

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

A Message from the President



Thank you for all the support that you have given to Ventures In People over the 45 years that we have been in existence.

Thank you to those who were able to join us at our anniversary event. It was great to match names with faces. I hope you found the Haitian meal delicious and interesting.

Thank you to the anonymous donor who paid for the event.

Thank you to the past and present board members for giving your energy, time and resources to help the people of Haiti.

Thank you to Samuel for a wonderful message (at the event) that let us all know that Ventures In People is making a difference. We as a board can only help the Haitians with your continued help.

THANK YOU!!

Have a great summer!

-Julie Stauss, President



Some of the Haitian foods served included spaghetti with hot dogs, rice & beans, and a beet & potato salad.



Samuel, VIP's water project manager, was the keynote speaker.

Education Update

Some of the sponsors of children in our education program have been asking about the situation in Haiti and how the children, and Louis, our education coordinator there, are doing. Following is the response from Louis as to his thoughts and concerns.

Hi My Friends,

I'm glad to know you are willing to know what's happening to us in Mirebalais.

I should tell you things are extremely difficult for everyone, since two months ago we ran away from our town because armed gangs attacked and got into the town—killed about 72 people and we have about 14 we have no idea where they are.

Most of the people from Mirebalais moved to different towns in the central plateau, Hinche, Thomonde, Lascahobas, etc. Most of the kids from our program are living in camps with their families. I met with a group of them a few weeks ago and will meet with them again soon to discuss the next school year. They lost everything so this school year is going to be a difficult one for them. We must keep hoping that things will evolve in the right direction, without this positive attitude it will be a disaster.

I know a lot of people who have fallen into depression. Some of them died of sadness and grief. I'm going through the most difficult period of my life, sometimes I feel helpless because I have two children, my wife and my old mom under my protection and I don't see how I'm going to manage if things become unbearable.

This is our situation. We only have to hope things are going to be okay soon. We keep fighting and continuing to survive.

-Louis Tenior Guerrier,
Haitian Education Coordinator



**An additional update since we have received this. Louis has made contact with the heads of some of the schools we work with and they have plans in place to have school come fall. Louis said that “despite all the difficulties, parents are determined to send their kids to school. Things are tough—some of them living in camps, but they have hope and they don't want to stop providing education to their kids.”



4-H Updates

If you follow news about Haiti, you are probably aware of how the situation has worsened in Haiti, particularly in Mirebalais, the area VIP serves.

We have been able to remain in contact with our 4-H coordinator. She and her family, as with all the residents of Mirebalais, have been displaced from their home due to gang takeover of the city. They are currently trying to stay safe and meet their basic needs for food and water. 4-H clubs are not meeting at this time.

It is heartbreaking to learn of the hardships facing the Haitian population and especially the people whom we have worked closely with for years. We ask for your prayers and we hold onto hope. Right now, that is the best we can do. We hope for peace and an end to violence. We hope that people can put food and clean water on their tables. We hope that children can gather to learn and laugh and play again soon. We hope that our Haitian brothers and sisters have brighter days ahead.

And when things settle down, and it is safe to do so, Ventures in People will be there, as we have for 45 years, to help Haitians help themselves. To provide clean water, to help kids get back to school, to teach English, to foster community development and education through 4-H, and to provide goats and training. So let's hold onto hope, keep them in our prayers, and be ready to help again when the time comes.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn

4-H Coordinator

In Honor/Memory Of

**Water Filter donated in Honor of
John & Karen Kletti**

~Given by Charitas, LLC

**Student Sponsored in Honor of
George & Joyce Schowalter's
70th Anniversary**

~Given by Karen & Gabe Pehler
and Dan & LouAnn Parsons



The Current Ventures in People Board of Directors and Consultants

Clean Water

Thank you to all who donated to provide clean water for Haitians. In March, we were ready to begin the distribution of 1,500 water filters. Then the gangs invaded Mirebalais which is the base city we work out of. Residents fled to the jungle and other cities and towns. The gang released all of the prisoners from the local jail. They are still in Mirebalais and continue to loot and burn homes, businesses, and the local hospital.

We are currently investigating doing the distribution in a different form. Instead of bringing in the filters and buckets from Port au Prince, we are looking into bringing them in from the North where there are no gangs so far. It is looking promising.

We will have to distribute in a few different communities than originally planned but still areas in need. The community leaders continue to ask when we will be able to distribute. They would like to have clean water to drink and cook with.