

Fall/Winter 2011, Issue 3

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www.haitipartners.org

Light through the Shadows

by Kent Annan, co-director

Today I can't think
of a better way to
bring more light than
through education.

My daughter attended her first day of kindergarten today.

My wife and I thought we were pretty cool with it. She had attended preschool, so this wasn't a major change. She was excited and said goodbye with a smile over her shoulder.

We still thought we were cool with it after we signed up for the PTA at the courtyard table. Then we ran into a friend. His third child was starting kindergarten.

We only realized we might not be so cool after we stood talking with him, kept talking, kept standing, and he finally said, "You know, she's in her class. You're allowed to leave now."

Busted.

So we left. I was happy all day knowing she was in this great, free, local school here in South Florida where we live. After dropping her off, I walked a couple of blocks to the Haiti Partners office.

Joy is always accompanied by a shadow if we're also engaged for justice with people in hard circumstances.

Our seven Partner Schools in Haiti, with 1,100 girls and boys, are soon starting their school year. I'm happy for them and all the children in school in Haiti, but approximately one million school-aged children



What joy for parents – whether in Haiti or the US – who get to send their children to a good school.

don't get to attend. Haiti wants to be able to educate its own children, and parents are willing to sacrifice, but the resources are too scarce. Today that is joy's too-big shadow.

A light begins to pierce the darkness when I consider one of our partner schools, IMN Community School. All five kids from IMN's inaugural 6th-grade class passed last year's national exam that allows them to advance to secondary school. The group includes Wilsenley, the young man featured in our last newsletter. This 100% success rate is rare in Haiti.

This test is a notorious roadblock to students' dreams of continuing their education. Many parents, feeling the financial pressure of trying to send multiple kids through school, pull their child out if they fail this test, figuring there's no way he or she will pass the harder tests that come later.

For example, Haiti Partners' friend Sayil has a twin nephew (Vinet) and niece (Vinette) who both failed the test twice. Vinet was able to arrange funding to study and pass the exam on his third try; Vinette had

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to move in with a distant relative and hoped to learn sewing. However, she only helped with her relative's business until she got pregnant. She returned home to have the baby, and she is pregnant again, with little hope now of ever returning to school. There are many stories of test failures leading to lives of limited opportunity.

Every parent should know the poignant joy of dropping his or her child off at a good school.

IMN's school director, Maxandre Bien-Aime, is proud of his students' accomplishment. Since 2005 he's dreamed that IMN would become a quality primary school. He was hoping for a strong first showing on their inaugural national exam, and it happened. Another ray of light.

Back in the USA, the last months have been marked by contentious disagreement about politics, economics, theology, a hundred different things. But, among the things we might all agree on, two of them stand out today:

- Every child in the world should be able to attend primary school.
- Every parent should know the poignant joy of dropping his or her child off at a good school.

These are important ideals, but after more than eight years working in Haiti, what excites me is real, gritty, hard-fought partnership and progress. There's so much more to do. But we are seeing progress:

The creative **students** in Haiti Partners' elementary schools. The motivated **teachers** in many schools who receive our training. The **leaders** around the country being equipped to help their communities. The **disciples** in churches who are growing in their faith. (See program reports on each of these areas in the following pages.)

It's an honor to partner with you in this "bringing light" work. Thank you. This annual report shares how together we've helped people—and previews the work for the year ahead. As God's light in Christ leads us in grace, it's a privilege to serve others together.

So on this hope-filled first day of school—with my daughter's and Wilsenley's happy faces in mind—I can't think of a better way to bring more light than through education.

Students Program

Some aspects of education in Haiti are quite discouraging: schools lacking electricity and clean water; no books, paper, and pencils; untrained and underpaid teachers; undernourished students; and 50% of school-aged students not in school.

Our Students program brings light to seven partner schools by improving facilities and providing educational materials; offering training in innovative education methods; and helping schools create social enterprises (small businesses) that help pay teacher salaries.

In the past year we:

- ❖ Conducted 35 days of teacher training on topics like lesson planning, positive discipline, innovative mathematics, standards-based preschool, and improved administration.
- ❖ Provided materials like books, educational games, notebooks, and pencils.
- ❖ Started meal programs.
- ❖ Distributed 400 student laptops and partnered with Waveplace to provide excellent training.

- ❖ Completed plans for a model Children's Academy, in collaboration with Architecture for Humanity.

In the coming year, progress can continue with quality teacher training, inspiring materials, support for meal programs, and improvements to facilities. We will complete phase 1 of the Children's Academy. Working together with you, we can bring light to the shadows over education in Haiti, helping schools transform their communities and moving the country toward a brighter future.



Haiti Partners has rebuilt four Partner Schools since the January 2010 earthquake.



Teachers Program

Teachers in Haiti live in the shadow of a broken education system. Few receive training or a consistent, living wage. As a result, they typically mimic the methods they learned when they attended school: rote memorization in French of irrelevant information, with corporal punishment or humiliation as the consequence of failure.

In contrast, the Teachers program provides educators with tools to create great learning environments where students can shine. These methods prepare teachers to help students think critically, cooperate effectively, question constructively, and apply their learning locally to build a better Haiti.



Great teachers bring learning to life.

In the past fiscal year we:

- ❖ Enabled over 1,100 teachers and grassroots leaders to complete our Circles of Change training (includes methods adapted from Touchstones Discussions and Open Space), which impacts tens of thousands of students.
- ❖ Trained hundreds of teachers and educational leaders, including in key educational organizations like Save the Children, UNICEF, and the Haitian Ministry of Education.

In the coming year, we will reach more people and organizations through teacher training. We'll continue working with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF on curriculum for 3-5 year olds. With your help, we will continue to work with our partners to inspire an enlightened education system in Haiti.

Leaders Program

Since colonization, leadership in Haiti has operated too often under a dark cloud. Leaders seize power and rule by virtue of followers' passive allegiance. Typically, leadership in Haiti is about consolidating power and controlling others rather than empowering and inspiring positive change.

Through a three-year training for 35 community leaders, our Leaders program provides a brighter path for leaders to follow, one that emphasizes a servant-leadership approach. Participants learn to: (a) inspire others while discovering their own potential; (b) engage stakeholders to accomplish shared goals; and (c) nurture spiritual growth and a culture of mutual respect and trust.



Four times a year, leaders from around the country gather for inspiration and training.

In this last fiscal year we:

- ❖ Convened 35 grassroots leaders for four seminars (each three days long) providing in-depth training in creating social businesses and in developing measurable, personal plans.
- ❖ Created a booklet to help people start social businesses.
- ❖ Produced a 30-minute film about a Haitian success story of grassroots groups using social business to fund their children's education.

In the coming year, we will support participants to launch social businesses, host WorldBlu to teach about democratic workplaces, and the film we created will be broadcast to thousands via Haitian television. Together we can help bring rays of light through Haitian leaders.

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For more information on Haiti Partners' programs, please visit our w



Disciples Program

The Disciples program fosters faith and action in the light of the gospel. We do this by supporting Christian education in Haiti for churches, schools, and seminaries that encourages (a) spiritual growth, (b) better approaches to education and leadership, and (c) community development.

In the past year we:

- ❖ Chose 15 Haitian seminary students to receive full scholarship to Haitian seminaries through our new Micah Scholars initiative. The first class began seminary this September.
- ❖ Distributed Bibles to 10,000 people, in their native language of Creole, through our partnership with the Canadian Bible Society.
- ❖ Created a new discussion book on children's rights and the Bible, which will be a tool to encourage

Haitian churches to more actively protect society's vulnerable children.

- ❖ Provided training for dozens of Haitian churches through our four other Creole booklets on Christian education.

In the coming year, with your support we can continue these efforts as we launch the Micah Scholars initiative. We welcome your prayers as we continue to support Haitian Christians in their service of the light-giving, transformational power of the gospel in their spiritual and physical lives.



At the inaugural Micah Scholars retreat, young church leaders are excited to prepare for their first year of seminary.

Partners Program

Historically, Haiti's relationship with the outside world has been darkened by oppression, abuse, and mistrust. Unfortunately, it is hard to overcome these painful dynamics.

By bringing together churches, schools, businesses, and individuals from all walks of life, the Partners program gives opportunities for new light. Relationships among Haitians and North Americans are being built on learning, respect, and mutual growth, which gives us hope that our shared destiny will be brighter.



Students at Longfellow Elementary School in Wheaton, Illinois, raise support for education in Haiti.

In the past fiscal year:

- ❖ 15 groups, including a total of 94 people, have come to Haiti on a Partners Trip. Typically, these groups have stayed for 3 to 5 days, experiencing life with our colleagues and learning how they can help for the long-term from back home.
- ❖ Four schools are participating in our Change for Haiti Schools Program, a service-learning program that connects them with one of our Partner Schools in Haiti.

- ❖ Over a dozen churches continue to partner through prayer, giving, sending missions teams on a Partners Trip, and studying co-director Kent Annan's books, *Following Jesus Through the Eye of the Needle* and *After Shock*.

Relationships among Haitians and North Americans are being built on learning, respect, and mutual growth, which gives us hope that our shared destiny will be brighter.



Financial Report

We thank God for the generous support of all our friends and partners during the past year. In our first full year of operation, you gave a total of \$1,235,000 to help in Haiti. This generosity comes from individuals, families, churches, schools, businesses, and foundations. Amazing!

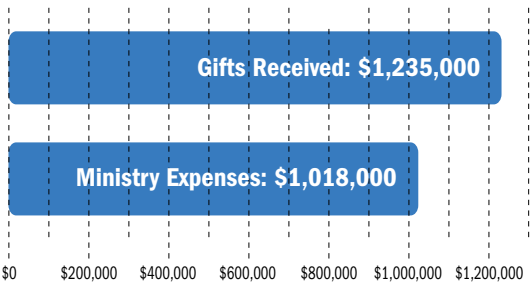
You made possible all the progress described in this annual report. Students and teachers are flourishing, leaders and disciples are maturing, and partners are assisting their Haitian colleagues in dramatic ways. What a joy to see all this developing.

This page shows 2010/2011 income and expenses, our projected 2011/2012 organizational expenses, and giving opportunities for the year ahead. We continue to work hard to be careful and conscientious stewards of the resources you give.

Your help is needed more than ever as we work for more light in the shadows. Your support is making a difference in the lives of children, women, and men in Haiti. Thank you!

2010/2011 Gifts Received and Expenses

Our revenue comes from generous gifts by individuals, churches, schools, businesses, and foundations.



To Give:

Please contact us by email at info@haitipartners.org or visit our website at www.haitipartners.org.

Audited financials available at www.HaitiPartners.org or by request.

2011/2012 Haiti Partners Budget

Your support is making a difference in the lives of children, women, and men in Haiti. Thank you!



Program Total 86.8%	\$985,000
Students Program:	\$444,000
Teachers Program:	\$40,000
Leaders Program:	\$165,000
Disciples Program:	\$211,000
Partners Program:	\$125,000
Fundraising 4.8%	\$54,000
Management 8.4%	\$96,000
Total Giving Opportunities for 2011/2012:	\$1,135,000



Five Ways You Can Partner for More Light

1. Sign up as \$1-a-day **Change for Haiti Partner**. This level of support can send a child to school or pay for training for teachers or pastors.
2. If you're part of a **church or small group**, you can partner in a way that brings you into closer communion with the people of Haiti. A few ideas: host a Haiti Partners speaker, connect with a Haitian school, sponsor a pastor's seminary education, and/or read co-director Kent Annan's books together.
3. If you are a **teacher** or have **children in school**, you can help your local school start a Change for Haiti campaign that will teach children about service, connect them with students in Haiti, and help them make a difference by providing needed resources for education.
4. Come to Haiti on a **Partner's Trip**. You'll start new relationships, experience the culture, and connect with Haiti Partners' work, which equips you to help for the long-term. Where particular skill sets match up, you might work directly with our Haitian colleagues.
5. Your **business** can get involved to inspire your colleagues and customers, and to make a difference in Haiti.

Partner Schools and Partner Seminaries



Locations of our seven Partner Schools.



Locations of three partner seminaries with Micah Scholars initiative.



Tony Campolo, renowned speaker and author, is a longtime friend and supporter of Haiti Partners' work. We were pleased to host him recently in Haiti, and the students at Henri Christophe Community School loved meeting him.

Haiti Partners' mission is to help Haitians change Haiti through education for students, teachers, leaders, and disciples.

For details about our staff in the U.S. and Haiti, our board, our audited financial statements, strategy, and much more, please visit www.HaitiPartners.org/who-we-are/
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