



Helping Haiti Help Themselves Update

Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Francis Xavier, St. Wendel, Zion Lippe U.C.C.

October 2022

How it Started

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Poseyville started supporting their twinned parish in Haiti in 1984. Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Wendel joined the cause in 2013, and support has also been generously received from St. James, Holy Cross, St. Bernard's, and Zion Lippe UCC. Over 30 different southern Indiana residents have visited our Haitian community during 15 separate trips over the past 10 years.

Who Are We Helping?

We support the Catholic parishioners of St. Albert the Great, which is located in the small town of Ravine Trompette in the northern mountains of Haiti. We also support 1000 students at the local Catholic schools of Notre Dame de Grace and St. Cyprian.



Why Are We Helping?

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most Haitians, especially in the rural northern mountains far from the large cities, do not have access to basic human needs. There is no consistent government assistance for food, clean water, healthcare, education, and employment. If we don't help Ravine Trompette, no one else will. Jesus tells us to help those in need and especially those that cannot pay us back in return.

The Priorities and How its Going

- * **Nutrition** - Each student receives a simple rice and beans lunch each day at school. Most students take half of the lunch back home to other family members that may not get any other food. Each student is fed for \$60 per year.
- * **Clean water** - Water samples from the previous water sources did not come close to meeting water cleanliness standards due to extreme contamination. Everyone from the schools, parish, and town now has access to clean drinking water from the two purification and pumping systems that we have established.
- * **Healthcare** - We support a parish clinic with a doctor, pharmacist, and nurses. People are noticeably healthier now than 5 or 10 years ago. In addition to daily support from the clinic, we have completed health mission trips for dental, vision, women's health, intestinal health, and hypertension. Trip participants can tell emotional success stories of people being able to see the faces of family members for the first time in decades, to chew food without pain, and to get out of bed and go to work because their stomach does not hurt.
- * **Education** - Students are able to focus more on learning with less concerns about nutrition, water, and healthcare. We have built eight new classrooms with insulated walls and ceilings and are earthquake and hurricane resistant. We added a full high school program 7 years ago and have had three successful graduating classes. Notre Dame de Grace school was recently recognized as the fifth best school in northern Haiti. Tuition paying students are coming to our schools from nearby towns due to the quality of the education.
- * **Reliable energy** - We installed a large network of solar panels and battery storage to provide cheap and reliable electricity for the school and parish. Access to electricity is not taken for granted in Haiti, and the students and parishioners appreciate dependable lighting during school and Sunday Mass.
- * **Faith** - St. Albert the Great is full of faithful Catholics that bring inspiration to visitors. However, the successes of our programs help them focus a little more on God and a little less on meeting their basic human needs. The Haitian parishioners know that God has not forgotten them, but our southern Indiana parishioner support helps them know the world has not forgotten them either.

What are the next steps?

We continue to focus on the nutrition, clean water, healthcare, education, reliable energy, and faith priorities which have an average cost of \$6,000 per month. A new school cafeteria, office, and library school rooms are needed and will cost an estimated \$50,000. New outdoor restrooms for St. Cyprian are needed costing an additional \$10,000. Transportation challenges make it very difficult to send materials to Haiti. We are more successful when we can send financial resources to Haiti and allow them to buy the materials locally.

How To Get Involved!

Thank you for your previous and future support!



Pray

Haiti Needs our spiritual assistance

Donate



Haiti Needs our financial assistance

You can feed a student for \$60, a family for \$250, or an entire class of students for \$2,000 per year.

HOW TO DONATE

Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners can donate using the monthly Haiti collection envelopes, by adding a monthly Haiti deduction from the electronic giving form, or by sending a Haiti check to the parish office.

WHO CAN DONTATE

Anyone! St. James and any other local parishioners can also send money to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish office.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact one of the Sts. Peter and Paul Haiti team members: Karen Adams, Bill Goedde, Larry Schmitt, or Brad Schmitt plus many others.

Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me."

