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Haiti Outreach

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Rich in Mercy Institute
<http://www.rimin.org/>

A RIM-supported food bank operated by the Little Sisters of St. Therese in Barraderes helps at-risk seniors and handicapped adults to meet basic food needs and to live in greater security and dignity.



While still trying to recover from the devastation wreaked upon 60 of their missions during the earthquake in 2010, the Little Sisters of St. Therese continue to wrestle with new challenges and struggles. Many of their sisters are now facing the multifaceted issues of aging and the medical concerns that accompany that natural process. Medical insurance is not affordable for them. Among these issues are housing for the increased number of sisters who can no longer live on mission and for whom there is no room in their Motherhouse; providing treatment for sisters with serious medical or emotional conditions; transportation to hospitals or for treatments, and in some instances, to Cuba for surgeries or treatments that are not available in Haiti or are inadequate.

Sr. Denise, psst, General Responsible (pictured above) was able to secure a grant of \$20,000 which covered the initial cost of laying the foundation of a structure that would house 12 of their sick and infirm sisters. She now has to find other financial resources to help her continue the construction of the building. This is just one of the many challenges for which she is responsible, as she concludes in her letter: "we have a lot upon the shoulder". Let us remember Sr. Denise and all of the Little Sisters in our prayers and thoughts as she and they manage to minister to the poorest of the poor, our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Submitted by S. Eileen Coleman, IHM (S)



Committee Members-S. Helene Therese Stanislaus, OSP, S. Anne Marie Murphy, IHM (M), S. Camille Brouillard, IHM (M), S. Susan Hadzima, IHM (S), S. Eileen Coleman, (S), S. Jane Gaughan, (S), S. Joanne Wallace, IHM (I), S. Cathy Nally, IHM (I), and S. Paula Jameson, IHM (I)



Hands Together-Dignity
and Hope to the Poorest
of the Poor
in Haiti Hands
www.handstogether.org

The St. Patrick Parish in White Haven, PA is committed to helping Haiti through Hands Together! In February 2018, they held an Oldies Dance. They raised \$1,300. The Soup and Bread Lenten Friday meals yielded \$1,799. An anonymous donor recently gave \$500. All of these funds were sent to Hands Together.

Submitted by S. Jane
Gaughan, IHM (S)



Current Events in Haiti

Jovenel Moise, a businessman who exports bananas, and has also worked in auto parts, energy, water, and chamber of commerce activities took office as President of Haiti in February 2017. He had no political experience but had the support of past president Martelly. Moise's election was protracted due to complaints of fraud in a 2015 election and the disruption of Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Estimates are that 21% of voters participated in the election. With the withdrawal of the UN, President Moise is considering reinstatement of the Haitian army.

Jack Guy Lafontant, Haiti's new Prime Minister, is a gastroenterologist with no political experience. Responsible for domestic affairs, some of his proposals sound unrealistic because of Haiti's perilous economy. Historically this position changes hands frequently.

UN withdrew from Haiti in November 2017 after 16 years. Credited with helping stabilize the country but blamed for introduction of cholera which continues to ravage Haiti (9,000 deaths) and 134 troops were involved in sexual abuse. A small UN police force remains focused on justice, human rights and police development.

Hurricanes Matthew Oct. 2016 1,000 deaths, \$2.8B in damage to crops, roads, and bridges. Irma and Maria Sept. 2017 continued damage to crops

Low pay Textiles are 90% of Haiti's exports. There is lots of pressure on government by textile companies, whose factory workers earn \$4.77 per day.

Education not available to all, teachers are poorly prepared. Many educated leave Haiti.

Deforestation/imports have hurt agriculture

Shelter: 55,000 in camps (down from 300,000 after earthquake)

Relations with US NAACP suing Homeland Security over Temporary Protected Status for earthquake victims ending in 2019. President Trump is accused of making disparaging remarks about Haitians.

Submitted by S. Anne Marie Murphy, IHM (M)

FONKOZE: STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Fonkoze is Haiti's alternative bank for the organized poor. Since its foundation in 1995, religious congregations have supported the dream of Fr. Joseph Philippe, CSSp, founder of Fonkoze, who believed that "you can't just hand a woman a loan and walk away from her...you must accompany her out of poverty." Inspired by that belief, Fonkoze has developed a holistic approach to reducing poverty in Haiti which includes literacy education and life skills, health and nutrition programs, financial and banking services such as savings, currency exchange, and money transfer from abroad. In the last 23 years, Fonkoze has developed a Staircase Out of Poverty, comprehensive approach for reducing poverty by meeting their clients, mainly women, in wherever circumstances they may be. The Ti Kredi (Little Credit) program groups 5-6 women into a Solidarity Circle. With new hope and competent support and training, the women commit to work together for as long as it takes to begin to lift themselves out of poverty. In 2007, Chemen Lavi Miyo (CLM-Path to a Better Life) was created to serve those in ultra-poverty. The majority of these households were headed by women. Throughout the CLM program, women receive weekly support and guidance from case managers who assist them. Once graduated from this 18-month program, the women are ready to begin their next steps in climbing the Staircase Out of Poverty. Fonkoze has become Haiti's leading microfinance institution living the vision of a Haiti where people, standing together, shoulder to shoulder, continue to pull themselves out of poverty. Fonkoze says, "For over 23 years we have been empowering those who have felt powerless, lifting those who have fallen, instilling hope where it has been lost, and reaching those who have been forgotten."

Submitted by Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM (S)