

## Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

### A Message from the President



Keep telling yourself, spring is right around the corner! Is 2021 looking better than 2020 was? I can tell you at this house it is not. Health problems have overshadowed the

past six months. Things are beginning to heal and I am feeling better. My issues are very minor compared to what's happening in Haiti. In an article from The New York Times dated February 7, 2021 it says 'The poor now target the poor'. There are gangs kidnapping people for money no matter how poor they are. Parents are keeping their children home; most schools are closed. People are afraid to leave their homes. All of these things are happening due to political tensions.

I'm sharing some of the struggles that the Haitians face each day, hoping you will see how freely we live our lives here in the United States. I don't know when any of our board members will be able to travel to Haiti. Things would have to change drastically and so far; it is not looking very promising. We are in touch with our coordinators in Haiti and all programs are on hold for the moment. We are hopeful that the children can go back to school, all 4-H

clubs can meet again and water filters can be distributed in the near future.

Please check out our website at [www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org) for information on ways to help the Haitian people.

When you are having a peaceful moment in your favorite chair, enjoying a cup of coffee or nice and warm under that blanket, please think about the Haitians and their struggles.

Thank you for your continuing support of Ventures In People. We can't do it without you!!!

Julie Stauss—VIP President



VIP Board of Directors Member John Kletti shares a quiet moment after a hard days work distributing water filters on a past trip to Haiti.

### Want the Ventures in People Newsletter Sent to Your Email?

If you would like to save some paper and have this newsletter sent to your Email, email Julie at [julie.stauss@viphaiti.org](mailto:julie.stauss@viphaiti.org) to be removed from our USPS list.

Then visit our website [viphaiti.org](http://viphaiti.org) and click on the "Newsletter" link. On the left side, fill in your information and at the bottom, select the newsletter by email option.

## Reflecting on 4-H's Role in the Community

I shared this story a number of years ago, but felt it was worth sharing again. It demonstrates how 4-H reaches beyond its youth members and serves the greater community:

*“One of the most profound moments from all the work I’ve done with VIP came on a visit to the Sarrizan clubs. Rain poured down on a muggy summer day, but that didn’t stop hundreds of eager 4-H members from squeezing into an open-air shelter and welcoming us in song. As we talked, they were curious to know what 4-H clubs in the United States did to help the parents of members. We racked our brains to answer their question, but soon realized that they didn’t need any advice- they had already taken action. Just then, a group of about 30 women in the crowd stood up and sang a special song they had prepared. The words of the song were lost in translation, but the pride and happiness on their faces was universal. You see, these weren’t just any parents. **These women had learned to read and write for the very first time, thanks to a night school that the 4-H club had recently started!** The club saw a need for literacy and stepped up. Seeing the joy and accomplishment in their faces went beyond words and is something I will never forget!”*

What a ripple effect! Time and time again, 4-H’ers astound us with their creativity! When you support Ventures in People financially, you become a catalyst for more moments like this.

*With Gratitude,*

*Jacelyn Ritger*

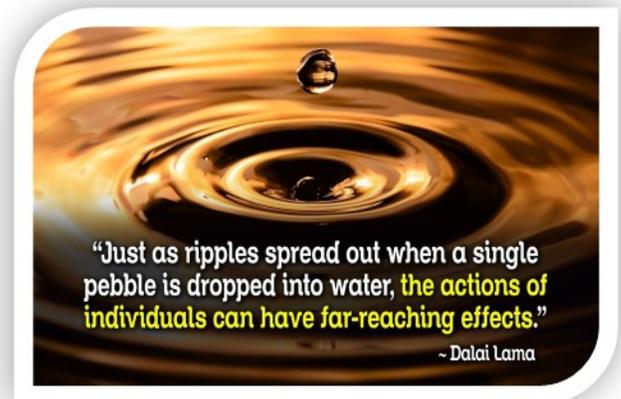
4-H Coordinator



Above: Members of the Sarrizan 4-H Clubs at a meeting in 2012.

Right: Mothers and fathers of the Trianon 4-H Club attending a Mother’s School to learn how to read.

Both the Sarrizan and Trianon clubs have responded to a need in the community by holding literacy classes for parents.



## Education

WE LONG FOR HEALTH AND PEACE FOR  
THE CHILDREN IN MIREBALAIS, HAITI

What a school year this has been for  
Ventures in People's Education  
coordinator, Louis Tenior Guerrier, and the  
children in its education program.

Throughout this last year there was the  
Covid19 pandemic that affected the  
children and their families just as it has  
here. However, Louis reports that the  
children did not miss much school and  
things have improved. We are happy to  
report that. Now, however, there is a  
great deal of political unrest in the  
country so there is much fear and  
anxiety in the lives of the children and  
their families as well as teachers and  
principals. Louis is monitoring the safety  
of our children during this.

Since no one from the VIP Board was able  
to go to Haiti to take pictures of our  
children this last school year, Louis has  
been doing it for us. He sends the  
pictures to our Board member, Ann  
Neumann, and she has them printed here  
for our sponsors. Unfortunately, because  
of the political situation, he was unable to  
take pictures of eighteen children. We  
are sorry, but we trust that the sponsors  
of those children understand that safety  
comes first. It is our hope that the next  
school year will be void of any serious  
problems. We are looking to the future  
with hope and a longing for peace in  
Haiti.

## Donations Given In Memory of Heidi Thomas



David & Mary Schleif  
Cole Northup  
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Rev. & Mrs. Tom Townsend  
Teresa Sizer  
Lois Yatzeck  
Wendy Coulter

Thank You Heidi for your dedication  
and service to Haiti.

**In Honor Of**

Donation made in honor of  
**Kathy Hetzel**  
~Given by Carol Fox

Donation made in honor of  
**George & Joyce Schowalter**  
~Given by Judy Krepsky

Donation made in honor of  
**George & Joyce Schowalter**  
~Given by Nick Pehler

Donation made in honor of  
**George Schowalter**  
~Given by Carol Ann Kay



Don't forget to shop through Ventures in People on Amazon Smile to continue to help support our projects in Haiti! You can support VIP just by shopping! Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to start earning money for VIP today!

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.

- \$175 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
- \$36.50 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

All donations will be acknowledged—Memorials and Honorariums to recipient as designated.

**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

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[www.viphaiti.org](http://www.viphaiti.org)  
(501c3 organization.)