas, packages of crackers & cookies thanking us for the grant funds they have received from us. Our grant program is an ongoing VIP program that provides funds to 4-H clubs to make improvements in their community. It's a special feeling for all of us.”*

Although it has been a while since VIP members have been able to visit clubs in person (due to political instability and now Covid-19), we look forward to the day when we can be present with them in person once again!



Above: It is common to be greeted with gifts and in song when visiting 4-H clubs in Haiti.

On a separate note, I do have some good news to report. According to Bernine, the 4-H Coordinator, 22 4-H clubs have started meeting again. Members wear masks as a precaution.

We continue to hold all of our 4-H members and leaders in our thoughts as they navigate these pandemic times with the rest of us.

Stay well my friends,

Jocelyn Ritger —Ventures in People 4-H Coordinator

## Five Haitian Students Receive an Education from the Scott and Beth Warren Family



The Warren Family

“Scott and I were married 37 years ago in the beautiful church in the country which still has the stone wall for hitching your horse. This is Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Waukesha, WI where Scott’s grandmother was one of the founding members and our two children were baptized. A past minister of the church had gone to Haiti with Ventures in People in the 1990’s. He brought back a story that prompted our Sunday School to sponsor the education of a child in Haiti. Later, our extended family chose to make a donation or do a service instead of exchanging Christmas gifts with each other. Our family chose to sponsor students’ educations in Haiti through Ventures in People feeling reassured we knew where the money would go. My father is a lifelong educator who instilled the importance of education in his children. We continue to be able to

support five students by including other gifts throughout the year. It would break my heart to have to stop a dear little one’s education. Our Haitian students’ pictures sit beside ours on our shelf.”

~Beth Warren



## An Added Note From VIP’s Education Committee

Bethesda Church continues to sponsor two students in our program. On one of Louis Tenior Guerrier’s visits to Wisconsin he was able to spend a Sunday morning with our friends at Bethesda and share the story of what VIP was doing in Mirebalais, Haiti. We are grateful for all of our faithful supporters like the Warrens and Bethesda Church.

Thank You

## World News Reports Help is Needed in Haiti

Now, as schools are finally reopening in Haiti, many parents cannot afford to send their children. There have been many gains in Education in Haiti that could be lost. With limited internet and TV access, virtual schooling has been impossible. While the cost of sending children to school is low, the pandemic has made it almost worse because of dire economic plight.

The situation is a set-back after Haiti hiked its primary school attendance rate to 84% from 76% over the last decade. While coronavirus has left Haiti unscathed health wise, the education ministry has mandated that staff and pupils wear masks. Schools must provide hand washing, even if it is just a bucket of water. The government has ordered the most over crowded schools to divide up classes to insure physical distancing by rotating shifts.

The unrest last year financially ruined many businesses which were unable to get back on their feet before the coronavirus hit. The double digit inflation is ravaging households and incomes are falling.

VIP Education Comment: More than ever VIP's student sponsorships are needed. Some of you have asked about the necessity of continuing your support in light of the situation in Haiti. VIP is

making all attempts to secure the education of the students in its program now.

As a result of the situation in Haiti, there are many more children who can't afford to go school this year. VIP offers you an opportunity to help with this dire situation by sponsoring a child's education in Haiti for \$175 a year.

If you wish to offer support, please send your request and money to:

Ventures in People  
P.O. Box 1062  
West Bend , WI 53095



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