



HAITI MISSION, INC.

P.O. Box 694 Thibodaux, LA 70302

Phone: 985-855-3127

www.haitimissioninc.com

February 2019

*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded."* Ralph Waldo Emerson



10th Annual Haiti Mission Golf Tournament & Silent Auction March 18, 2019

Hello Friends: Amazing! We closed the sponsorship portion of the Silent Auction on January 15 and we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our donors. We have received a total of **\$71,250** in donations and pledges from our Sponsors for the 2019 Silent Auction. Thanks to all who have participated thus far to make the event a success. We are leaving our total goal at **\$93,750** which will allow us to match the cost of the next 25 homes beginning in May 2019. 25 additional families will have the chance to have their prayers answered and move out of their deplorable living conditions. The damage from Hurricane Matthew continues to be an issue and has left many more families in need of a home. Our 35 man work crew can hopefully look forward to another busy year ahead. We are currently constructing **Homes #143 and #144** and it is our hope if we reach our goal to be able to build **Home #175 by April 2020**.

We are already off to a great start with auction items. **Many people have offered to support us again this year. We hope to send out our first list of items on February 4, 2019. What do we need now?** We need your prayers and an open heart to the possibility of donating or obtaining additional items for the auction. If you own a vacation home or condo and would like to donate a week or long weekend for the auction that would be fantastic. We would like to obtain spa and hotel packages, beauty products, designer hand bags, sunglasses, jewelry, art work, memorabilia, fishing or hunting trips, Chef meals, cookouts and gift certificates to restaurants and clothing stores. **We welcome any item with a minimum value of \$25.00.** We want to thank you in advance for your consideration and support. We need many generous donors to make the auction a success. These homes immediately impact two and often three generations, as well as, construction workers, their families and the community businesses that supply our needs. Please visit the HMI website at www.haitimissioninc.com to see before and after pictures with stories. Please contact **David Fakier (985-804-3112)** or **Laura Fakier (985-860-4311)** if you have any questions or would like to donate an item. Thanks again for your support and participation. David & Laura Fakier HMI Silent Auction (Visit our website for a complete list of Sponsors, updates and current information regarding the life of HMI).

How did it all start?

Often I am asked, "How did this all begin?" Well, in 1999 I was invited to participate in a mission trip to Haiti. The group needed a pharmacist to help in a small dispensary. That week experience in Haiti moved me deeply but at the same time left me appalled by the lack of potable water even though there were abundant water sources in all the mountains. With my rose colored glasses, I quickly assessed the situation and decided that with enough PVC pipe, this could be fixed! (As you can already tell, I am quite a dreamer!) At about the same time I read the encyclical letter by Pope Paul VI entitled "Populorum Progressio" – The development of people. In that letter was a statement that touched me profoundly and still resonates with me today. *"Development is the New Name for Peace"* Development and Peace – the two things that seem to allude the world still today and in my mind, it all seemed to hinge on water. The pope went on to say, "Extreme disparity between nations in economic, social and educational levels provokes jealousy and discord, often putting peace in jeopardy. When we fight poverty and oppose the unfair conditions of the present, we are not just promoting human well-being; we are also furthering man's spiritual and moral development, and hence we are benefiting the whole human race. For peace is not simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day toward the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among men."

In my simplistic mind, water was the basis for development and development would bring peace. One water well at a time then one house at a time, HMI has been doing its part to bring peace to a troubled world. And you know what, its working! The people in the villages are happy and confident that we will continue to walk with them in a form of solidarity that respects their culture and their dignity. This happiness gives them courage and hope - as it does us also - that this life-changing, game-changing process is making a difference – a big difference. So, thank you for journeying with us and for being a part of making this a more peaceful world. The families in some small, unknown villages in Haiti have been impacted in wonderful ways. HMI is convinced that this little candle of development will help bring some light of peace to our world.



It was a great Christmas for the kids in our schools. Many of them now have decent homes to live in and potable water close by. They send their love and thanks.

TESTIMONY

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you ..." I chose you to trust Me when you flew in that six-seater plane. I chose you to open wide your heart and to see my face reflected back to you through the eyes of a grandmother who only wanted a safe place for her children and grandchildren to lay their heads. I chose you to smell the unwashed bodies of the poor and forgotten who struggle daily to live in dignity. I chose you to hear the rooster crow all through the night so that you would be awake to talk to Me. I chose you to grow in your faith so that you could be closer to me through witnessing the faith of people who walked miles on rocky uphill paths to receive Me in the Eucharist. I chose you to imitate the hopefulness reflected in the hopeless. I will forever praise and thank God for this wonderful opportunity. And with a grateful heart, I thank David and Laura Fakier, our pastor, Fr. Jonathan Hemelt and my fellow missionaries who have changed my life in unspeakable ways. Elaine Gootee (Elaine was a member of the November 2018 Mission team).

Meet one of the Families that received a special Christmas this year! House #142 The Marie Sainte Family

Marie Sainte Francois and her husband, Jean Panel Fouyol have 6 children, 2 boys and 4 girls who have been barely surviving in the place you see in the “Before” picture. They do farming for a living. Marie Sainte attends Sunday mass regularly with some members of her family and neighbors. As one can tell by the picture of the pitiful place she and her family called home, none the less, she is always smiling, full of faith, hope and kindness. She is very grateful to HMI, Fr. Jonathan and the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in New Orleans for doing what was needed to move her before Christmas into a more decent place to experience, for the first time in her life, the true significance of Emmanuel (God is with us). She invites all to rejoice and be glad with her and her family as she prays continually for all who made this dream a reality. Because of your support, especially for our annual Silent Auction and Golf Tournament, many more families like the Marie Sainte family have hope and joy knowing that one day the miracle will happen for them!



“Before”



“After”

Annual Report and “Bean counting”

One of the important functions of the directors of a 501-c-3 faith based non-profit such as HMI is to keep accurate financial and meeting records and log in and certify what we do. “Bean counting!”. With that in mind, we try to post as much as possible on the home page of our website under “Official Documents.” The minutes of the meetings and financial records are kept on hand at the office of HMI located at 116 Ponderosa Lane in Gray, Louisiana. They are open to anyone’s inspection at anytime.

The annual report is posted in its entirety on the Home page but just to summarize for you, as you have read already in this newsletter, we have built 144 houses and so far, drilled 62 water wells in Haiti. We teach and feed about 200 kids every day. Humanitarian aid and hope are constantly flowing into untold areas of the region because of the work of HMI.

This and many other functions are going on behind the scenes by our all volunteer group. This is to make sure our beautiful HMI is abiding by all the directives necessary in order to continue allowing the love of God expressed by all of you to find its way in a timely fashion to all those in Haiti who are hoping and praying for you. Their prayer is that you can be blessed so that somehow they too can get out of their mess. All our Haitian friends find joy and consolation realizing that someone somewhere cares.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! (Mesi, mesi, mesi!)

Church Construction Update

Many of you have sent gifts in for the construction of a new church for the community after their old church was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Construction is proceeding nicely and just a few more \$\$\$ will help us complete it by 2020. More detail is on the website. If you are so moved, send in whatever the Holy Spirit inspires you to do. This beautiful church and Shrine to Our Lady of the Assumption will be a grand and glorious place of worship that will give Glory to God and honor His Blessed Mother.



FAIE'S FACTS

You have not lived a perfect day unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you. (This is an example of magnanimity, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit which means to be nobly generous.) In Pope Francis' book The Church of Mercy, we are encouraged to act with humility, meekness, love & magnanimity.

We ask God's blessings upon all of HMI's benefactors & volunteers who are so magnanimous

Save the Date

Monday, March 18th, 2019 – That’s the date of this year’s 10th Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction at lovely Ellendale Country Club. It’s never too early to start thinking of things that would make good Silent Auction items. Paintings, arts and crafts, hunting or fishing trips, vacation camps or beach houses, etc. can all be turned into funds that can take people out of misery, giving them hope for the future with a new house and easily accessible potable water.

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

March 18th

10th Annual HMI Golf tournament/Silent Auction at the beautiful Ellendale Country Club – Houma, LA.

March 25th to April 2nd

Fakier Spring trip I

April 8th to 16th

Fakier Spring trip II

April 30th to May 7th

Duplantis Spring trip

N.B. Our one week mission trips fill up quickly. If you are interested in travelling to Haiti on one of our mission trips, please contact us so we can advise you of availability and get you scheduled. God Bless you for your mission heart! (Passports must have at least six months left before expiration in order to enter Haiti.)

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families receive the miracle of a new home one day. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

_____ **\$3750 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.”** (Our new home design is keeping the cost of constructing the homes at \$7500 with the \$3750 matching money for each home provided by funds raised from the annual silent auction)

_____ **\$1000 would help us drill a well in a community without fresh water**

_____ **\$35 would buy food and supplies for a family (\$100 for three families!)**

Golf tournament and Silent Auction – Be sure to visit the Silent Auction items on the Website beginning February 4th. We need teams and sponsors for the golf tournament. See the brochure enclosed. The tournament is open to the public. Our 10th anniversary Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Sam Jacobs at 8:15 AM in the Ellendale Club house. All are welcome!

This monetary gift is made in memory of _____
please send an acknowledgement card to:

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

(You and your loved ones are remembered daily in our prayers and masses.)

*Haiti Mission Inc. is a 509(a)(1) tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code Tax ID#14-1861365
Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.*

***“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deeds.” Pvb 19:17
THANKS FOR HELPING!! No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!***

**What you spend years building, someone or something
could destroy overnight. Build anyway!**

(Mother Teresa)