

HAITI NEWSLETTER

SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

Livestock



1,000 families have received an animal. Our 'get one-give one' model insures our investment will continue into the future, helping more families in Haiti.

Agriculture

Farmers are trained in best practice technique to produce the optimum crops. Trainings are held, seeds and tools are distributed and continued support of a local agronomist help keep this program sustainable.

Women's Banking

8 Bank Branches were opened helping hundreds of women with much needed loans. The 2 most recent bank branches were opened with loans that had been repaid by the Haitian women in the program.



Our move to St. Michaels parish

As we close our time with our present Parish, Our Lady of Assumption, we are looking forward to our forthcoming partnership with Saint Michael's parish. On a recent trip to Haiti, our ministry team met with the Bishop of the diocese. We were delighted to hear that current priest, Pere Belange, will be coming with us to the new parish along with our in country director, Jean Bony. There is much to do at the new parish, but many years of work in Haiti has provided a playbook that we know will successfully aid and empower each new parish we partner with.

Peace Committee

Peace Committee took on three main initiatives at OLA. An Entrepreneurship Program was developed to teach the youth of OLA skills to start their own small businesses. A Peace and Domestic Violence Prevention program helped promote peaceful conflict resolution within the community, to encourage mutual respect and communication within a marriage. The committee also held Annual Summer Peace Conferences to provide 120+ youth of OLA an opportunity to be involved in sessions relating to community building and peaceful conflict resolution.



Education

Over the past 5 years, the Education Committee has focused on enhancing professional development for teachers, expanding opportunities for students and improving the physical environment to promote student achievement.

- Newly constructed school - 6 classroom elementary school opened in October of this year. Previously 150 students and teachers crowded into a single sparsely furnished chapel.
- Teacher Training - Teachers have increased confidence with teaching skills, including higher levels of competency with instructional content in math and science.
- Music Lessons - Weekly lessons for 9-14 year olds with more advanced students giving back to the community playing during church services.
- Cows for Teachers bonus program- 'get one-give one' model. 29 teachers were given a cow, currently awaiting 5 calves to be returned to the parish herd to support schools..

Health Committee

Our Health Committee developed a staple food warehouse. The parish purchases grain, rice, bean, oil and other staples that are typically sold at the market in bulk at lower prices and the sellers at the market would buy from the store instead of traveling several hours to make these purchases. In addition as the political climate worsened in Haiti, many hospitals closed. We arranged to train providers in each of the chapels to administer emergency first aid. Our Food for Seniors program continues to grow. Destitute seniors who have no family to help them receive beans, rice, and other staples funded through a sheep breeding program.

Faith and Worship Committee

Faith and Worship Committee organized a Training for Parish Directors who are lay persons responsible for nearly all the activities at the chapel. We also held a Pentecost Youth Retreat which included teaching workshops on prayer and Pentecost,



games, and a Bible contest. 100 youth participated. A loan program both provides needed capital and training to the community members who apply and funds a marriage preparation program including a shared ceremony/reception offered for several couples at the same time.

How Can I Help?

- * Come learn more about our new parish and their needs on November 17 at 7 PM at SMM in the Antioch Room at Church.
- * Help staff a table for our Alternative Giving cards after Masses December 6 and 7 and December 20 and 21
- *Shop at Ten Thousand Villages on our Haiti Ministry benefit days (12/6 by request and 12/7 all day)