

## 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 safe and well. The summer months are so full of events, festivals, parties and plans, we sometimes are so busy we forget to enjoy some quiet time. I write this at my kitchen table looking out the patio

door to the woods and see all the different colors of green as I ponder what to write to you about Ventures In People and the work we continue to do in Haiti.

Most of you are aware of the violence and gang activity in many parts of the country. There are parts of Haiti that are peaceful but supplies, shelter, and gas are major concerns for many families. The violence corrupts the whole country's way of life. We are in touch with our coordinators in Haiti sporadically and know that they are safe. In all the uncertainty they continue to coordinate education, 4-H, and water projects.

I've heard people ask why should I help people in Haiti when there is such a need here. In the United States we have so many programs and resources that are available to anyone who needs help. The Haitians are one of the poorest people in the world. Haiti has been stripped of most natural resources and supplies must be brought in. They don't have as many programs or resources available to them. VIP is proud to be one of those resources the community can count on.

I am thankful every day for your continued support of Ventures In People. Together we can make a difference!!

I hope that you and your family make some great memories throughout the rest of the summer.

-Julie Stauss, President

### Clean Water

Our clean water initiative had a very busy spring. We as a VIP group have not been able to have boots on the ground in Haiti since 2019 due to the Gang violence that has overtaken the country however, that has not stopped us from continuing on with our clean water program. This past April - May, we distributed over 1600 water filter assemblies to families in and around the Central Plateau area. Our distribution effort was conducted by our local Haitian team, led by Samuel, our Clean Water Haitian leader who is in the United States and who managed our distribution project remotely. The physical distribution team in Haiti consisted of about 30 team members.

These 1600 filters distributed to families will provide clean water to between 10,000 - 15,000 individuals, as many of the households that received filters have expanded in size due to the gang violence - many friends and families have grouped together as their places of shelter are limited at best.

This spring for the first time ever, we have added a new program to our water filter distribution. We have implemented a data collection system to enable us to provide our supporters real time data on the positive effects our water filter distribution program is having with the Haitian people that we serve. We collected data prior to distribution on the recipient families overall health, ability to engage in work to support their families or for children's ability to attend school along with many other measurement metrics. We will then be doing a follow up data collection survey (3 months after distribution) asking the same questions as the pre-distribution survey to see how families overall health and well being has improved. We look forward to sharing with our newsletter readers the overall survey results in our next newsletter. Stay Tuned!!

## Honor and Merit



Two of the schools in our Education Program, Alliance and Fraternite, have given a plaque of “Honor and Merit” to Ventures in People Education Program. This is given especially for what we have done to help them as they tried their best to navigate around all of the turmoil that surrounds them. They said that “without Ventures in People it would be impossible to keep going.”

Translation of Plaque: “In recognition of the VIP Foundation for over 40 years, your support has illuminated the path of our children.”

Ventures in People’s sponsors are an anchor in a child’s life in Haiti’s storm. Thank you!! This plaque is for you and for Louis Tenior Guerrier, our responsible partner.

## Plans in Motion for the 2026-2027 School Year

VIP is pleased that many of our sponsors are continuing their sponsorship of students with us despite the unrest in Haiti. Thank you for having faith in our mission and in Louis, our coordinator in Haiti, who is giving his all to see to it that our students are receiving an education. There are plans in place for students to attend school starting in fall! If you haven’t yet renewed your support or would like to become a sponsor for the first time, we look forward to hearing from you. The cost is \$175 per student and can be sent to:

Ventures in People  
P.O. Box 1062  
West Bend, WI 53095

Thank You,  
Barb Seefeldt & Ann Neumann  
Education Co-Chairs



## 4-H Updates



We have some good news coming from Haiti in regards to our 4-H clubs. About two thirds of our clubs have been able to resume meeting in some fashion. This has been a slow process, and there is still difficulty in Haiti, but we are happy that youth will have the opportunity to gather with their peers to learn and grow together once more!

That means that we will be sending 4-H grants to 20 clubs this summer. Clubs will receive \$150 to use for community service projects and educational purposes. We typically have around 30 clubs, so we are not restored to pre-insurrection numbers, but progress is happening!

As always, thank you for being part of Ventures in People's mission and helping to make a difference in a little corner of the world.

Peace,  
Jocelyn, 4-H Coordinator



**4-H Clubs, like Lozama (left) and Fond Michel (below) are starting to meet again.**



### BRAT FRY



Come join us for a Brat Fry!  
All proceeds go into the  
Ventures in People  
General Fund.

August 29  
Piggly Wiggly—Kewaskum  
940 Fond Du Lac Ave.

## The Drawer Test: Ink Cartridges

Take a moment and think about where you keep printer supplies. Maybe it's a desk drawer. A filing cabinet. A shelf in the home office. A box in the garage. A closet where old office supplies seem to accumulate. Now ask yourself a simple question: *How many empty ink cartridges are sitting there right now?* You might be surprised by the answer.

### The Cartridge People Forget

Most people don't intentionally save empty cartridges. They simply don't know what to do with them. An ink cartridge runs dry, a replacement is installed, the empty gets set aside with the intention of dealing with it later, then life happens, weeks turn into months, months turn into years, before long, a drawer that was supposed to hold office supplies has become a storage space for cartridges that everyone forgot about.

### Not Trash, But A Resource

An empty ink cartridge isn't simply a piece of plastic. Many cartridges can be remanufactured, allowing them to be cleaned, rebuilt, refilled, and used again. Others can be recycled, helping recover materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill. When they're recycled, they become part of a process that helps conserve resources, reduce waste, and earn money for Ventures in People!

### A Quick Household Challenge

Try the Drawer Test this week. Check:

- Home office desks
- Filing cabinets
- Supply drawers
- Storage closets
- Garage shelves
- Utility rooms
- Old computer/office supply boxes

Gather every empty ink cartridge you can find.

Even one or two cartridges that might have been thrown away can now be recycled instead.

### Turn Cleaning Into Giving

For VIP, the Drawer Test can become more than a cleaning project. Supporters can recycle their cartridges, helping generate support while keeping cartridges out of landfills. It's one of the easiest fundraising activities available because it doesn't require supporters to spend money or attend an event. They're simply recycling something they already have.

### The Small Things Matter

Sometimes support comes from small actions. A cartridge sitting forgotten in a drawer may seem insignificant. But multiplied across dozens of homes, hundreds of supporters, and entire communities, those forgotten cartridges become a meaningful source of support.

### Take the Test

Before summer slips away, open a few drawers and see what you find. You may discover that your next contribution to a VIP has been sitting quietly in your home all along.

### Share the Results

Did you find some ink cartridges? You can get them to a VIP Board Member, bring them to a VIP Brat Fry or contact [julie.stauss@viphaiti.org](mailto:julie.stauss@viphaiti.org) to coordinate a pick up!

Please note: The VIP recycling program does not extend to toner or laser cartridges. Thank you.

## In Honor & Remembrance Of

### Water Filters Donated in

### Remembrance of Milton Staskal

~Given by Trudy Staskal

### Student Sponsored in

### Honor of George & Joyce Schowalter's 71st Wedding Anniversary

~Given by the Pehlers & Parsons

### Student Sponsored in

### Honor of Otto & Kay Pena

~Given by Janet & David Braby

### Donation Made in

### Remembrance of Fred Seefeldt & Honor of George Schowalter

~Given by Ralph Schultz

### 4-H Donation made in

### Remembrance of Kathy Hetzel

~Given By Rachel & Lee Schomberg