

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

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

A Message from the President



I hope that all of you are well and staying safe and warm! Recently I was researching some numbers to update our website. I realize how lucky and spoiled I am. As

of 2025, the average Haitian makes \$2-\$9 a day, depending on their skills...if they have a job with all of the unrest in the country. Now feed, cloth and shelter your family. I am not married, no kids and both my dogs are gone. I am the only one in this household. So I treat myself to lunch with friends, go out for coffee once a week, have a refrigerator full, drive a nice car and own my condo. I'm not trying to out do anyone, I am certainly living well and within my means. I can't imagine worrying about everything the Haitians deal with on a daily basis. Is it safe to go outside? Is there someone waiting to harm me? Will we have enough food and water for today? Next week? Where will we lay our heads tonight and be safe?

Ventures In People has been in Haiti for 45 years and we hope to be there for many more years to come. We cannot do it without all of you. Thank you for your support and donations through the years. Please continue to pray for our friends in Haiti.

-Julie Stauss, President

A Message from VIP's Education Coordinator in Haiti

"There are difficulties that many people in Haiti are facing. Many people from Mirebalais got sick and died after they got the news their homes were burned or looted. Personally I know nine of them. Yes, in spite of all the turmoil, the kids go to school thanks to VIP. English lessons are not being taught this year. We hope to start again next year."

VIP's Education Program Response

We are indeed, grateful for the dedicated coordinator, principals, teachers, and families who have made educating the children in Haiti a top priority. Despite all of the roadblocks that have come their way, they have found spaces and educators so our program can continue. Along with that, none of this could continue without the trust and support from the VIP Education sponsors. All of you have been assigned a student. However, it is an impossible task to safely get pictures of all of the children for you this year. We trust that you understand.

In Memory Of

Donation made in memory of

Kathy Hetzel

~Given by Sally Schoenike

4-H News—Spring 2026

Things with 4-H are still kind of on hold as we wait for the situation with the gangs to improve. Our leader is safe, although she reports that times are very challenging and she is still displaced from Mirebalais. We continue to hope and pray for the best for the Haitian people, especially her and all the 4-H children. Since we don't have a lot of current news related to 4-H, I thought I would take a moment to share what the four H's in 4-H stand for and how I have seen them in action in Haiti. How many of the H's can you name? (Did any fellow 4-H alumni go right to reciting the pledge when I asked that question?)

Anyways, here is where 4-H gets its name:

Head Heart Hands Health

4-H Members recite this pledge at their meetings: **“I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living. For my club, my community, my country and my world.”**

But what does that mean in action? Here are some real life examples I have seen during my trips to Haiti:

Head

4-H directly and indirectly supports learning. Some 4-H clubs raise money to purchase school supplies for their members. Some clubs teach parents how to read. Some clubs bring in educational speakers. Some members can't afford to go to school, so 4-H is their primary education. *All members learn valuable hands-on life skills, such as animal rearing, gardening, entrepreneurship, sewing, and leadership.*

Heart

Clubs are the heartbeat of a community. By bringing youth together, they build a sense of belonging and community. Meetings are a lively, joyful time, and often include singing, dancing, and fellowship. 4-H clubs bring a bright spot to the lives of those facing the many challenges of living in Haiti.

Hands

4-H'ers help others. Clubs engage in projects that make their communities better for everyone. We have seen countless examples of this over the years. Clubs repairing a road so locals can access medical care. Clubs building a soccer field in the neighborhood. Clubs cultivating a community garden. The list goes on and on. 4-H members use their hands to make a difference in their neighborhood.

Health

4-H helps teach young people healthy habits. For example, during the cholera outbreak, with help from VIP members who were visiting Haiti, lessons were given at club meetings about proper hand washing and how to make an oral rehydration solution to treat diarrhea. In addition, over the years, many clubs have used their grant money to improve public sanitation by installing public latrines or repairing public wells. Clubs are a great vehicle for teaching young people and improving public health.

Head. Heart. Hands. Health. That's 4-H for you. I hope this has shed a little light on the meaning of 4-H and its impact in Haiti.

In closing, someone asked me the other day if clubs are still meeting. While I don't know the answer to that right now, it wouldn't surprise me if they are, especially in more remote locations where the gangs aren't active. **The 4-H spirit is strong and has been a vibrant part of community life, in some cases, for decades!** As we wait, we hope and we pray for peace and an end to violence in Haiti, knowing that as an organization, Ventures in People will continue to support 4-H clubs the best that we can.

Peace and all good,
Jocelyn
4-H Coordinator