

SOME FACTS ABOUT HAITI



Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere:

- ✓ 80% live in poverty
- ✓ 54% lack clean water
- ✓ 48% cannot read
- ✓ 66% are unemployed
- ✓ The average life expectancy is 57.56 years.

The people of Haiti are living in a state of profound ecological crisis. The stark deforestation provides opportunity for severe and sudden mudslides and flash flooding. Crop harvests are shrinking; topsoil is eroding; malnutrition rates are growing and infectious diseases are gaining ground.

Source: www.worldfactbook.org September 2008

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

✚ Begin by praying and sharing your concern for Haiti. Tell others about the desperate poverty these beautiful people experience in this once lovely island. The country, which is slightly smaller than Maryland, has been exploited since it first gained its independence. "According to every social and economic indicator, Haiti is now ranked as the fourth poorest, the third hungriest, and the most water poor country among all the nations of the world."

- Invite a speaker to address your Group.
- Save your change.
- Collect your pennies, nickels, etc. in a jar marked HAITI.
- If you are in the position to do so, take up a collection, hold a bake sale, have a 50/50. be creative.

For more information check out these web sites:

- www.fonkoze.org
- www.newshaiti.com
- www.piphaiti.org
- admin@hope-for-haiti.org

YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

Your money will be used to sponsor a family in Fonkoze's newest effort to reach the poorest of the poor through the program Chemen Lavi Miyo' (CLM) or Path to a Better Life.

CLM clients receive:

- ✚ Confidence building
- ✚ Assets necessary to buy merchandise or animals for sale.
- ✚ Bi-weekly visits from a Fonkoze case manager
- ✚ Assistance with home repair
- ✚ A filter to ensure water supply
- ✚ Free health care
- ✚ A small cash stipend for 18 months.

**OUR GOAL IS TO SPONSOR
ONE FAMILY
FOR ONE YEAR**

**That will cost
\$1,300**

***Please make your checks payable to
Fonkoze***

***and forward your contributions to:
Sister Miriam Scully, IHM
Immaculate Heart Convent
1725 S. Sproul Road
Springfield, PA 19064-1137***

Haiti Hit Hard By Remittance Reductions

04/21/09 - The money sent home by immigrants working in the United States and Europe plays a crucial role in reducing poverty. These funds are a lifeline for some families around the world. More than 60 percent of transfers are used for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and housing. In Latin America and the Caribbean alone, families received \$69 billion in remittances in 2008.

But the global economic recession has reduced these flows. After years of double-digit growth, transfers to Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to drop by 13 percent in 2009, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. Families in some countries are being hit especially hard.

In Haiti, for instance, where remittances make up a quarter of that nation's annual income, fewer transfers mean that some households can no longer afford to feed their children or send them to school. Most schools in Haiti are private and charge fees.

Haitians are also reeling from food price increases and the crop devastation wrought by last year's hurricanes. Political instability in Haiti requires a 9,000-member U.N. peacekeeping force to keep order. www.sos-usa.org

The needs are so great. Can you help?

THE IHM COMMITMENT TO HAITI Mission Statement

The Immaculata IHM Sisters, conscious of our humble beginnings, pledge to raise awareness of the needs of the Haitian people. We support sustainable projects, assist native religious communities and communicate opportunities for advocacy on behalf of the people. Participation in the [Haiti Outreach Project](#) is an outgrowth of our charism to serve the most abandoned poor.

The Committee members are:

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We welcome new members and are most grateful for any way that you can assist us in our efforts to alleviate the poverty in this once beautiful island nation.

Please contact us with your comments and ideas. Thank you.

The IHM Haiti Project Committee

Presents

Hope For Haiti

An invitation to help

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THE MOST ABANDONED POOR

***Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary
Villa Maria House of Studies
Immaculata, Pa 19345-0200***