



Sonje Ayiti Organization

Newsletter

(Remember Haiti)

Issue 3

Where There is No Vision, the People Perish

March 2006

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Sonje Ayiti staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you who believe in our vision and my deepest appreciation for the incredible efforts that you made in 2005 toward the empowerment of children and adults in Jean-Rabel, Haiti.

The theme for 2006 is *Education and Development for the Far West*. Education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills, and also something less tangible, but more profound: the imparting of knowledge, good judgment, and wisdom. Education has, as one of its fundamental goals, the imparting of culture from one generation to the next, a preparation for life. Development is the process of economic and social growth and the attainment of self-sufficiency. 2006 represents both our determination to expand education and economic development projects, and our commitment to help every adult develop sustainable skills.

It would be an exaggeration to say that this year will be the most important year in the history of Sonje Ayiti. For one, this is the year that we expand toward reaching the milestone goal of putting the roof over the school in Porrier, Jean-Rabel and building our pilot school. We hope that 2006 will be the year you open your hearts and hands to say yes and to make positive results a reality.

Each of us has an important mission that only we can fulfill. The best way we can welcome the New Year is by making the commitment to serve and make a difference in the lives of others, sharing our blessings with the less fortunate, and being an ambassador of love, peace, and hope. Together, in 2006 let's serve whole-heartedly.

Gabrielle Vincent

Announcements

► In 2005, SAO raised \$4184. These funds help pay tuition for 40 students and the salary of 3 teachers.

► In December 2005, SAO received its 501(c)3 status. Praise the Lord!

► In July 2005, SAO went to Jean-Rabel to do an assessment. Among the areas that were assessed, education was one of the top priorities. Many of the primary schools were, over crowded, lacked teaching materials and equipment, and were understaffed. The last week of January 2006, \$500 was sent to cement the floor of the primary school in Porrier and to purchase 3 chalkboards.



Primary school in Porrier.

Unfortunately, Eric Jeanty, the director of the school passed away on Wednesday, March 01, 2006. Mr. Jeanty was a very dynamic and inspiring director. With the little he was paid (\$80/month), he made many sacrifices to create an atmosphere conducive for learning for his students. Due to the lack of health care, Mr. Jeanty's cause of death is unknown. My hope is that we continue his legacy of educating the youth and the community. Also, we hope in the near future, with the help of our contributions, that we can erect Eric Jeanty Community School in Porrier. Please keep his family and the school in your prayers.

Mission Statement

Sonje Ayiti Organization, Inc. (SAO) is an Atlanta-metro based nonprofit organization, whose purpose is to empower the lives of families living on the Caribbean island of Haiti & the immigrant-refugees living in the United States.

Seize the Opportunity to Make a Difference!

2006 Educational Goals

- ▶ Build 1 pilot primary temporary school by June 2006.
- ▶ Provide school supplies and equipment by August 2006.
- ▶ Provide 16 additional teachers and administration by September 2006.
- ▶ Provide school lunch by September 2006.

Development Projects

- ▶ Do you know that a one-time \$200 donation can help a woman become financially independent?

How? A Micro-Credit Loan

Goal: to raise funds for women to start grassroots small businesses in their communities.

- ▶ Did you know that a one-time \$150 gift can provide a goat for a farmer?

How? Goat Project



Goal: to develop the spirit of sharing and self-sufficiency. The offspring of the goat will be given to another farmer, which in essence will develop a sharing cycle.

How Can You Help?

Sponsor-a-Child → \$50 per child covers tuition, food, school supplies, and uniforms

Sponsor-a-School → \$2,500 per class covers teacher's salaries, school equipments and teaching materials.

Make a Monthly Pledge → For example, 80 cents a day = \$25 a month. These funds will go towards the purchase of goats, cows, chickens, seeds, agriculture tools, building supplies, and land purchases.

Donate items → plows, hoes, picks, medical equipment, school supplies, fabric, and sewing kits.

Checks or money orders can be mailed to
P.O. Box 162733 Atlanta, GA 30321
Or
Use Paypal at www.sonjeayiti.org

Humanitarian Mission Trip to Haiti

Be a part of a rewarding movement! Join SAO on an important humanitarian mission trip to Haiti, where you can participate in the construction project of community schools in Jean-Rabel.

**Dates: May 19 – 26, 2006
July 21 – 28, 2006**

**Cost: Estimated \$1095*
from Atlanta**

Program Fee includes:

- Round trip airfare from Atlanta to Port-au-Prince.
- Home visits and meals with local residents.
- On-site construction and remodeling.
- All local transportation.
- Welcome and farewell dinners.



L'ecole Nationale de Grande Source

*In addition to the program fee, each participant will be responsible for raising a \$300 tax-deductible contribution, which will be used to purchase materials for the constructive project.



Announcements cont'd

Gabrielle Vincent, our former president and co-founder of SAO has accepted a position with FOCAS (Foundation of Compassionate American Samaritans) in Cincinnati, OH. Gabrielle is the Haitian Director where she will oversee all the programs in Haiti. Although she will not be with us in person, we know she will be with us in spirit. Gabby, we know with God's help you will do great things for Haiti.



Gabrielle Vincent

THANK YOU!!!

SAO would like to say thank you to all who have supported us in funds and/or moral support. May God continue to bless you as you continue to give and serve.

Special thanks to Marcellus Pitts, Cumberland Community Church, and Haiti Cheri Harvest Life Ministry.

2005 Top Donors

- Pastor Achime Guillaume
- Dr. Harold Katner
- Good Samaritan Haitian

Urgent Fundraising

The school in Grande Source is in dire need of a roof as the rainy season is approaching. The cost for a new roof is \$2500. Deadline: April 30, 2005.