

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

A Message from the President



I hope this newsletter finds all of you happy and in good health. I often get questions about what the General Fund pays for. All of us on the board are volunteer, our payment

are the smiles and thank yous from the Haitians.

- The newsletter (which is printed 3 times a year) is paid for out of the General Fund.
- Ventures In People employs several people in Haiti to oversee our current programs. Their salaries are paid for out of the General Fund.
- There are other incidentals that are paid from this fund also such as postage, student sponsor pictures, etc.
- Website upkeep

Every dollar that you donate to one of our programs, goes where you direct us to place it. If no designation is made, your donation goes to the general fund which is equally important to the work we do in Haiti. Know that we are a small organization but we are dedicated to making a difference. We realize that you work hard for your money and we are

grateful that you share your resources with the Haitians.

I hope you make many memories with family and friends this holiday season. Bless you in 2025!

~Julie Stauss—President

In Honor/Memory Of

**Donation made in Honor of
Don & Mary Spencer's 70th
Anniversary**

~Given by George & Joyce
Schowalter

**Donation made in Memory of
Fred Seefeldt**

~Given by Ralph Schultz

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An Update from Mirebalais

As of this date 222 children are being educated in schools in Mirebalais, Haiti by sponsors in our Education Program. Ventures in People is indeed grateful for the support that we have received from people despite all the reports of gang violence and deep-rooted political instability in Haiti at the present time. Rest assured, we are kept up to date on what is taking place in the schools in regards to the safety of the children. Principals and staff are continuing to put education as a top priority for the future generation of Haitians. Our reports come directly from Louis Tenior Guerrier who is a very valuable source as he is VIP's director of education in Mirabalais.



Following is a message we recently received from him as school has now been in session for two months.

"We are living in a very difficult moment in Haiti. We have had a new government for four months, however, nothing has changed. Armed gangs continue to kill innocent people. Last week in Pont Sonde, a town in the Artibonite Department, gangs killed 109 people. Port Sonde is 71 km west of Mirebalais. We suffer a huge economic crisis, more that 38% inflation.

In Mirebalais kids are in schools. We hope the school year is going to be a successful one. We still have our auto defense group to fight gangs if they attack the town again. Our motto is "Karpe goumen li ye!" Translated—"We are not running away, we stand our ground and fight back."

VIP thanks you for not giving up and continuing to hold these children and their families, Louis, the principals and teachers in your hearts.

~Barb Seefeldt & Ann Neumann
(Education Co-Chairs)



November 2024 4-H Updates

- Grant money was sent this summer and we are starting to get updates and pictures back from 4-H clubs.
- Clubs are meeting, however Bernine reports that the meetings for some clubs are becoming difficult to hold because of rumors about the city and the fear in the streets.
- Bernine has shared that some clubs purchased school supply kits for students and held back to school parties.
- Below are current pictures of some of our 4-H clubs:



Clockwise from top left:
Desvarieux 1, Desvarieux 2,
Passe a Cannot, Nanciouel, and
Triannon clubs.

We are always so grateful for the educational and community-building opportunities that your donations provide to 4-H members in Haiti! Thank You!

'Tis the Season—Ink Cartridge Recycling

As we move deeper into the holiday season, so many beautiful fragrances come to mind. The smell of fresh pine and cedar, the scent of apples and pumpkins baking, and the aroma of sweet and savory spices seem to fill the air everywhere we go.

Which holiday scents are your favorites? What memories do they bring to mind? What fragrance do you hope lingers as a result of your presence?

As I scurry along with my holiday plans, I stop... I remember the beautiful souls of Haiti, their struggles, their challenges, their strength and dignity. Our love, and our very being are a fragrance to the world around us. How can I contribute to the sweet aroma embracing and ascending from the people of Haiti?

Good intentions just aren't enough. And at the same time, during cold, snowy, stressful Wisconsin winters, the last thing I want is one more commitment. Finally, I have found a practical solution that allows me to contribute to the efforts in Haiti, without heaping additional work upon myself. My solution? The VIP Ink Cartridge Recycling Program!

Thank you to all who have taken advantage of the VIP Ink Cartridge Recycling Program this past year. We have received our first donations, which have been contributed to the VIP General Fund. And to think, those same cartridges could have ended up in a landfill, taking up space and not doing anyone any good, especially the environment. The aroma of a landfill is one I do NOT care to remember. P.U.

With the Holiday Season upon us, many enjoy sending out family letters, pictures, sweet savory recipes and homemade holiday cards. Perhaps it's time to recycle those old ink cartridges, again. As you take that extra time to connect with your loved ones, remember the Haitians. You can "Help Haitians Help Themselves" in a way that does not cost you any money. And the lingering scent of your love, peace and joy extended to others may very well carry on for generations.



Please continue to collect those ink cartridges and get them to VIP. Funds raised from the ink cartridge collection will continue to go into the VIP General Fund. Please note: this recycling program does not extend to toner, laser cartridges, or large print cartridges at this time. If you have old ink cartridges to donate, please contact Julie at julie.stauss@viphaiti.org to coordinate a way to get them to us.

Thank you for your consideration. I wish you a holiday season filled with blessings and sweet fragrant aromas! ~Carol