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Helping in Haiti

Two Fundraisers to Benefit Haiti in Different Ways

ROCKFORD--Sept. 6 will be a big night for fun and fundraising with Haiti in mind.

Both The Haitian Project's annual "Big Get Together" and the Hope for Haitians' annual "An Evening in the Tropics" are being held that evening.

■ **The Big Get Together** begins with Mass at 5 p.m. in the Boylan Central Catholic High School chapel, with dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Guests may park in the student lot to the south of the building.

The dinner is free and all are welcome to come and learn about The Haitian Project.

RSVP to Mary Jo LeGrand at 563/581-1320.

■ **An Evening in the Tropics** will be held at Giovanni's Restaurant on Bell School Road. The evening begins with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Ticket price for this event is \$100. A silent auction will feature original art from the Caribbean and Latin American, sports and dining packages and more.

Contact Theresa Kegley at 815/847-0656 or email her at theresa@hopeforhaitians.org.

If you find yourself confusing the two charity efforts, you are not alone. But in fact, although the country of Haiti is a common denominator, the two are otherwise very different not-for-profit organizations.

We'll try to sort out the events and their projects here.

We'll also highlight just a few parish and school efforts to help Haiti in special ways, too. Know there are many more efforts for Haiti than we have here.

— Amanda Hudson and Sharon Boehlefeld



Hope for Haitians

Hope for Haitians began in 2001, started by three men of the Diocese of Rockford — Patrick Bachrodt, Thomas Lorden and Peter Roche. The organization raises funds to pay for a number of projects in the northern part of Haiti, in partnership with Food for the Poor.



Hope for Haitians is perhaps best known for building small villages that, in total, include some 350 homes for families that had been surviving in complete destitution. Its works also include clean water, livestock, fruit trees, tilapia ponds, reforestation, education and medical services.

This year's event begins Hope for Haitians' campaign to create a ninth village building project. The map (left) shows projects of Hope for Haitians with numbered red and blue dots. Nearby cities are also indicated on the map.

For more information about this organization, visit www.hopeforhaitians.org.

The Haitian Project



(Photos provided)

The Haitian Project was founded in the early 1980s by St. Joseph Parish in Providence, Rhode Island. The project focuses its efforts on one of the most critical needs in Haiti — education — and serves through its Louverture Cleary School in the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital and largest city.

The Catholic, co-educational boarding school has grown to feed, house, and educate 350 bright and enthusiastic students from the poorest neighborhoods of Haiti.

The goal of The Haitian Project is both to better the individual students' lives and to enable the students to help build up and improve their country.

LCS students are active leaders in service to their community. Each day, students can be found cleaning their neighborhood, caring for sick and orphaned children and disabled adults, and challenging the notion that theirs is a country devoid of hope.

Deacon Patrick Moynihan (shown in photo at an LCS graduation ceremony), for several years a deacon of the Diocese of Rockford, is the director of Louverture Cleary School.

For information about The Haitian Project, visit www.haitianproject.org.



ELBURN: During Lent, St. Gall Parish raised more than \$50,000 for Hope for Haitians during Lent. Msgr. Thomas Dempsey, a retired priest of the Rockford Diocese and founder of Priests for the Poor, will visit the parish the weekend of Aug. 22-23 to talk about Food for the Poor with parishioners.

SPRING GROVE: St. Peter Parish has, through its Bible camp program, for the past two years raised money to buy donkeys for poor families in Haiti. Last year's campers raised enough money to buy eight donkeys and they were presented to the families this past spring. This year's campers raised enough money for nine donkeys for the poor. The parish works with Catholic Assistance Missions (CAM).

DIXON: St. Anne School has supported Homes for Haitians for the past two years. They have sent approximately \$1400 to the project. They also show the Columban Mission Videos each year at the school and are supporters of the Holy Childhood Association. They have a Mission Mass each year in October, and usually support The Haitian Project during Lent.

AURORA: Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish's ties to Hope for Haitians began with a second collection that was enough to provide a water well for a village. From there the parish went on to build a house, and with generous parish support, including from religious education and OLCG School students, have gone on to build four houses. Each year, the OLCG Hope for Haitians team presents a new project to the parish so members may continue to share their love for "the least of our brothers and sisters."



ROCKFORD: For the past 14 years, students at Boylan Central Catholic High School have been collecting money for Hope for Haitians and The Haitian Project as part of their Lent almsgiving. Theology teacher Sandy Blevins said students raised the most ever this past Lent, reaching \$8,000. The money will be split between Hope for Haitians and the Haitian Project. The sophomore class raised the most, \$4,000. Representatives from the sophomore class, Sam Rinaldo (left) and Mackenzie Callison (right) presented checks to Mike Gallagher and Theresa Kegley of Hope for Haitians, and to Mary Jo Scordato-LeGrand (holding daughter Cate) for The Haitian Project.



FREEPORT: Students at Aquin Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School have been collecting materials to pack birthing kits for Haitian mothers for several years. The activity takes place in the spring. The students also ask for money to ship the kits to Haiti.

ST. CHARLES: St. John Neumann Parish, along with several others in the Fox Valley, is a supporter of Hope for Haitians and Food for the Poor projects to assist youngsters, such as the girl (right) parishioners visited previously. The parish works hard on the annual 5K fundraiser, which is held in Geneva on the Saturday of Mothers Day weekend. That race brings in funds for all the children in Hope for Haitians villages to go to school. St. John Neumann also hosts the regional meetings to plan this event and puts together "goodie bags" for participants with energy bars, coupons, and more. In 2013 St. John Neumann hosted a Gospel Concert, performed by "Harmony, Hope and Healing" from Chicago. Money donated there went to Hope for Haitians.



SUGAR GROVE: St. Katharine Drexel Parish has a Hope for Haitians committee that coordinates monthly coffee and foods sales to generate money for the Hope for Haitians fund. Several parishioners attend the Hope for Haitians gala in Rockford annually, and take part in the fundraising 5K every May. Students who attended vacation Bible school this summer gave donations every day, amassing \$740 for Hope for Haitians. Over the past six years, St. Katharine Drexel has raised enough to build a house in Haiti.

Father Robert Jones (far right), pastor, and Virginia Canadian, the parish Hope for Haitians ministry coordinator, visited Haiti last summer to meet the family who would be living in the house funded by the parish.



ELGIN: When Father Geoffrey Wirth, former Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, he returned from a mission trip to Haiti in 2011, his stories inspired parishioners to help Hope for Haitians. They first raised money for a well in Faith Friendship Village. The following year, they made Haiti the focus of their Lent project, raising money to buy goats and fruit trees for the village. This year, they supported the building of a cassava bakery, purchasing a cassava grinder, and funding 40 solar lanterns for the 40 homes in the Pope Francis Friendship Village, as well as for books, uniforms, shoes, tuition, and a hot meal for Haitian students. The parish has also collected new or slightly used linens (bed and bath) that were sent to Haiti through Food For The Poor in Florida.

Hope for Haitians invites you to:



Our 13th annual event will be held Saturday, September 6th

Giovanni's Restaurant 610 N. Bell School Rd. — Rockford

Silent auction at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Help us care

for the

truly poor people of Haiti.....

Tickets — \$100 per person

Tickets can be purchased by calling 815 847-0656 or at the door that evening.

