



*"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see" – Mark Twain.*

### **Haiti Mission, Inc. (HMI) and our LuminAID Solar Lanterns**

The situation in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas, has not improved and in most cases has become more dangerous and challenging for all Haitians. We send strength and hope to all those trying to stabilize and improve conditions in Haiti.

HMI continues to do tireless work in the Jeremie area (far western end of Haiti) where 340 children are able to attend school and are fed daily, and over 70 Haitian construction workers continue to build 3-4 homes per month (Home #381 was completed in December 2024). Family distributions continued in 2024 which benefited 282 families, including food, medicine, and daily care items.

The solar lanterns will be distributed throughout the Numero Deux and Ravine Sable region and each new home will receive 2 solar lanterns during their dedication ceremonies (we will need 200+ lanterns just for new home dedications when HMI visits in 2025 – plus our usual distribution of lanterns to many other families).

HMI teams are planning to make at least 2 visits in 2025, but final trips will be determined based on flights and safety on the ground for all involved. The demand for the lanterns will be significant in 2025, so we will need your support as HMI/Starpoint Charitable continues to provide hope to this special community.

### **Expanding our reach within Haiti**

Gatherings with friends over the past 12 months led to new introductions with a number of individuals/groups that are true inspirations. Below are a few of these special people and respective organizations that we are now supporting with solar lanterns (thank you Elaine, William, Celanie, Barb, Marie, Dr. Paul, Dr. Dave, and Leslie for your time in learning about the Starpoint Charitable Project).

1) **MEF** (Maison d'enfants par la Foi) – an orphanage started by a father in Haiti back in the late 1990's, now run by his adult daughter. We provided solar lanterns to the orphanage earlier this year and within 2 weeks of the lanterns arriving, gangs entered the area and the children were quickly transported to a safer area (with lanterns in tow). All they could find for shelter was a warehouse with no electricity. The solar lanterns turned out to be an amazing blessing at a critical time – they said the lights at night provided much comfort to all the kids.

2) **VOSH PA** (an all-volunteer group of licensed eye care professionals traveling to Haiti to provide eye care, surgery, glasses, etc.). We were able to provide VOSH PA lanterns this past month for their trip scheduled in March 2025. One of the comments from their team was how dark the areas were at night when they are in Haiti – they feel these lanterns will be invaluable to the community they serve.



3) **DeafCAN PA** - (Deaf Community Action Network) - we had a wonderful video call with DeafCAN PA, along with a director of **Haiti Deaf Academy**. We plan to support these groups over the next year once they are able to secure safe travel to Haiti. We were also able to connect DeafCAN PA with our good friends at **Off-the-Grid Missions** which we have highlighted in previous newsletters. The need for light at night for the Deaf+ Community is mandatory as the communication barriers are very difficult if not able to sign.

**Lanterns in New York before making their way to MEF in Haiti:**



**Donation Requests** - Our goal this year will be to raise another \$15,000 which will allow us to buy/ship 375 additional lanterns in 2025 (\$40 per lantern all-in cost). A donation of \$80 will provide 2 lanterns for a new home, \$800 will provide 2 lanterns for 10 homes – no donation is too small nor too big! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**501(c)(3) Donations:** Your financial support is much appreciated and needed. Checks can be made out to either: Haiti Mission Inc. (EIN#14-1861365) or Schwab Charitable (memo line: **Account# 4986-2315**). Donations from your **Donor Advised Fund** are also encouraged.

Direct Link to HMI (then click on Donate/Choose your Designation/Solar Lights): [Haiti Mission, Inc. \(haitimissioninc.com\)](https://haitimissioninc.com). Donations through the HMI site can now be made by credit card.

You may mail checks direct to HMI or Schwab Charitable to:

**Haiti Mission, Inc., PO Box 694, Thibodaux, LA 70302** (“Solar Lanterns” in memo line)

**Schwab Charitable, PO Box 2430, Omaha, NE 68103** (“Acct#4986-2315” in memo line)

“Mesi” (Thank you) and cheers to a safe, healthy, and blessed 2025!

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