

## The Haitian Project, Inc.

Community Update: I know my own sheep and my sheep know me.

March 19, 2014



**Left:** Top: THP Board Member and Treasurer, Dean Reineking, and his wife, Cathy hosted a gathering of 100 old and new friends from the Memphis area this weekend; Bottom: THP President, Deacon Patrick Moynihan thanks the couple for their generosity.

**Center:** Top: Volunteer Natália Soares presents a gift to Rev. Jonas Christal and the parishioners of Holy Family Parish in Lowell, MA. Bottom: Ten-year-old Holy Family Parish parishioner, Arthur Alves Souza celebrated his birthday by hosting a costume party raising over \$1,000 for THP.

**Right:** Top: Parishioners from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Crystal Lake, IL served and bussed trays at a local Culver's restaurant to raise money for THP. Bottom: Former Volunteer, Meghan Gregus addressed Rockford-area community at the Big Get Together at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish this past September.

In a recent email exchange with a colleague who works for an international non-profit, I stated that The Haitian Project does not generally solicit funds through third party organizations. [Specifically, we were discussing a non-profit organization which takes 10 to 15% of donations passed through it in return for "helping" organizations get their name into the "market place".]

In response, the colleague asked, "How do you raise funds without going through any third-party funders?"

The simple response is that we do it *by ourselves*. However, that "ourselves" is a lot more people than the THP staff. There are a lot of "YOU" in that ourselves.

The Haitian Project is fortunate not to have to rely on "non-profit" brokers to get our name out because we have a wonderful community of supporters who enthusiastically do that. Some are past Volunteers and graduates of LCS, others are Parishioners, and many are family and friends of those already involved.

Through the witness of our supporters in both Haiti and the U.S., we are able to continue our work from one year to the next. Parish, school, and local events in the U.S. help teach others about our goals and what sets us apart. Everyone who has shared our works with others has been a direct influence in our success.

Because many of the people who speak up for THP have been there and lived it, we do not need a third-party to get the word out about our work.

Since we adhere to the frugal management and achieve the effectiveness of traditional Catholic Mission work – work that has over 1,500 years of proven history - we do not need a third-party to vouch for us.

Beyond the call to build God's Kingdom everywhere, in the US and in Haiti, by developing community, there is a practical point to not using third-parties. THP spends less than 4% on the direct cost of fundraising. That is a lot less than the 10 to 15% taken by those who are willing to do it for us.

At one-third the cost and for the privilege of knowing you, we will be glad to do the work ourselves.

[NB: Although we do not name the organization above, THP would like to clarify that we are not referring to United Way, which only takes between 0 to 10% from donations made through payroll deductions, or FrontStream, our online service, which takes 2.99%.]

Peace, Patrick

To make a donation or to read recently posted community updates go to [www.haitianproject.org](http://www.haitianproject.org)

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