



Friends Sharing

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



The President's Corner

Spring 2021

Bonjou tout moun! Greeting everyone!

As I write this on a bitter cold Valentine's Day, I have to remember you will be reading this in a couple weeks. How much will change in a couple weeks? Will we be past this arctic blast that shivers us to the bone and remember the warmth of love in our hearts celebrated this day?

Luann Polissaint

In a couple weeks, how many seniors patiently waiting for the Corona virus vaccine will receive it and breathe a sign of relief and dare to hope for a slow-down of this pandemic nightmare?

By the time you read this, the Friends of the People of Haiti work mission will be well underway - once again sadly without the American team present, but happy that we can help repair Haitian houses with the partnership of our Haitian team. We are making final preparations this week and the work mission will be 22nd Feb through 4th March, and as always we ask for your prayers.

In a couple weeks, will we begin to see a resolution to the political unrest and division that plagues both the US and Haiti and so many other countries around the globe? When and how will we be able to move forward toward a more peaceful world?

Without a doubt, this is a time of transition, and although no one has the crystal ball to see the future clearly, we can do our part to make this world a better place. Be kind. Let your light shine. Be the change you want to see in the world. Small acts cost you nothing. A smile is free. An acknowledgement or a moment to step into someone else's shoes to understand their reality is priceless. Pray. Share. Maybe then we can find our balance and be able to reflect on the recent past with a Valentine's Day heart of love.

God bless you all.

Luann

Friends of the People of Haiti Board of Directors

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OUR MISSION

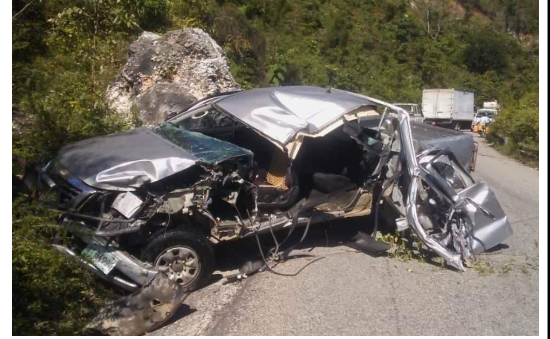
Friends of the People of Haiti is a non-profit Christian group established in 1989 in order to broaden our vision of church by building a relationship of prayer and friendship with the people of St. Anne's Parish in Trouin, Haiti. Our focus is to foster awareness of the plight of the Haitian people as 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.

MIRACLE ON MOUNTAIN ROAD

On Wed. December 30, 2020, Fr. Charles Elano, pastor of St. Anne's parish Trouin, Haiti was in a terrible auto accident on his way to Jacmel. This road is nothing but extremely dangerous hairpin curves up down the mountainside. I do not know what caused the accident, but I believe he was the only person in the vehicle. Father was taken to the hospital in Jacmel and stayed a short time, and was back in Trouin a couple days later. From the photos of the damaged vehicle,



I do not know how anyone could have survived, let alone, walked away. In his latest message, Father said the engine of the vehicle is still good, but the body needs to be repaired. A vehicle is very important to the parish and is used not only for daily errands and normal parish purposes, but for countless trips to visit the 10 satellite chapels, transport the sick, and transporting building supplies for our work mission, etc.



Father is asking for our help to repair his truck. If you are able to help in any way, please donate through our website, www.fophqc.org and mark it for truck repair, or send a check to our Treasurer, Jack Knepp, 110 19th Street #205, Rock Island, IL 61201, and mark it for truck repairs.

In Father's own words:

Dear member of Foph,

The december 30 God gave me life again. Thank you my God! But you know i have to give life too to the car. Help me please. The motor has't problem. You know the car is very important for the people of Trouin. I beleive you'll find a good samaritan for helping us to repair it. When you come for the mission the car bring us at the airport. God bless America !

Yours in Christ father Charles.

As a reminder, there is no car insurance in Haiti. Thank you in advance for any help you can give! God bless you. . . . Luann Polissaint

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!!!



**SAVE THE DATE
ROCK & ROLL BINGO
Sat. April 17th 7PM**

This year's Rock & Roll Bingo Event will be virtual. Watch for upcoming details on our Facebook page and our Friends of the People of Haiti website www.fophqc.org. Fun, Prizes and Raffle Items! Help us help our friends in Haiti.

ANGELS IN HEAVEN - THANK YOU

Since our last newsletter was published, our organization has lost two of its great supporters: Donna Cavins and Steve Bush. Our sympathy goes out to their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they grieve their loss.

In FOPH circles Donna will probably be remembered most for her wonderful baking skills which she shared so generously. Every bake sale the group sponsored, her husband Jim arrived, delivering Donna's famous braided coffee cakes. Whenever the group needed desserts for a fundraiser or treats for any event, Donna responded until her disability kept her from baking. Donna was also part of our Sponsor A Child program and supported the group in many ways great and small. We are truly grateful for her sharing over so many years, from early on in our organization.

And we are also very grateful for the generosity of Steve Bush and his wife Julie who have supported FOPH both verbally and financially over the years. They have sponsored children as part of our Sponsor A Child program, giving poor children in Trouin the opportunity to be educated. And this past year, when our group learned about the chance to participate in the Covid Preventative Program, to prepare and equip our village to fight the pandemic, it was Steve's generous donation which enabled FOPH to be part of that effort. His generosity was truly inspirational.

Let us remember both Steve and Donna and their families in our prayers & thank God for their great example of generosity. May their example inspire and support us in our mission to the least among us. Our friends in Haiti need our help.

SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

Support the students of St Anne's in Trouin by sponsoring a child for only \$160 a year (or \$40 a quarter). This covers tuition, uniforms and school supplies with a little extra to help the students and their families. We currently have 77 students with 5 children on our waiting list. For more information, contact Mary Knepp, at mknepp21@gmail.com or call 309-738-0002. Also, contact Mary if you can donate a laptop computer for St Anne's students. We are working on setting up a computer lab so students can learn computer skills.



Haitian children like these are waiting for a chance to go to school. Won't you help by sponsoring a child? Many children are unable to go to school without someone sponsoring them.

Our next meeting will be our annual meeting Monday, March 8th at 7:00 PM at The Butterworth Center, 1105-8th Street, Moline, Illinois 61265 Masks are mandatory!

Congratulation to our high bidders on our Valentine's Day Silent Auction! Thanks to Shelly Ditzman and all who helped coordinate the event. Also a big thanks to those who donated items and all who bid. For our first attempt at this sort of fundraiser, it was a big success.



Linda Griffin



Mary Knepp



Jean Edmunds



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

For those of you who have email, please send us your email address so we can email you our newsletter to reduce our mailing costs. For those of you with no email, we will continue to postal mail. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list please contact Diane@bluehorizon.net or (309) 526-3499.

Comments from Jack Knepp, FOPH Treasurer

2020 was a challenging year for each of us. FOPH discovered fund raising and social distancing do not work well together. In addition, we lost significant income from having to cancel our *Sip and Shop* event due to limited inventory. We tried to offset this loss by establishing sustaining memberships, selling pie cards and quilt raffle tickets. We tried to enhance existing fund raisers. Of course, there were more needs in Haiti because of COVID-19. We did continue to support our friends in Haiti by sponsoring children's education, repairing homes and supporting the parish. Additionally, we provided COVID related protective equipment, a significant quantity of food (matched by Food for the Poor) and initial funds for a school well. Now for 2021. First, our budget is tight. We have been approached about another donation to be matched by Food for the Poor & we wish to continue work on the water system at the school. Some of us have received 'stimulus checks' from the federal government or otherwise feel we can provide food and water to our Haitian brothers and sisters. Please prayerfully consider our plea.



FOPH's Work Mission 2021 will be February 23rd – March 4th.

Once again we are unable to travel to Haiti in person due to COVID-19 and the political unrest in Haiti. We will be following the same format as we did in 2020, sending money for supplies, wages, and food. Our faithful interrupters and workers under the direction of Father Charles will carry on the work of repairing houses and interviewing our sponsor children. They will be sending before and after pictures to us of the progress. Please keep our Haitian brothers and sisters in your prayers.