

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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A Message From the President



I have often thought about how different it would be to live in another country. Most of us get in the car and go where we want, open the refrigerator and find

something to eat or turn on the heat or air as needed. We don't even think twice about it. It isn't like that in Haiti. Some must decide fuel or food? Many don't go anywhere due to the gang activity. We hear in the news about the many things that are wrong in Haiti. Yes, there are earthquakes, hurricanes and violence in areas bringing destruction. Yes, there are happy people too! Some trying to make a difference in their lives.

Ventures In People may be a small organization but we are making a difference one person/family at a time. Distributing water filters, organizing 4-H clubs and sending children to school can change things for the better. YOU are the ones making the difference by helping Ventures In People. We can't do it alone. Thank you for your continued support in our mission to 'Help Haitians Help Themselves'.

Julie Stauss—VIP President

Clean Water Project



As I sit at my computer to write this update, I find myself in a very reflective mood after having spent the last hour or so on the phone with our Haitian partner who is leading the Central Plateau

Water Filter project for VIP for the 2nd straight year. VIP has not had any representatives travel to Haiti to participate in the Clean Water Project since 2019 due to the continued civil unrest that has crippled the lives of so many of our Haitian friends. This year, VIP has raised funds for the purchase of approximately 1200 water buckets / filter assemblies and our Haitian partners (a group of 5 individuals plus a driver) have committed themselves over a two-week period to go to many outlying communities in the Central Plateau region of Haiti to

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Clean Water Project Continued



distribute water filters to the needy and train them in the proper use, care and maintenance of the filters. The logistics of getting the word out to the various community leaders is a task in itself. Our group makes arrangements with local community leaders for a date that they will be in their respective village to distribute filters. It is up to the community leaders to get the word out to the people so that they can come and take advantage of this community service.

This year, Cholera again is rearing its ugly head in the Central Plateau region and many people are dying from the lack of clean water. People have come to understand that the VIP clean water program works and as such, this year every day our team has had to unfortunately turn away many people, due to not enough filters to fill the need. Our group leader feels that the team could have

distributed up to 3 times the number filters that we were able to provide them with this year, based on the amount of donations that VIP has accumulated over the past year to fund this program. They typically have approx. 100-120 filters allocated for distribution per day and they are turning away upwards of 200 people when they run out of filters for that day. I will share a story that our team leader told me about in our phone conversation. Last year, a woman came up to him after the last of the filters had been distributed for that day and she was very disappointed in not being able to acquire a filter bucket. She told him that she would be back again next year (2023) and would make the long walk to get to the community area early so she would be sure to get a filter. This week, our leader when they were at this same community asked the community leader about the lady and where she was – he very much wanted to make sure he had a filter for her. The community leader told our group that the lady had passed away just the week prior of cholera. To say that our group was distressed when they heard this news is to put it mildly.

I hope that this message reaches far and wide and that people in this country of many blessings might feel inclined to help financially for next year's Haiti Clean Water Project. Any amount donated will help our Haitian partners help their fellow Haitians to have a fighting chance at life in a country that desperately needs a helping hand from their neighbors.



4H Update



4-H Clubs have been putting the most recent grant money to good use. Here are some of the ways they are impacting their communities:

Saut D' Eau repaired the water pipes at one of their local schools. They also redesigned the Saut-d'eau soccer field and bought balls and nets.



Fond Michel club bought turkeys for the children.

Lozama, Savanne la Coupe, Pilonne, & Sarrazin 1 clubs donated school supplies to the children (notebooks, pens, & books).



Education

A question asked by a student sponsor:

"Why is my student who is 15 years old in the first year elementary grade?"

A response from Louis Tenior Guerrier, our education coordinator in Haiti:

"In this year 2023 we have parents in the countryside and in the city of Mirebalais who can't send their kids to school because there are not enough sponsors. Since the beginning the policy of our program is to help needy families in a way to provide an education for their kids. That is the same policy we are maintaining after decades - a way to help people in Haiti to help themselves.

For some children the opportunity has not been there for them until they are older. When an opportunity is made available to them, no matter what their age, they are eager to learn even though it means that they have to begin to study at an early level. So, you may have a 15 year old student in first year elementary, and he or she is happy and proud to be there. That's how important being educated means to them."

A response from VIP's education committee:

"We are so pleased with the work that Louis does for us in Haiti. Very soon all of our sponsors will have received the pictures he has taken of our students in the seven different schools. He keeps a very close eye on what is being taught in our schools, their safety, and their grades and participation. He also teaches English in two of our schools. This is a very difficult job right now with all that is happening in Haiti.

We appreciate and thank all of our sponsors. Some of you have been with us for many years and supported several students in that time. The door is certainly wide open to anyone who would like to help to be a part of educating Haitians for the future. The cost for doing so is just \$175 a year. An important investment in a child's life. Interesting also is the fact that some of the children who are in school go home and share what they have learned with siblings and parents."



~The Education Program Committee

In Honor Of

**Donation made in honor of
John Kletti**

~Given Katie & Andrew
Martenson

**Donation made in honor of
George & Joyce Schowalter**

~Given by Rich & Sheryl Peshek

**Donation made in memory of
Lona Schindler**

~Given by Stephanie Schindler

**Goats and Water Filter donated in
memory of**

Marhitza from Wings of Hope in Haiti

~Given by Kerry & Jeffery Franklin

**English Teacher & Water Filter donated
by 2nd Graders from Stormonth
Elementary School, Fox Point**