

Starpoint Charitable Project

Year-end 2023 Update

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A quote from Davos this past year, from chef Jose Andres: “the underprivileged don’t need your pity, they need your respect. The best way to show respect for the world’s neediest individuals is to create opportunities for them to thrive”.

This resonated with me as I think of how Haiti Mission Inc. (HMI) has supported the communities of Numero Deux and Ravine Sable over the past 20+ years – with the goal of creating opportunities for all Haitians to thrive, feel safe, loved, and with a sense of hope.

From home building, to education/teachers and medical staff, to food providers and drilling water wells – all of these responsibilities/jobs are filled by local Haitians. The transformation that has taken place in these areas of Haiti over the last 20 years is truly remarkable – the children of yesterday are now the builders/educators/medical staff of today.

Starpoint’s solar lantern project is just one small part of this effort but we feel the lanterns provide additional opportunities for the families to thrive – through safety for women/children, ability to study at night in their homes, and more family time (and chores completed) as the sun sets and there is no electricity available.

The situation in Haiti remains extremely challenging and unsafe, but life does go on for these families. HMI has been able to continue to build 4 new homes a month and now has over 70 homes to be dedicated (Starpoint provides 2 lanterns for each new home). By the time HMI can return to Haiti later in 2024 there will be over 100 homes to dedicate – so we need lanterns! We also provide lanterns during the food/medicine distributions to over 650 local families.

Pictures from the June 2023 Trip:



Song for the Children (in memory of Jimmy Buffett)

Whenever I think of Haiti my first thoughts go to the children. And when I think of the islands I think of Jimmy Buffett, who passed away earlier this year (and was a constant source of music to me since high school). One of his songs has a beautiful chorus that goes:

Chanson pour les petits enfants (Song for the children)

Chanson pour tout le monde (Song for the world)

Chanson pour les petits enfants (Song for the children)

Chanson pour tout le monde (Song for the world)



Jimmy traveled the world, including to Haiti, and a note he wrote said “for the amount of ____ that the Haitian people have had to endure over the centuries, *they are the warmest and friendliest people I have come across in my travels*”.

Donation Requests – dedicated to the children

Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000 which will allow us to buy/ship 375 additional lanterns in 2024 (\$40 per lantern all-in cost). A donation of \$80 will provide 2 lanterns for a new home, \$800 will provide 2 lanterns for 10 homes – no donation is too small nor too big!

We will continue to “light up the hills” with your support – and the children will continue to run around talking about ‘The Flash’ (their term for the solar lanterns), with big smiles on their faces!

501(c)(3) Donations: Your financial support is much appreciated and needed. Checks can be made out to either: *Haiti Mission Inc.* (EIN#14-1861365) or *Schwab Charitable* (memo line: **Account# 4986-2315**). Donations from your **Donor Advised Fund** are also acceptable.

Direct Link to HMI (then click on Donate/Solar Lanterns): [Haiti Mission, Inc. \(haitimissioninc.com\)](https://haitimissioninc.com)

You may mail checks direct to HMI or Schwab Charitable to:

Haiti Mission, Inc., PO Box 694, Thibodaux, LA 70302 (“Solar Lanterns” in memo line)

Schwab Charitable, PO Box 628298, Orlando, FL 32862 (“Acct#4986-2315” in memo line)

Note: if you send a check to HMI, please send me an email/text so I can track the donation

“Mesi” (Thank you) for your ongoing encouragement and support, and Happy New Year!

Tom Morrison
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