



# Friends Sharing

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



Christmas 2020



Luann Polissaint

## *The President's Corner*

**Bonjou tout moun! Greetings all!**

The 2020 holidays are very soon upon us. Although their usual reveries will be impeded, I am certain that the memories we make this year will be strong and long-lasting. It is up to us to make those memories happy and filled with love and peace. We may discover that simplifying our traditions allows more room in our hearts for the true gifts and meaning and feeling of this blessed season; thankfulness, gratitude, appreciation as well as peace, joy and love.

If we take a step back and allow ourselves to pause for just a few moments, to calm ourselves and open our souls every so slightly, the light of the holidays will be strong enough to penetrate and shine through to fill us with peace. Then, share that peace throughout the world; including prayers for peace for our family in Haiti whose daily struggles and hardships continue.

I am deeply saddened that we will not be able to visit Haiti again February 2021, however, I do find hope and peace that work mission 2021 will occur as it did last year without Americans in person, but with the help of our translators and workers. We will coordinate operations through technology and be able to provide home repairs to approximately 10 families. A true team effort!

My wish to each of you is Peace this holiday season. Let us live the lyrics to one of my favorite songs.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with each other, in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

***Wishing you and your families Peace, Love and Joy this  
holiday season. We appreciate everything that you do for  
FOPH and our friends in Haiti. Thank you!***

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



**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.**

## CHILI - CHILI - CHILI



Quilt Winner - Julie Akers

A huge thank you to everyone who helped, donated or purchased chili during our first annual *Curb Side Chili* event. We had a very successful evening for our drive up event with many quarts of chili, delicious homemade cookies and raffle tickets being sold.

Funds raised that night will help to build a well, repair homes and send parish & school support for our friends in Haiti. Our friends in Haiti are most grateful. Thank you everyone for your generosity!



Dan - The Chili Man

There will be no meeting in December. Our next Friends of the People of Haiti meeting will be on Monday, January 11th at 7:00 PM in the Butterworth Center's Education Center, 701 - 12th Ave Moline. Masks are mandatory!

## COMPUTER LAB FOR ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL

FOPH is working to provide a computer lab for the students of St Anne's School in Trouin. This effort is headed up by Mary Knepp and Luann Polissaint. To do this we need to purchase a RACHEL device. RACHEL stands for Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning. The device allows students to use computers to connect to the internet and access educational programs that are downloaded to Rachel.



There are several obstacles to overcome. First we need to acquire computers for students' use & to identify a way to keep the computers safe and operational, as well as, a person to be responsible for this. Also, since the 2021 Mission trip has been cancelled, we don't have a way to get the computers to Trouin at this point. However, we are proceeding with planning for this project.

If anyone will be upgrading their computer, or knows of someone or a business who will be, we would gratefully accept the old computer for this project. Contact Mary Knepp at 309 738-0002 or [mknepp21@gmail.com](mailto:mknepp21@gmail.com) for more information.



## A joyous celebration was held at St. Anne's Catholic Church on July 26, 2020 on the Feast of St. Anne!

A big thank you goes out to Fr. Elano Charles for all his hard work and determination in getting the renovations done and making the St. Anne's usable again for the parishioners of Trouin. What a gorgeous sight!

For those of you who do not know, the church suffered major structural damage during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. For many years it was unsafe to even go inside. The restoration of St. Anne's Church seemed an almost impossible task and a much bigger financial commitment than we could afford. Thanks to donations from many different sources and Father Charles' commitment, the restoration was finally completed.

**God bless Fr. Charles & St. Anne's Parish!**



## SPONSOR A CHILD FOR ONLY \$40 PER QUARTER!

We are most grateful for all those who sponsor children in our SAC program. Some of you are sponsoring more than one child! The children thank you and are most grateful! However, we have had some sponsors who are currently unable to continue in our SAC program. Our children are still in need of financial support for their tuition, uniforms and books. We are currently sponsoring 80 students and there are 7 on the waiting list, waiting for sponsors.



Please consider becoming a sponsor. For only \$160 per year or \$40 per quarter you can give a child the opportunity to attend school. Many children in Haiti are not able to attend school unless someone sponsors them and helps out with their tuition. For more information or to become a sponsor please contact : Linda Clewell (309) 269-2333 or Mary Knepp (309) 738-0002

Want a chance to win some Holiday Cash?! 🎄 💰 🎁

### FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE OF HAITI 3RD ANNUAL 50/50

Drawing Monday, December 7, 2020  
Winner need not be present to WIN  
Chance to win up to \$2,500

**Donation \$5.00 per ticket**

Tickets can be purchased from FOPH members or from our website [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org) or contact Luann (919) 345-5268 [luann.polissaint@gmail.com](mailto:luann.polissaint@gmail.com)

### **WATER - DIGGING A WELL FOR ST. ANNE'S**

Our current project in Trouin, is digging a well near the school to provide a water source within the compound. The Swiss Red Cross has built a latrine structure for the school, but it needs a water source in order to be fully effective. Father had first thought renting a motorized machine to drill through the rock would be effective. However, the machine could not be transported down the narrow, curvy, bumpy road to the village; so instead, Father has contracted with some workers to manually excavate the well. Once this phase is completed, Father will provide an estimate for the pump and the piping. This is hard work, but very important for the health and sanitation needs of the students of St. Anne's school. Please consider a donation to help us with this cause. Thanks! Donations can be made though [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org) or mailed to our Treasurer, Jack Knepp, 110-19th St. #205, Rock Island IL 60201



Please visit our snazzy newly updated website, [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org), where you can now purchase pie cards, luminoids, 50/50 raffle tickets, and make SAC payments and also general donations as well as keep up with the latest news and events.

For those of you who have email, please send us your email address so we can email your 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](mailto:Diane@bluehorizon.net) or (309) 526-3499.



**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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So for ALL your holiday shopping this year – remember Amazon Smile.com – Friends of the People of Haiti!

**MESI AMPIL!**

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

**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.