



Friends Sharing

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



The President's Corner

Summer 2020

Bonjou tout moun! Greetings all!

What a spring season we have had! And looking ahead to what summer will bring, I have some cautious optimism that we will feel the hope of the Holy Spirit guiding us all to better days.

Mostly, I'm reassured by the actions of the Haiti CPR (Covid-19 Prevention Response) program spreading information of the prevention of Covid-19 throughout Haiti including our friends in Trouin. (see related article) Their efforts have been extraordinary in many ways, but the speedy cooperation and cohesive teamwork of these organizations to aid the greater good has encouraged me and extremely impressed me. My heart is filled with pride, comfort and hope.

However.....

The reality is that the doctors in Haiti are not expecting the peak of the disease to be realized for several weeks yet, and struggles of this virus are real and only multiplied several-fold by the hazards of daily life in Haiti. Just imagine a household of 4-6 people trying to social distance in a 10 x 12 one room hut. Just imagine no indoor plumbing. Imagine trying to wash hands when soap / sanitizer and water are scarce and expensive. Imagine extreme shortages of food and other necessities (toilet paper doesn't even make the list). Imagine no electricity – no television – no computers for Zoom meetings or school lessons. Imagine losing what income you had selling mangos at the market when told to quarantine. Life in Haiti is hard, especially with these conditions.

Please continue to pray that our loving God will embrace us all with strength, courage and peace and gratitude for those living saints working the Haiti CPR program providing hope.

I often end my messages with "Haiti hugs" because to me, the hugs from my Haitian brothers and sisters are full of sincere warmth and love. I carry them with me across the miles and hope that those feelings sustain you all as well until we can hug in person once again.

Haiti hugs to all,

Luann

Note from your new editor - Diane Gelaude. After more than 15 years of writing and publishing our Friends of the People of Haiti *Friends Sharing* newsletter, Jean Edmunds has decided to retire and pass the task on to someone else. Thank you, Jean, for your dedication and good work all these years. You are going to be a hard act to follow! For our readers - if you have an article or editorial you would like to submit for review for our newsletter please email diane@bluehorizon.net.

FOPH SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

Invest in the future of Haiti and consider Sponsoring a Child. For only \$160 a year (\$40 per quarter) you can help to send a child to school. Every penny of your money goes to educating the child you sponsor. We have several students on our wait-list. Pictured here are few of those waiting. For more information or to sign up to be a sponsor please contact Mary Knepp at mknepp21@gmail.com or phone 309) 738-0002.



Sterline



Melissa



Achton



Chelot

COMPUTERS

Are you upgrading your computer? Do you have a used laptop that you could donate to FOPH so that our students would have the opportunity to learn computer skills? *School children in Haiti are tested on their knowledge of computers, but our students in Trouin do not have access to computers.* We would love to bring some laptops down to Haiti on our next mission trip to & start a computer class at St. Anne's. If you or someone you know, perhaps a friend or a business, can make a donation of a laptop, please contact Mary Knepp at (309) 738-0002 or mknepp21@gmail.com. Thank you for all you do to help these children with their education.

Friends of the People of Haiti Board of Directors

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Diane@bluehorizon.net

Visit us - www.fophqc.org



Prayer in the Midst of a Pandemic

- May we who are merely inconvenienced Remember those whose lives are at stake.
- May we who have no risk factors Remember those most vulnerable.
- May we who have the luxury of working from home Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
- May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close Remember those who have no options.
- May we who have to cancel our trips Remember those that have no place to go.
- May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market Remember those who have no margin at all.
- May we who settle in for a quarantine at home Remember those who have no home.
- During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

HAITI CPR (COVID-19 PREVENTION RESPONSE)

Haiti CPR (Covid-19 Prevention Response) is a group of several organizations coming together in Haiti to educate the prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic; PTPA, KARIS, Raising Haiti Foundation, Small Farmers Alliance, HELP (education) and LIDA. <https://raisinghaiti.org/about-haiti-cpr.html>



St. Anne Trouin has had Haiti CPR training. A group of ten with Father Charles as leader have committed to this cause. Team members are:
Father Charles, Leader
Mathurin Guylem
Matrin Matelus
Madame Michel je Baptiste
Madia Delmas
Avema Berthony
Frere, Saint Alphonse
Jean Marc Collin,
Maxo Guerrier
Loutchina Beauvoir.

Our mission teams have worked on some of these people's houses in recent years. Now they will educate their neighbors in the village and beyond about Covid-19 prevention. The "kit" the team has received from Haiti CPR includes: 1 wash station; 100 masks; 100 brochures and a megaphone.

Our Friends of the People of Haiti monthly meetings have been temporarily suspended during the pandemic. We hope to resume in the fall. We are grateful for your prayers. For now stay well & safe.

SUSTAINING PLEDGES

Hopefully in the last several days each of you will have received either an email or letter requesting your prayerful consideration to become a sustaining FOPH member. If you did not, please contact Jack Knepp at jknepp2604@aol.com or 309-738-7806. Making this commitment to be a sustaining member allows the board to better plan the level of giving to our friends in Trouin. The board, of course, recognizes that financial changes occur and what was a possible giving level today may not be possible tomorrow. It is also possible that one's situation might change & allow for an increased giving level. Several of our membership have already done that.

Funding is always challenging but FOPH has had two very difficult recent situations to deal with. One, due to safety concerns, our mission team was unable to go to Haiti in February 2020. We were thus unable to obtain items for sale for our Sip and Shop fundraiser. Second, due to Covid-19 having fund raisers with a limited number where people need to social distance is very difficult. We continue to do our best. Think it





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.

QUILT RAFFLE



This beautiful handmade quilt is approximately 64x64 with scalloped edges. It is bordered with black and has several blocks of colors. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$12. Tickets can be purchased from any of our FOPH members. If you would like to help us sell some of these tickets please contact Shelley Ditzman (309) 714 - 0681 or email to slditzm@gmail.com.

The drawing will be at our ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF ON FRIDAY, OCT 9TH AT CULMAN'S HALL MOLINE. SAVE THE DATE! It takes only one chance to win! Funds go directly to Haiti for our mission trips and projects.

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.