

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE."

~ Jeremiah 29:11



Introducing Sewing Hope

In September, 2019, the St. Jacques Sewing School in Plaine du Nord, Haiti reopened for the school year as a restructured, two year Sewing Program with student sponsorship being provided through the St. Joseph Church Haiti Outreach Team. St. Joe, located in Evansville, IN, is the sister parish to St. Jacques and will partner with two instructors at the school, a coordinator and a parish sponsor to assure the success of the program. The restructured sewing program is called *"Sewing Hope"*.





Why Restructure?

The fundamental purpose of the restructuring was to ensure that students and instructors have the tools, supplies, fabrics and funds required to effectively teach and to learn the seamstress trade.

The two room sewing school was originally built in 2010 above the elementary school office. Over the years, the school has fallen into disrepair and decline, lacking the supplies and funds to renovate or teach the trade adequately. In August, 2019, the classrooms were painted, furniture replaced, machines purchased, supplies

acquired, and tools provided to rehabilitate this much-needed educational facility. The school opened for the 2019-20 school year as "Sewing Hope", with 21 students attending its first year.





Sewing Hope's Vision

The Sewing Hope vision is to equip students to learn the sewing trade. Through the program, students will learn skills enabling them to obtain employment as a seamstress, provide for their families, and promote sustainable change within their homes and their community.

Acquiring a skill or trade is vital to breaking the cycle of poverty in Haiti. We also believe that by adding "Enrichment Days" throughout the year – presentations, discussions and Bible Studies geared toward issues facing young Haitians (women, in particular) – students will receive a well-rounded educational experience and a boost in self-confidence and self-worth.

As students are sponsored to participate in the program, not only are they provided for financially to complete the course, but they are prayed over by the sponsor and by the St Joseph Outreach Team and church family.









How Can **YOU** Help?

There are several ways to come alongside Sewing Hope and its students.

- 1. **PRAY** for those affiliated with the program students, instructors, families, sponsors.
- 2. GIVE a one-time donation to purchase supplies and other necessary furnishings.
- 3. **COMMIT** to a monthly sponsorship of a student for one year (\$25/month or \$300/year).
- 4. **SUPPORT** the students during one of the team trips by visiting the classroom, preparing a simple Bible Study lesson, or plan a short lecture. If you can't travel, consider sending fabrics, supplies, and notes of encouragement with the team.

What the Students are Saying ...



"I want to go further." "Rosemelie



"I want to become a seamstress and help my family and community." ~Wideline



"I want to own my own shop someday." "Rose Darlie



"I want to be a seamstress and be prepared to support my family." ~Rose Laure

For more information:

- Interested in student sponsorship?
- Wish to donate supplies?
- Have enrichment opportunity suggestions?
- Wish to participate in a trip?

Pray for God's guidance, but don't ignore
His tug at your heart.

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Sewing Hope



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