VENTURES IN PEOPLE
FOUNDATION, INC.

June 2016

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

A Message from the President

I hope since you last heard from us that as they say 'Life has been treating you kind.' Our visit with Louis was wonderful and productive. I met with him while he was here to talk about expectations and busy schedules and while talking to him I received an education. He is a very popular man over the summer. Parents will wait outside his home in hopes of their child being picked as one of the lucky ones to attend school. Unfortunately the demand is much greater than the supply of sponsors and money. During his visit he raised awareness for the need of education and was able to secure over 40 new sponsors! Thank you so much!

Our next big event is the 4-H National Youth Leadership Conference in Haiti. It is not too late to contribute to this amazing learning experience. Jocelyn and her team have put together a great deal of effort into planning and coordinating both here in the States and in Haiti. I hope for all instructors and participants a wonderful conference.

As my first year as president comes to a close, I want to thank all the great people I am privileged to work with connected to VIP. I am in awe of the dedication and concern of past and present board members and supporters and feel honored to work with all of you. If Ventures in People is something you would like to become more involved with please come to a meeting and check us out. Visit our website at www.viphaiti.org to see how to contact me. Have a fun and safe summer!

Respectfully,
Julie Stauss

Brat Fry

It's that time of year again! Come join us for our brat fries this summer to help support Ventures In People!

July 30: Kewaskum
Piggly Wiggly
940 Fond du Lac Ave.
Kewaskum, WI 53040

August 19: West Bend
Ries' Sausage Plus Spirits
1435 W. Washington St.
West Bend, WI 53095

August 27: Jackson
Piggly Wiggly
W194N16774 Eagle Dr.
Jackson, WI 53037

4-H News: July's Youth Leadership Conference

The countdown to our Youth Leadership Conference is on!!!! **A little over a month until we bring close to 100 Haitian young people together in Mirebalais, Haiti for four days to:**

- Be inspired by the words of other Haitian leaders
- Discover their personal leadership styles
- Strengthen their speaking and listening skills
- Collaborate with others
- Make new friends
- Share their knowledge with others
- Have fun

Here's a snapshot of what participants will experience at conference, July 20-23:

Daily Schedule

8:00	Arrival/registration
9:00	Keynote speaker/large group session
9:45	Leadership Seminar
11:15	Break
11:30	Workshop Session
1:00	Lunch/Recreation
2:00	Workshop Session
3:30	Closing Session
4:00	Departure

Workshop Sessions

First aid	Gardening
Juggling	Engineering
Rocketry	Cooking
Embroidery	Cross-Stitch
Painting	Child development
Photography	Conflict-Resolution
Sewing	Healthcare careers
Jewelry making	English
Crocheting	Songs/Games

Our conference theme is: *Growing Leaders: Discover, Build, Strengthen, Share*. Each day will have a theme that the keynote address and leadership seminars focus on. Participants will meet daily in small-groups to explore each component in a hands-on, interactive way.

Our daily leadership topics are as follows:

DAY 1- DISCOVER: What makes a good leader? Participants will focus on getting to know each other and discovering the skills leaders need to be successful.

DAY 2- BUILD: What kind of leader are you? Participants will take time to assess their own leadership styles and build on their strengths, while also reflecting on areas that have room for growth.

DAY 3- STRENGTHEN: Communication is key! Participants will strengthen the ever-important skills of speaking and listening. They will continue to strengthen their teamwork skills as well.

DAY 4- SHARE: Participants will reflect on what they have learned and create a plan to share their skills and new knowledge with others in their families, 4-H clubs, and communities.

4-H News Continued...

WE ARE SO EXCITED for this summer! We hope this will be a powerful and impactful experience for the youth. But it could not happen without a dedicated team of volunteers, financial support from folks like you, and the generosity of groups and organizations that have invited us to speak at their meetings. I can't say it enough, but THANK YOU! Stay tuned to the next newsletter for a report and pictures of conference. In the meantime, like us on Facebook (4-H Haiti National Youth Leadership Conference) for updates!

With gratitude,
Jocelyn Ritger

Education: Bethesda Presbyterian

In 1995, the Sunday School children of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Waukesha, were searching for a project through which they could help other children elsewhere in the world. Ventures in People turned out to be the solution to their quest. A representative from VIP had contacted the church and then presented their educational program in Haiti to the Bethesda congregation. The Sunday School children were delighted at the prospect of raising money each year to pay for the education of a child in Haiti, as everyone involved viewed education as vital to a child's growth. The contacts were made and Bettie became our first Haitian student. Over the years, the Haitian children (sponsored by the Sunday School children, and later by the congregation) changed as each child graduated and went on to other endeavors. Bethesda Church has been sponsoring students for over 21 years and the program has remained an important part of the church's ministry in the world.

The congregation was delighted this year to welcome to Bethesda Church Mr. Louis Tenior Guerrier, student coordinator of the education program in Haiti for VIP. Part of Mr. Guerrier's presentation included his observation that smaller organizations (like VIP) have a much more immediate effect on the people of Haiti than do some larger help organizations, whose products are stopped at customs. We are very pleased to know that we are making a difference. It is because of dedicated individuals like those associated with VIP that we can help make the world a better place for children.

THANK YOU BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN

VIP of VIP: Kathy Hetzel

For ten years as the Dodge County UW-Extension Family Living Educator I received the VIP quarterly newsletters. Supporting student education, establishing 4-H clubs and installing arbor loos were all worthy projects and making great improvements for the health and wellness of the Haitians. I was pleased to know that instead of a bureaucratic international organization, this work was done by concerned people from southeastern Wisconsin! But the newsletters set on my desk, sometimes for months and eventually disappeared among all my other work. I did nothing!

As an avid traveler and with more time for new adventures when I retired, I wanted to experience Haiti. I was fortunate to take my first trip in January 2014 with George Schowalter and ten other wonderful travelers. As we drove through the rough dirt streets of Port-au-Prince we saw families living in tents within one block of the airport and later we saw pigs roaming through Cite Soliel. This was the worst poverty I had seen in all of the countries I have traveled. To me the future seemed grim for Haitians since in some areas the soil was depleted and families had little success planting gardens because of the dry climate. But the people were incredible. Even though many Haitians had tired faces from years of sun and hard work, they always returned a smile or a “bonjour” greeting. We visited the orphanage started by a past student of the VIP program, volunteered in other orphanages, and visited schools and the hospital in Mirebalais. After my trip I immediately started to support a child’s education through VIP. If a child is willing to change his life by attending school, the least I can do is offer monetary support.

The fall of that year, when I heard that Ken needed workers for the water filter project, I volunteered for a week in January and returned this year. During these trips I saw more people in small towns as I collected the money for the water filters and wrote their names on the buckets. This summer I will join the 4-H team to assist with the conference for 100 Haitian youth.

It’s really easy to get involved in a small way or a big way with VIP. Donating for a child’s education or taking a trip to Haiti provides more warmth and satisfaction than any other travel or experience I’ve had. Unlike other travel, the logistics of a VIP experience, food, lodging and transportation are arranged by the group leader. Don’t wait ten years to get involved. The people of Haiti need our help. It’s a small thing we can do when the need is great.