



HAITI MISSION, INC.

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Fall 2024

"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



3rd Annual St. Bridget Haiti Mission School-Teacher Support & Feeding the Children Appeal

St. Bridget HMI School-ND began in 2004. The existing hurricane proof school was completed in 2012 thanks to donations from many HMI supporters, led by Pat & Sue Biggam at a total cost of \$250,000. The excellent school includes 10 classrooms, bathrooms, a large library and feeding room and administration offices.

In the latest school year, 2023-24, enrollment remained at 280 students and 18 staff members with HMI contributing \$1425/month or **\$17,200 per year (Teacher Support)**. In addition, HMI was blessed to be able to give each staff member a \$100 year-end bonus on July 17th. Teachers on average make just under \$100 per month.

HMI also has funded a school lunch program (**Feeding the Children**) since 2012 which provides a substantial hot lunch daily to the students and staff that attend. Last school year HMI provided 35,990 meals at a cost of **\$19,150** or 53 cents per meal. The school lunch program ensures that every child attending school at St. Bridget's will have a least one nutritious hot meal a day.

HMI realizes that the above two programs are very important to the community and the children, and it is our hope to be able to continue to provide for the financial needs of the programs. In order to do that in a more predictable way we have decided to have an **Annual Appeal to our donors focused on Teacher Support and Feeding the Children prior to the beginning of the new school year.**

Our second appeal last year was very successful raising nearly \$25,000. Thank you for your generous support! The additional money was a great benefit to our two programs for the children. We hope to raise enough money each year so that the programs can continue long into the future, and they will be less in peril each year to continue due to inadequate funding. **Our goal for this year will be to raise \$25,000.** The money will help HMI to continue to fund the programs in 2024-25 school year and if successful we may be able to give the teachers a larger year-end bonus next year.

The great news is that two anonymous donors have pledged \$5000 each to be used as a \$10,000 match for donations that HMI receives dedicated to Teacher Support / Feeding the Children between August 1 and September 14!

If you would like to contribute to the 2024 Appeal and help HMI receive the \$10,000 match pledge, please forward your contribution to HMI at P.O. Box 694 Thibodaux, LA 70302 dedicated to Teacher Support / Feeding the Children program or donate online at www.haitimissioninc.com.

If you would prefer to become a monthly donor you can select either program on the donate tab on the HMI website or mail a check.

This dedicated 3rd Annual appeal will continue through September 14, 2024.

Together we can continue to serve God while "feeding" his little ones, body, mind and soul. Thank you for your generosity and God bless you and your families.

HMI Teacher Support & Feeding the Children Team



PITCHING IN!

A day or so before this year's golf tournament/silent auction, we were invited to an outdoor performance by Karoline Theriot at the Watergrill restaurant in Houma. For some reason, (i.e. Rebecca Claire inspiration), she felt moved to donate any funds raised to help our mission in Haiti. Besides several hundred dollars later, it was a lovely afternoon with friends and supporters. Initiatives like Karoline's happen periodically and go a long way in helping us help others. Thanks Karoline. Everybody pitching in a little helps a lot!

Fr. Joe, Karoline Theriot, Deacon Lloyd, Mrs. Faie, Conner Duplantis

Blindman's Pillow Award – As most of you know, we present the cherished "Blind Man's Pillow" award periodically to people that have helped in special ways to further the work of Haiti Mission. Beth and Marty Deitchman, (shown here receiving the award from Fr. Joe) are the most recent recipients. Being "Aunt Beth and Uncle Marty" to Rebecca Claire, they have been part of the Haiti Mission adventure since early on and have travelled to Haiti a number of times. It's been a few years since they have been able to visit with Fr. Joe but the stars lined up this year so that they were together with our Haiti Mission family for our annual golf tournament/silent auction. Thanks Aunt Beth and Uncle Marty!



Beth and Marty Deitchman receiving the Blindman's Pillow award with special appreciation from Fr. Joe

Family Distribution – The family distribution is another part of our mission work where bags of groceries along with \$20 cash vouchers are distributed to families in the area. For several days in advance of the actual distribution, the team along with some of the locals prepare the bags and look forward to the joy of sharing commodities, some much appreciated funds and lots of love funded by our family “dirty” cards that many of you support. Solar lights are also distributed to all family recipients. This year, since no US Haiti team had been there since last summer, to honor Rebecca Claire on the day that she entered heaven, our Haitian counterparts put together a family distribution for 130 families. Praise God that the systems we have put in place over the years allows us to continue our work in situations such as these when chaotic circumstances prevent us temporarily from travelling to be with our Haitian family and friends. (Here you see some of the families patiently waiting for their turn to receive the supplies that your generosity has provided.)



Family Distribution – July 18th, 2024

This newsletter began with the **3rd Annual Appeal for the school and feeding the children – It concludes with stories of great things happening to the families and community of Numero Deux, Haiti**

Daily Mass with **Fr. Joe and the Community** in the beautiful Our Lady of the Assumption church provides the spiritual nourishment that keeps the community hopeful and confident that God is with them.



The beautiful Our Lady of the Assumption church serving its purpose of taking care of the spiritual and physical needs of the community



People attending memorial Mass for Rebecca



Rebecca Claire Fakier
April 29, 1995 – July 18, 2003



Winston (6 y/o) and
Elton (3 y/o) Rodrigue

The Miracle Boys

Enor Rodrigue’s family has been in the middle of the Haitian turmoil from the beginning of the violence. Before he could get his family to safety, a gang entered his house, took his wife hostage and ransacked everything. Then started the long journey of Enor negotiating with the gang leaders to get his wife back, find a safe place for them to stay in Haiti and try to get the proper documentation done in order to get them to the US until things became settled once again. Although it seemed like an eternity, the day finally came and miraculously, in early July 2024 the two boys and their mother boarded a plane and came to America. Enor has been able to get a job and we pray that he and his family can find some peace and stability here. God bless you Enor. Thanks for all you have done over these 25 years to help HMI and all the mission teams that have travelled to Haiti.



“Before”

have five children, three of whom live with them now. As you can see from the picture their living conditions were dire. It is easy to understand their joy and gratitude to God and the HMI donors for putting them in their beautiful new home.

Meet one of the families

being blessed by your continued prayerful support of the work of HMI!

Haiti House #361 Louisel Jerome

Louisel Jerome and his wife, Josette Toussaint, live in Paroty and they have a small place to farm. Josette goes to sell the products from their farm in Jeremie at the market. They



“After”

Upcoming Events and Important Dates in the life of HMI

November 2024 -
Haiti Mission trip (hopefully)
(Save the date!) May -12th 2025
Haiti – Mission 16th Annual
Silent Auction/Golf tournament ECC

FAIE’S FACTS ...

Seven blunders of the world that lead to violence according to Mahatma Gandhi:

1. *Wealth without work*
2. *Pleasure without conscience*
3. *Knowledge without character*
4. *Commerce without morality*
5. *Science without humanity*
6. *Worship without sacrifice*
7. *Politics without principle*

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families impacted by numerous factors - both political and natural - beyond their control and hopefully receive the miracle of a new home one day. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

_____ Here’s my help for the St. Bridget Haiti Mission School-Numero Deux And Feeding the Children Appeal

_____ \$4000 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.” (Our new home design is keeping the cost of constructing the homes at \$8000 with the \$4000 matching money for each home provided by funds raised from the annual silent auction)

_____ \$1000 would help us drill a well in a community without fresh water.

_____ \$35 would buy food and supplies for a family (\$100 for three families!)

_____ Please send me _____ copies of “A Tale of One Citie - From That to This”. (Enclosed is \$20 per book & \$5 S&H per order) Please ship to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

This monetary gift is made in memory of _____,
please send an acknowledgement card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Send me envelopes to be a monthly "helping hand"

_____ I will be a prayer partner and pray for the Haiti Mission.

_____ Please put me on your email/info list. email: _____

_____ I am interested in going on a mission trip. Call me @: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Haiti Mission Inc. is a 509(a)(1) tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code Tax ID#14-1861365

Haiti Mission—Caring with Generosity and Joy

THANKS FOR HELPING!!

No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!

Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.

“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deeds.”

Pvb 19:17