

## Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

### A Message from the President



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family happy and healthy.

Each board member comes with their own unique qualities. It is with great sadness that I share with you that we recently lost a long time board member. On August 12, 2025, Kathy Hetzel left this world full of faith and love for her family and friends. Kathy was always looking for the next adventure — the next country to visit and learn about. She was active in all the programs that Ventures In People supports. She enjoyed going to Haiti and eventually began leading trips.

Kathy will be missed by all of us who knew her. We as a board wish her family and friends comfort and peace.

I hope that as we prepare for a busy holiday season, please take time to enjoy each other! Good food, laughter and love. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year.

-Julie Stauss, President

### The School Bells Ring!

October 6th was the official starting date for school children in Haiti. Because the gangs have taken over the city of Mirebalais, Louis, principals, and teachers have had to find new places in different towns to house students for this school year. We are fortunate that the children in our VIP program have principals and teachers, along with parents, who have been willing to work with VIP's Education Coordinator Louis, Tenior Guerrier. Together they have worked very hard to see to it that our education program remains active, and the children that our sponsors support are continuing to be educated despite all of the turmoil that surrounds them. A portion of our children were given space in a public school, some are meeting in an abandoned building and others in church related schools. Space has been found for the 202 children in our program this year. Our children are learning!!! Louis reminds us that despite what Haitians have to face each day, they continue to have HOPE. Thank you sponsors!

## A Heart for Haiti

For all 14 years of her retirement, my mother, Kathy Hetzel was an active and devoted member of Ventures in People, giving her time, energy, and heart to support the people of Haiti. Her connection to the country ran deep, from her first eye-opening visit to countless efforts that followed. Her generosity for the Haitian people extended well beyond her work with VIP, always finding quiet, meaningful ways to lift others up. She was a shining example of a servant heart—humble, compassionate, and tireless in her care for others. Though she is no longer with us on earth, her spirit of giving lives on and it's deeply fitting that her memorials are helping to do good in a country she so dearly loved, especially in these difficult times for Haiti. -Jeanette Juetten



## Donations Given in Memory of Board Member Kathy Hetzel

Erla & Bud Newbecker	Mavis Pusch
Alexander Harris	Bonnie & Leo Borden
Barbara Seefeldt	Heidi Tunak
Pat Kurtenbach	Carrie Wendorf
Michelle Cox	Delores & Curtiss Larson
Mary Lalko	Lisa & Erik Henjum
Darsi & Mark Kohnhorst	Julie & Larry Riemenschneider
Elayne Goldstein	Karen Hurka
Lynell & Joel Anderson	Beth Ray
Constance & David Donovan	Jeanette & Donald Juetten
Karen Niebler & Elizabeth Pusch	Sheila & Brian Hetzel
Ellen & John Daniels	James Checolinski
Timothy & Judith Urban	Kathleen Klink
Lucinda Wagner	Melissa Larson
Charlotte & Michael Bouche	Mary & James Koepke
Suzanne Rather & Misty Neergaard	Linda Braunschweig
Robert Wenger	Judith Heath
Nancy & Glenn Pusch	Julie Stauss
Rebecca Gutzman	

### In Memory and Honor Of

Donation made in memory of

**Fred Seefeldt**

and in honor of

**George Schowalter**

~Given by Ralph Schultz

Water Fund Donation made in honor of

**Allen & Mary Lee Petersen's**

**65th Wedding Anniversary**

~Given by: Erla & Bud Newbecker

## A Dedicated Sponsor of VIP's Education Program

For 27 years Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (WAHCE) has sponsored students through Ventures in People. Recently we shared VIP's story with these women at their state convention in Green Bay, WI. In attendance was Lylene Sculz from Manitowoc, WI, a long time active member of WAHCE and an advocate of caring for people in need around the world. Education plays a big part in this need. In 1998 this group of women began their relationship with VIP by sponsoring one child, Jeremy, whom they supported from first grade through high school. For several years they have been sponsoring six students. We appreciate their loyalty to our education program as together we strive to educate children in Haiti. Our Education Coordinator in Haiti, Louis Tenior Guerrier, has had the opportunity to travel to Manitowoc to spend time with Lylene and learn from her about WAHCE as well as to tell the story of the children VIP sponsors in Haiti. At Lylene's husband's encouragement, Louis did spend some time in the submarine docked in Manitowoc—an experience he hasn't been likely to forget.

One of the interesting programs that WAHCE has is called "Bookworms". Women from the various counties in Wisconsin read to children in Head Start Programs, give copies of the books that are read, do a related craft with them and provide a worksheet for the parents. The books are published in English and Spanish. They also provide food to food pantries, homeless shelters and domestic violence programs.

A cultural arts program, displaying and selling artwork from other countries is also on their agenda along with the work they do with "Country Women of the World." The country of Nicaragua receives great support from WAHCE as well.

Ventures in People is proud to be considered a partner in their work of education and caring for children around the world. We thank them for their many years of support and wish them well in all of their endeavors to help to make a difference in our world.

