

Program Summary 2019

Goat Program: we have 53 families in our “Pay It Forward Program” where we give a family two goats and they give us their first offspring to give to another needy family. Goats are a source of food and income for families in Haiti. Cost for new goat **\$75**

Water Women: 100 trained water women are purifying over 30,000 gallons of water a month for their families and neighbors. The goal is to work with other NGOs in helping to wipe out Cholera. Cost to equip each water women with a filter and water bucket **\$100**

Garden: we had 6 harvests from our garden this past year to help supplement the nutritional base of our school lunch program. Cost - seed and fertilizer per year **\$300**

Microloan: we have given out 25 small loans to individuals to start their own business, in both Cuvier and Leveque (deaf community), with an 88% loan repayment rate since the program began. Currently, the rate is 95%. Cost - average loan **\$500**

Business Seminar: recently, we gave our first 4 day “Principles of Entrepreneurship” class and awarded our first \$500 prize to the entrepreneur whose business idea was the most promising. Cost - **\$500**

Medical Clinic: after having to close our medical clinic and cancel medical teams due to security risks for nearly a year, we restarted both during the last quarter of 2018. Our medical team came with 4 doctors in January and saw over 750 patients, and gave out over 2,000 prescriptions, during 5 clinics in a remote village where many had never seen a doctor. We reopened our small clinic in Cuvier on Wednesdays with the help of two excellent Haitian physicians. We are the only totally free clinic in the area for both prescriptions and medical exams. Cost - physicians **\$100** a month; prescriptions **\$100** a month

Sewing Program: thus far, our school has graduated 64 students and has another 35 students enrolled. This trade school is a path to economic independence since many of the graduates become tailors and seamstresses. Cost - to train each student **\$50**

Disaster Relief: to date, we have built 5 homes and installed 2 wells. At the moment, we are negotiating contracts to build 7 latrines, 1 community kitchen, and 2 additional homes in areas devastated by hurricanes and floods. Construction costs - houses **\$3500**, well **\$5500**, latrine **\$300**, kitchen **\$1000**

School: our educational program for 250 of some of Haiti’s poorest children will be getting a brand new school in 2019. Yearly cost per child **\$100** (includes books, teacher salaries, lunch)

The Sisters of Charity have been in Haiti since 2011. Initially, Sr. Dianne and Sr. Janet lived with 3 Maryknoll Sisters in LaTremblay. Several years later, the Maryknoll Sisters closed their ministry in Haiti, Sr. Janet moved to Jacmel and Dawn Colapietro, Seton Associate joined Sr. Dianne in 2014.

Since 2014, Sr. Dianne and Dawn have expanded the original focus of the ministry in Cuvier and with a focus on medical services, to now include 8 different programs in 4 different locations.

A Christmas Miracle in a Small Village in Haiti

Seven years ago, Pastor Jordany our primary ministry partner and the community's leader in Cuvier where we have most of our programs, started a grammar school for 12 children. Their parents were too poor to pay for the school uniforms and black shoes that all children are mandated to wear even in the government schools. Over the years, the school has grown. Today, it has more than 250 children on their roster. But, this school is different. Though there is no mandatory dress code, each child is given a t-shirt with our logo on it; jeans and sneakers are the norm. Parents can walk their kids to school and not pay a taxi to take them somewhere outside the village for their education. And, the children are given a hot lunch, which for many, is their only meal of the day.

In Haiti, only about half of the children go to school. We are so pleased that those children from Cuvier, who were destined to be illiterate, found their way to us. And, unlike the public school, we accept children independent of ability or age. We have teenagers in 5th grade and others who have neurological problems with limited academic ability. At this school, all are welcome. And, there is no charge.

But these children have had to share their school with goats, chickens, and ducks. The building's roof leaks when it rains. There are no walls in between the classrooms where the noise level can be deafening. There are no desks. The children have to do schoolwork on their laps as they sit on makeshift benches. There is one blackboard and the Math teacher usually monopolizes it.

Sr. Dianne has long dreamed of building Pastor Jordany a new school. Given an estimated cost of up to \$200,000 - a grant was the only option. Food for the Poor was the most likely choice for such a funding request, so an application was submitted towards the end of 2016,

Over the last 2 plus years, Food for the Poor has gone through 3 national directors in Haiti all of whom guaranteed us a school. More than once we were told that construction would begin immediately only to be disappointed. Something had to shift. Finally, Sr. Dianne and I made a direct appeal to the corporate office in Florida. That was the game changer.

Within several months, we were told that not only were we approved for a new school in Cuvier, but the money was raised and sitting in a bank with our name on it. All we had to do was sign the paperwork. We thought we were home free. Not exactly.

How the world operates in Haiti is totally different than how things function back in the States. This became crystal clear when trying to negotiate the terms of a contractual agreement between

the Sisters of Charity and Food for the Poor in Haiti. It took months to come up with language and conditions that everyone could agree to.

On December 24th, we finally got word that all the documents had been approved by both organizations and that construction would begin in January of 2019. The children in Cuvier, some of the poorest of the poor in Haiti, will soon have a new school building with 9 classrooms, a kitchen, bathrooms, and an administrative office. No more competing for space with 4 legged creatures; no more sharing of limited school supplies and text books with other students. Teachers will no longer have to speak above the noise from other classrooms; cooks will have stoves on which to prepare lunch instead of an outdoor open fire. And, our big surprise for the students and faculty is that they're getting a brand new library, funded through friends in Connecticut, with books in Creole, French, and English. No school in the area, and few anywhere in Haiti, have such a rich resource.

Our special thanks to the Sisters of Charity and our Food for the Poor partners, both in Haiti and Florida, for their willingness to collaborate on this project and their commitment to educating those children who could have been easily left behind and forgotten.

AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL.....

Congratulations to the children of Cuvier. This truly was your Christmas miracle!!

Dawn Colapietro, Seton Associate