



# Friends Sharing

*Reaching out in Love to help  
the people of Haiti*



## *The President's Corner*

*Fall 2022*

Bonjou tout moun! Greetings everyone!

As a generally and genuinely optimistic person, having to admit and accept a dire situation is a difficult pill to swallow. Could that mean that hope is fading? I can't imagine a world without hope. Hope is the 4-letter word that can elevate your soul to the highest peak when realized or plunge you to the very depth of disappointment if not. To me the risk of continuing to believe in hope, knowing these potential outcomes is faith.

*Luann Polissaint*

I have been blessed with many people of great faith and hope in my life; my parents and family, and several strong and loyal friends. But my Haitian sisters and brothers demonstrate the most incredible faith and hope every single day. They must dig very, very deeply to find a sliver of hope to hold onto. How do they do it? Their daily struggles far out weigh my petty inconveniences. They are truly an inspiration to me.

I recently heard the song "Stand by Me" and for some reason, flipped and heard the lyrics from the Haitian perspective, asking us to stand with them. *When the night has come, and the land is dark, and the moon is the only light we see. I won't be afraid, just as long as you stand by me*". Let's reinforce their faith and give them hope by standing in solidarity with them through these darkest times.

By the time this newsletter is published, Marlene and I will have attended the Parish Twinning Program conference. The theme of the conference is: All things are Possible; Sharing God's Love in Haiti and Latin America - the most powerful hope, which turns to faith and then to love. We hope to find some positive energy that can be shared and spread throughout Friends of the People of Haiti to each of you.

May God continue to bless each of us with Faith, Hope and Love,  
Haiti hugs,

Luann

### Friends of the People of Haiti Board of Directors

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Visit - [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org)



### OUR MISSION

Friends of the People of Haiti is a non-profit Christian group established in 1989 in order to broaden our vision of church by building a relationship of prayer and friendship with the people of St. Anne's Parish in Trouin, Haiti. Our focus is to foster awareness of the plight of the Haitian people as well as to share our resources by providing regular financial support to the parish. St. Anne's Parish in Trouin, Haiti was established in 1924 and has one parish church and ten outlying chapels, a primary school and a secondary school.

## SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

Dear SAC sponsors,

Thank you so very much for sponsoring a child in Haiti. Some of you are sponsoring two or three students. We are so grateful. Your contributions allow your student to attend school and receive a little extra money for the family to buy a bit of food and cooking oil. You are making a huge difference in their lives.

We still have 8 children waiting for a sponsor & many more who could be put on the waitlist. Without a sponsor most cannot attend school. Sponsoring 1 child costs \$160 for 1 year or \$40 a quarter. Did you know that's less than 1 Starbuck's coffee or glass of wine a week? You can make a big difference in a child's life.

If you haven't paid for your student this year, please let this be a reminder to make a partial payment or payment for the year, if you can. **Below are pictures and some information on 2 students on our wait list.**



Marie Danielle is a 16 year old girl in the 8th grade. She lives in Trouin and is only a 2 minute walk to school. She is the oldest of 4 children. She has 2 brothers and 1 sister. Her mother is a housekeeper and her father is a driver. Marie Danielle wants to be a housekeeper in a hotel.

Jovens is a 9 year old boy in the 3rd grade. He lives in Petit Harpoon & walks 35 minutes each way to school and home. He is the youngest of 5 children with 2 brothers & 1 sister. His mother is a house wife and his father is a farmer. He wants to be an agronomist.

If you or someone you know can sponsor a child, please contact Mary Knepp at 309 738-0002 or [mknep21@gmail.com](mailto:mknep21@gmail.com). You can also contact Linda Clewell at 309 269-2333 or [lmclewell@gmail.com](mailto:lmclewell@gmail.com).

Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 12th at 7:00 PM at The Butterworth Center 1105-8th Street, Moline IL. All are welcome, bring a friend!

Wouldn't it be grand to win a nice chunk of change just in time for Christmas?

**50/50 Christmas Raffle - Win up \$2,500**

**October 7 - December 12, 2022**

**Donation \$5.00 per ticket**

Tickets can be purchased through our website [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org), any FOPH member, or email to [luann.polissaint@gmail.com](mailto:luann.polissaint@gmail.com)

Rest assured that your donations will go direct 100 percent to support the people of St. Anne's parish in Trouin.

## REFLECTIONS



It was February 2002. I was on a plane headed to Haiti on a medical mission trip. In preparation for this part of my life's journey, I met with my friend/nurse, Diana Lovett (who was the one who had invited me), to give me helpful hints as to what to expect. As prepared as I thought I was, I still found myself asking "what have you done?"

The poverty overwhelmed me and because living in the USA, we are so fortunate to have whatever we have. Yes, we have poverty, but not to the level of this country. I came home with a changed heart.



Our days started out by going to the clinic site after breakfast. Hundreds of people came seeking medical attention. We were staffed with one doctor, three nurses and nine assistants. When we finished for the day, we headed back to our home base to prepare for the next day.

One of my fondest memories was one night when I couldn't sleep, so I walked out onto the veranda and noticed how big the stars were. It was beautiful and amazing. Another memory is seeing how happy the people were in the midst of all of their lives. Even though they had very little materials, they were filled with joy.

As I reflect, I found myself loving the people there and loving the people who were part of the team. I thank God for touching and changing my heart.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Emmert



**FALL IS HERE - IT'S CHILI TIME AGAIN!**



### **CURBSIDE CHILI FOR HAITI**

**Fri Oct 7, 2022 (4:00PM to 7:00PM)**

**Culeman's Hall 1400 - 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Moline**

***Help Us Help Them!***

**Our friends in Haiti are in desperate need.**

**Mild or Spicy Chili (quart size container)**

**Crackers, spoons and four cookies!**

***Suggested donation \$10***

***Cash or credit card upon pick up***



Pre-orders may be placed through our website [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org) or by email to [luann.polissaint@gmail.com](mailto:luann.polissaint@gmail.com). Please indicate mild or spicy.



**Friends of the People of Haiti**  
12570 US Highway 150  
Orion, Illinois 61273

Please send donations & Sponsor a Child funds to  
FOPH C/O Jack Knepp, Treasurer  
110 19th Street #205, Rock Island, IL 61201

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## **SHOP AMAZON SMILE**

WHEN you shop [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), did you know you can make a difference at the same time, just by shopping as usual? Their Program Amazon Smile will donate .05% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization you select. Simply go to [AmazonSmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile).

The first time, you will be asked to choose your preferred organization. (May I STRONGLY recommend you choose Friends of the People of Haiti) and shop your heart out! Instead of [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), use [AmazonSmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and everything else is the same –EXCEPT you'll be helping a very worthwhile cause at the same time! What could be easier?

So for ALL your shopping this year –remember [Amazon Smile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) –Friends of the People of Haiti.

**MESI AMPIL!**

**(That's Haitian Creole for Thank you very much!)**

**CANS FOR CANS** - Jean Edmunds is still collecting non-crushed aluminum cans. The money raised from recycling these cans is used for building latrines in Haiti. Please drop off your cans at her home at 1739 - 11th Ave Moline or call (563) 349-1650. Jean raised over \$1,000 last year collecting cans!!!