



# Friends Sharing

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



Summer 2021



*Luann Polissaint*

## *The President's Corner*

**Bonjou tout moun! Greeting everyone!**

We are on the cusp of summer and all indications point (hopefully) back to some kind of “normalcy”. What does “normalcy” mean for us fortunate enough to live in the US? For most, normal living conditions include a house with more than one room, a roof that doesn't leak, running water, indoor plumbing, a kitchen, electricity and food in abundance to prepare and eat. It means school for children and opportunities for jobs and income.

As we are aware, normal living conditions in Haiti are quite the opposite. Most families in the areas of Trouin, live in one room with dirt floors, no electricity, no running water, no indoor plumbing and very little food to eat. The families make difficult sacrifices to afford to send children to school. Jobs and opportunities for income are extremely scarce. Now, add the commonplace fear of kidnappings and other violent gang activities. This paints a very different picture of “normalcy”.

But on another level – hope and dreams – our “normals” are much more aligned. We all hope for health, justice, kindness and love in our lives. We dream there will be a time when peace will prevail and goodwill is the norm. We hope for balance and dream of the day we are able to return to our friends in Trouin and heal the hurt of absence.

So, let's combine our lofty hope and dreams while lifting up the practical living conditions through support of our SAC program and other FOPH project. We can realize our solidarity and strengthen our relationship. Through our prayers, may we all know and feel God's love.

God bless you.

Luann

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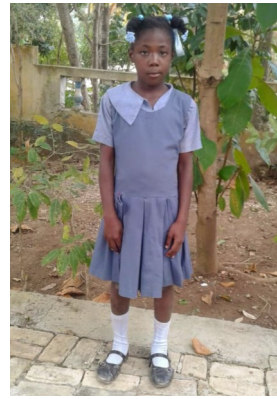
### OUR MISSION

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.

## SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

These beautiful children are waiting for someone to sponsor them. The cost is \$160 for the year (less than a weekly Starbucks coffee) which can be paid quarterly. That amount covers tuition, school uniforms, books and supplies, with a little extra that helps out the family. We have many more children on our wait-list hoping to be sponsored. Please consider helping. Many children especially in the rural areas do not go to school until someone sponsors them.

For more information, contact Mary Knepp (309) 738-0002 or [mknepp21@gmail.com](mailto:mknepp21@gmail.com). Also, contact Mary if you can donate a laptop computer for our students at St. Anne's. We are working on setting up a computer lab so students can learn computer skills so necessary in the modern world today.



*Michaela is 10 years old. She is in 3rd Grade.*



*Jonas, is 12 years old. He is in 5th Grade.*

**Next Meeting - Monday, June 14th at 7:00 PM at The Butterworth Education Center  
701-12th Avenue, Moline Illinois 61265. All are welcome to join us!**



*Of the Quad Cities, inc.*

A heartfelt thank you to all who took part in supporting our Rock and Roll Bingo event on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Our friends in Haiti thank you!

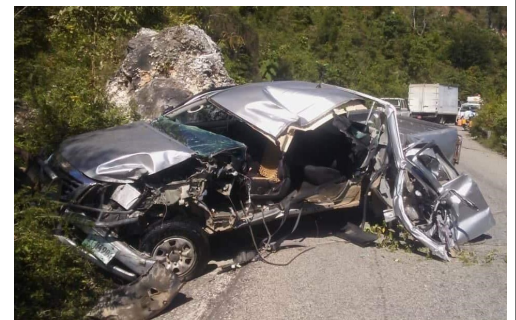
Adjustments for Covid 19 protocols necessitated a virtual event rather than in person, but also invited small gatherings and shared times together. Rockstar and Amy did a great job running the show. We bopped along and sang along to familiar tunes and marked our cards waiting for the next BINGO! to explode. We had several winners, and our door prize winner was Carol Scherz. She shared the grand prize with her 3 companions that were playing together at

Linda Meador's house. CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners! Be sure to be on the lookout for our next event!

**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!!!**

## VEHICLE REPAIRS

As noted in our last newsletter, Father was in a terrible car accident in December. By the grace of God, he wasn't injured; however, the truck sustained serious damage. Repairs to his truck are extremely expensive, and the dependency on the vehicle for a multitude of things is great. We have sent Father \$500 toward this project, and trust he'll be back on the road safely with his vehicle repaired again soon.



Personally this editor is amazed that Father was not seriously injured.

The angels were surely watching over him. And I am also amazed that they are able to repair his truck. But some how it is being repaired!

If you are able to help in any way, please donate through our website, [www.fophqc.org](http://www.fophqc.org) and mark it for truck repair, or send a check to our Treasurer, Jack Knepp, 110 19<sup>th</sup> Street #205, Rock Island, IL 61201, and mark it for truck repairs.

**FOPH WORK MISSION  
FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 4, 2021**




Once again we were unable to travel to Haiti in person due to COVID-19 and the political unrest in Haiti. We followed the same format as we did in 2020, sending money for supplies, wages, and food. Our ever so faithful interpreters and workers under the direction of Father Charles carried on the work of repairing houses and interviewing our sponsor children.




St. Therese Chapel

We hired three interpreters as our liaisons and supervisors and sent the funds for supplies and wages through Father Charles. Three work teams repaired eight houses, St. Theresa's Chapel, and St. Anne's School! We required and received before and after photos of the properties. The team interviewed 81 of the 85 sponsor students and waitlisted students. They sent photos and the student letters to Mary, our SAC coordinator, by WhatsApp and email. It worked well but we missed being in person with our friends in Haiti and working with them.


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**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

  
**Fri June 18 - 7:30pm**  
**Veterans Memorial Park Bandshell**  
**1645 23rd St Bettendorf**



*Come tap your feet and have a sweet treat! Friends of the People of Haiti are hosting an ice cream social! Bob Gaston's CASI NEW HORIZON BAND will provide the tunes!*

Plan on joining us for an ice cream social at the Veterans Memorial Park. Many of our board members will be in attendance to bring you up to date on our projects and activities in Haiti. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a very nice evening with your fellow Haitian supporters.



**St. Anne's Parish**

St. Anne's Catholic Church & St. Anne's School are located in the village of Trouin. But did you know St. Anne's Parish actually consists of ten chapel areas that Fr. Charles oversees and covers many miles over rough mountain roads. Each Chapel has a Chapel leader. St. Therese's Chapel is the very farthest away and also the poorest. They have their own school. First Communion was recently held at St. Therese's Chapel. Our mission team did repairs on the Chapel this year.



*Congratulations to all our First Communicants at St. Therese Chapel. God bless you!*

*"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. All things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So, go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is in you." L. R. Knost*



**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 shopping this year –remember Amazon Smile.com – Friends of the People of Haiti.**

**MESI AMPIL! THANK YOU!**