



South Florida Haiti Project

November 30, 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of the South Florida Haiti Project (SFHP),

The year 2017 has been a year of Vital Partnerships and Milestones for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Bon Samaritain Church and School and for the people of Bondeau, Haiti.

Under the banner of “Vital Partnerships” we give thanks to God for several noteworthy accomplishments:

- We received a five year, \$20,000 grant to fund a “Night School” to provide basic literacy and educational training for older teens and adults in the Bondeau community. The school opened in October with 24 students. Our vision is to assess whether this school could be expanded in the future to provide vocational training for community members.
- Our school of 325 students now includes grades K-12 and we continue to support the educational mission of Bon Samaritain School. Twenty-four out of twenty-five ninth grade students passed the national ninth grade exams, a result that drew the positive attention of the Haitian Department of Education. We have begun conversation with the community about how we might support opportunities for college attendance.
- We conducted our third successful teacher training with our “Teaching by Heart” educational partners led by Dr. Diane Allerdyce. Teachers from the newly formed Episcopal school in the neighboring community of Martel, supported by our partners at the New York Haiti Project, participated in this training. This initiative was funded by the Eastburn Endowment (a St. Gregory’s fund that supports our partnership with Haiti).
- We formed a Health Care Advisory Team comprised of board members and Haiti-based partners to guide our vision for health care delivery to the community. We conducted a medical mission this October with Saint Croix (Holy Cross) hospital in Leogane providing the majority of the medical staff. We also received a \$6,000 grant from the Daughters of the King to purchase critical medicines.



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- With the help our partner Water for Small Villages, we dug two new wells that supply water for sanitation, cleaning and bathing for the Bondeau community. Our other infrastructure project, solar power, was expanded to include the church building. These also were funded by the Eastburn Endowment.

Under the banner of “Milestones,” this month we celebrate and honor the decade-long ministry of Deacon Anita Thorstad. Her ministry at Kay Timon (Children’s Home), which she founded and supported so generously for the past six years is ending due to more stringent requirements from the Haitian government that oversees orphanages and related institutions. Deacon Anita feels God calling her to a new chapter. The children of Kay Timoun will return to their families with the life skills they have learned. South Florida Haiti Project is fully committed to securing resources to enable the children of Kay Timoun to pursue an education through secondary school, working with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

Deacon Anita will be honored at our Saturday, February 10 fundraising event at 6 pm at St. Gregory’s. We invite you to “save the date” and join us for this evening of thanksgiving and celebration.

Finally, this past June at our annual board retreat we developed a Strategic Agenda (included in this mailing) for the next three to five years to guide our ministry. On the agenda for the coming year: teaching, health care, infrastructure and continuing our Vital Partnerships...with your help!

As the year ends, please make a gift that will help sustain and care for the people and families of Bondeau. Place a check in the enclosed envelope or visit the visit St. Gregory’s website at www.stgregorysepiscopal.org and scroll down to the “Support our Work” button.

Please pray for our partnership and the people of Bondeau as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. I am also grateful for the spiritual support and prayers of the Bondeau community for us. This strengthens and renews our life in Christ. It is a cherished gift.

With thanks to God and with deep gratitude,

The Rev. Andrew J. Sherman, President, South Florida Haiti Project