

## Seeing Lives Changed

**P**aul Lint isn't new to the Haiti Solar Oven Partners (HSOP) experience. This past November was his third time serving on a HSOP United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) team. And while much about the experience was familiar, differences emerged between this and earlier trips.

"On my first trips we were still selling the idea of the ovens to the people," says Paul. "On this trip, I felt like people were banging on the doors begging for an oven and saying 'This is something that can change our lives.'"

Paul was part of the 10-member team that assembled and distributed 250 ovens for the first time on Île à Vache, a small island lying off the southwest peninsula of Haiti. During the distribution of ovens, Paul had a special task. "I was blessed to hand them out and see the excitement on the recipients' faces," says Paul. Coached by

the Haitian HSOP staff, he was also able to say in Kreyòl, "Enjoy your oven."

That message must have resonated. Three hours after the seminar, team members were walking around the island. They came upon a young woman who was excited to show them that she had already put the oven to use cooking spaghetti.

This trip provided Paul, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Hettinger, ND, another first. He served with both his father, retired Pastor Phil Lint of Howard, SD, and his father-in-law, Harris Bailey, of Wahpeton, ND.

He says this latest trip, and seeing the Haitian response, taught him that HSOP must continue. "If we had three or five times the ovens," says Paul, "it wouldn't be enough. But we do what we can with the resources we have. This just gives me the opportunity to get my hands dirty, be part of God's work and see people's lives being changed."



*Pastor Paul Lint and one happy oven recipient during the November HSOP mission trip to the Haitian island of Île à Vache. Haitian woman shows off the spaghetti she has prepared just hours after receiving her new solar oven.*

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# Thank You for Amazing Giving!

**H** SOP has set an ambitious Hoven distribution goal for 2014, and recent fundraising events have provided the organization with a strong kick start. More than \$71,000 was raised for HSOP through the Bishop's Thanksgiving Appeal, Global Ministries Giving Tuesday online event, and Alternative Christmas Giving during Advent.

"Supporters responded with amazing generosity, and I am humbled and grateful!" said HSOP Director Rick Jost. "As demand for ovens continues to grow, this is a wonderful start to help us meet our 2014 goal of 2,300 ovens."

During the Bishop's Thanksgiving Appeal in November, United Methodists of the Dakotas responded to Bishop Bruce R. Ough's call to give generously to Haiti Solar Oven Partners and the South Dakota Rancher Relief Fund, established to aid ranchers impacted by the October blizzard in western South Dakota. The total collection of \$20,188.78 was divided equally, giving HSOP \$10,094.39.

On December 3, friends of HSOP gave an amazing \$35,672 through the online Giving Tuesday event. As part of Giving Tuesday, Global Ministries offered to match

the first gifts toward Advance Projects up to a \$500,000 limit. HSOP, one of two Advance Projects in the Dakotas Conference, earned \$1,600 in matching funds—making the total \$37,272. Tree of Life Ministry, the second Advance Project, received a total of \$39,758.03.

Finally, supporters who chose to give an alternative Christmas gift of a Haiti Solar Oven by means of the traditional Alternative Giving brochure provided another \$24,250.75. HSOP would like to thank all who gave so generously!

## Grant Writer Joins HSOP Team

**T**his winter, HSOP received word that it is the recipient of a \$1,500 grant from the Carma Mohler Fund to Alleviate Hunger, administered by the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. This is good news, indeed! It's also the incentive to keep HSOP's grant writer, Cathy Hoss, searching out and applying for grants that can boost the dollars available to get more ovens into the hands of Haitians.

HSOP brought Cathy on board in August 2013. It was a decision prompted by the increasing demand for ovens in Haiti. "In 2014, our goal is to again place more than 2,000 ovens in the hands of trained Haitians," says HSOP Board Member Karen Workman. It's a goal, she says,

that was set *and* met in 2013—doubling the number from 2012. "Our ministry is taking on significantly greater financial responsibility through this

in achieving and sustaining that goal."

Cathy comes to the task with experience and passion, having served as a grant writer for another non-profit organization. She says the HSOP survey results showing the project's impact in Haiti (*see story on page 3*), plus the project's steady growth over the past 14 years are great messages to convey to foundations when applying for grants.

There's an even more important story to tell, she says. "The greatest strength of HSOP is the tremendous support from individuals and churches," she insists. "It is absolutely amazing and points to the strength and stability of this mission. I'm so excited to be part of it."



Cathy Hoss of rural Rutland, SD works with Hal Neff, of Bismarck, ND as volunteers in the HSOP shop. The gift of hands-on service drives the ministry and empowers Haitian families.

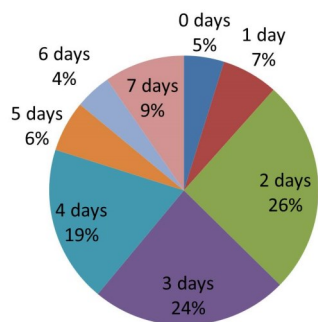
expansion," she explains. "The hiring of a professional part-time grant writer was an essential step

# HSOP Survey Finds Positive Impact

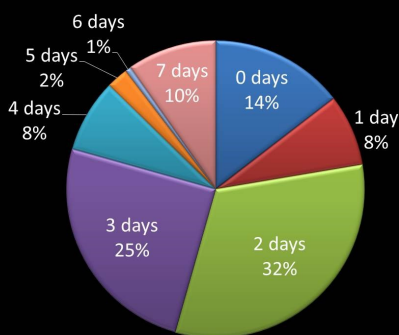
**W**hen Dr. Molly Enz and her team returned to Haiti last spring, it was with a particular mission in mind: to continue collecting and analyzing data in order to prove that the HSOP program is truly making a positive difference.

For the second year in a row, numbers are telling a great story. Combined results from surveys taken in 2012 and 2013 from 640 Haitian solar oven recipients show that they are using their ovens to cook an average of 3.5 days/week & pasteurize water 2.6 days/week.

**Meals Cooked in Past Week**



**Number of Days Water is Pasteurized per Week**



As a result, they are cutting their use of costly charcoal almost by half.

“We’re hoping to prove the effectiveness of solar ovens in increasing food and water security and decreasing environmental

degradation in Haiti,” says Enz. So far, she says, the data shows that HSOP is accomplishing its mission. “Haitian solar oven users use the sun as a free fuel source rather than charcoal, so they have more money to spend on other necessities. We are particularly encouraged that so many are using their ovens to pasteurize water, which decreases water-borne illnesses. This is especially important in the face of the current cholera epidemic in Haiti.”

Enz, associate professor of French at South Dakota State University (SDSU), along with students Luanne Napton and Bonnie Junker, conducted their first survey in Fond des Nègres, Haiti, in March 2012. In May 2013, the group, joined by former SDSU instructor Christopher Iverson, surveyed solar oven recipients in Les Cayes.

Assisted by the HSOP Haitian staff, the four questioned Haitians in Kreyòl about oven usage, including frequency of use, types of food cooked, charcoal consumption, and frequency of water purification. The issue of safe water was an additional focus in 2013. “We’d like to know more about the implications of the ovens in terms of water pasteurization,” explains Enz. Enz, Napton, and Junker have presented their survey findings at the Global Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in both 2012 and 2013. They will also include the data in an article that they plan to publish collaboratively in a scholarly journal.

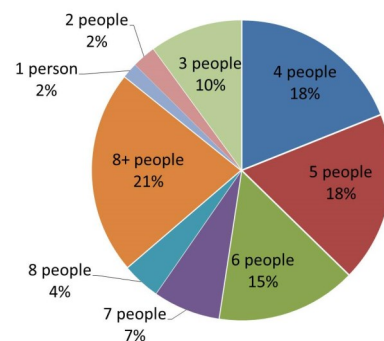
Continuing the research is important, Enz says, explaining

that to have more confidence in the data, at least 10% of total recipients should be sampled. With 640 people surveyed out of the more than 8,000 total oven recipients, the team’s goal is to reach that 800 number this year and then continue the project as the number of ovens distributed increases. She adds that the data is critical in evaluating the project’s continued effectiveness, a powerful tool when applying for grants.

The survey is also a means to determine any issues with the ovens or project. “The only concern from solar oven users that was raised during the surveys was related to the former cardboard reflectors that had a tendency to damage easily” says Enz, who notes that HSOP responded this year with a sturdier, smaller, efficient aluminum reflector.

Today, Enz is researching grant options to continue the survey project and states that funding is the biggest hurdle. The team, which used their own funds and donations from family and friends for the first survey trip, received a grant from SDSU to help with some of the 2013 costs.

**Number of People Served per Oven**



## HAITI SOLAR OVEN PARTNERS

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## DONATE an OVEN for \$125

~ Haiti Solar Ovens ADVANCE Gifts ~

- Dakotas Advance #637...Checks to: Haiti Solar Ovens / PO Box 460 / Mitchell, SD 57301-0460
- UMCOR Advance #418812...Online Giving Link <https://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Donate/Donation-Form?type=1002&project=418812>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Support HSOP through Giving Works

**I**f you're an eBay shopper, or have items to donate that could be sold on eBay, have we got an exciting new way to support Haiti Solar Oven Partners (HSOP)! Through eBay's Giving Works program, non-profit organizations like HSOP can sell items, and 100% of the profits will come back to the charity of your choice.

In the last six months of 2013, this new fundraising method raised \$1,123 for HSOP. Even more (\$1357.94) was raised during the first month of 2014 due to the sale of some valuable donated items.

Using eBay as a fundraising mechanism for HSOP was the brainchild of Wanda Bethke. This Raymond, SD, HSOP volunteer, and wife of HSOP board member Gene Bethke, has been using the online shopping site to market the couple's flax seed products for years. She then discovered that she could have a percentage of their flax seed sales directed toward HSOP. Last year she volunteered to manage an eBay site set up specifically for HSOP through the Giving Works program.

"This provides a unique way to support HSOP," says Wanda. Shoppers can purchase from a variety of items that are donated, ranging from Haitian-made baskets to a 24-piece Crown Devon tea set.

Interested in donating items? Simply contact HSOP Director Rick Jost. Those donating are asked to provide an estimated value and a description of the item. Wanda will take a photo of the item, get it listed on the site and shipped to the buyer. Donated items can be delivered to one of the HSOP directors or to either the HSOP workshop in Volga, SD, or Moffit, ND. She also asks that, if possible, people provide a box to use for shipping the item. Donations of packing materials would also be appreciated.

You can find a link to the HSOP eBay Giving Works site at [www.haitisolarovens.org](http://www.haitisolarovens.org). Just click "Make a Donation" on the home page and then click "Pay Pal/Shop eBay Giving Works". Or go to the site directly at <http://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/dakotas-conference-of-the-united-methodist-church-solar-oven-partners/33575/>.