



Helping Haitians  
Change Haiti  
Through Education

# HAITI PARTNERS

## Five Ways You Can Help Create More Stories of Change

1. Sign up as \$1-a-day **Change for Haiti Partner**. This level of support can send one child to school, or pay for six months of training for two teachers or pastors.
2. Come to Haiti on an **Advocacy Trip**. You'll start new relationships, experience the culture, and connect with Haiti Partners' work. Where particular skill sets match up, you might work directly with our Haitian colleagues.
3. Are you a **teacher** or do you have **children in school**? You can help your local school start a "School Change for Haiti" campaign that will teach children about service, connect them with students in Haiti, and help them make a difference by providing resources for education.
4. If you're part of a **church or small group**, partner with us 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, support education in Haitian churches, and/or read co-director Kent Annan's books together.
5. See how your **business** can get involved to inspire your colleagues, your customers, and to make a difference in Haiti.

Start a new storyline now by visiting [www.HaitiPartners.org](http://www.HaitiPartners.org), emailing [info@haitipartners.org](mailto:info@haitipartners.org), or calling 772-539-8521.



Kari Lipke visits with Daphnee Beaubrun and Fania Neptune, members of our Haiti Partners Youth Choir during a recent Advocates Trip.

## Financial Update

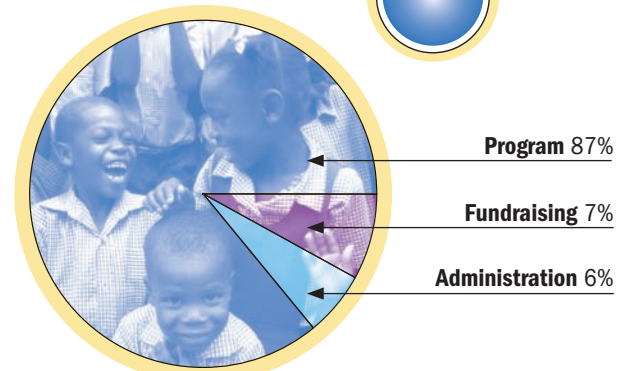
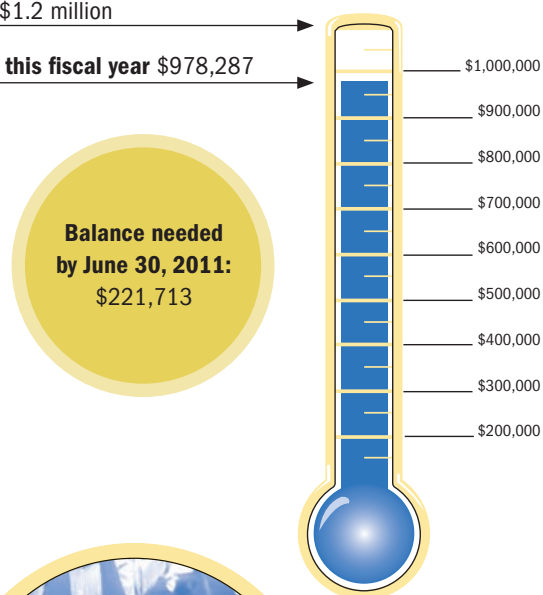
We thank God for your faithful support over the first ten months of this current fiscal year. As you can see, we kept our overhead costs down, so your generosity was directly creating stories of change in Haiti.

We stretched every dollar to have maximum impact—from emergency response, to rebuilding three schools that collapsed, to the ongoing educational work with children and adults. You did not hold back, so neither did Haiti Partners.

To effectively continue this work, we need a great response from our partners in May and June to meet the budget. Will you please help? Your generosity means we can keep moving forward with strength to help Haitians change Haiti through education. Thank you.

Total \$1.2 million

Given this fiscal year \$978,287



Summer/Fall 2011, Issue 2

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[www.haitipartners.org](http://www.haitipartners.org)

## Stories of Change

In the face of difficult challenges, our lives can be part of God's story of love and generosity.

Haiti still faces vast challenges that can overwhelm and break your heart. Sixteen months after the earthquake, life is still so hard for so many people. It's important to tell those stories.

But it's also important to hold up the encouraging stories – *Stories of Change*. Whether or not they make the headlines, these stories are real too and inspire us to keep doing the challenging work that remains.

We're so grateful to you as partners: for your stamina, your support, your prayers, and your response to the disaster and to ongoing education to "help Haitians change Haiti."

*"These people have given to me, to all my friends, the chance to go to school... And I want to say thanks to Haiti Partners for rebuilding our school."*

We're also grateful for and humbled by the courage, faith, and dedication of our Haitian colleagues and the communities we work with.

In the face of difficult challenges, our lives can be part of God's story of love and generosity. We're



Wilsenley Vixama, 6th-grade student, finds hope despite turbulence and change. He attends one of Haiti Partners' seven elementary schools. Three of the schools collapsed in the earthquake, and you helped rebuild them this past year.

moved and inspired by the stories of people on the following pages, including two people who will tell you their own touching stories.

Wilsenley reminds us that we have to—and we get to—be part of these stories of change:

I'm 12 and come from a family with three boys. I'm the oldest, and my youngest brother is two years old.

My mother died giving birth to him. "I was in 4th grade when my mom died. My brother and I had a hard time going to school that year [Haiti Partners' IMN Community School]. But our principal, Maxandre Bien-Aime, encouraged my father to keep sending us even though we didn't really want to go. We went, and started liking it more.

Stories of Change continued on page 2

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/](http://www.HaitiPartners.org/who-we-are/)

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## Teaching Change

**Stories of Change** continued from page 1  
 “The following year, the earthquake destroyed our house and the school completely. I was just a little boy and didn’t know what was going to happen. I asked myself where the principal would find the money to rebuild the school. My head was spinning. I began asking God, “Why me?”

“When the principal announced a parents’ meeting, a small bud of hope began to rise up in my head. My father came home from the meeting with a little money to help us eat, a gift from the school. But my father also had something even better: news that my school would be rebuilt and start again!

“When we returned to classes, our principal introduced us to friends from the U.S., supporters of Haiti Partners who were providing money and classroom materials for our new school.

“These people have given to me, to all my friends, the chance to go to school. I’m in 6th grade now and will take the national exams in June. My teachers and principal are confident I’ll pass and be able to go on to 7th grade. I hope so. And I want to say thanks to Haiti Partners for rebuilding our school.”

**Recently 1,000 Port-au-Prince and Leogane-based educators completed a 3-month Circles of Change training funded by a grant from USAID.** The training emphasized civic empowerment. Educators learned participatory teaching and leading techniques as they studied the Haitian Constitution and their own civic responsibilities.

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**Some of the 1,000 educators who received certificates through Haiti Partners’ USAID-funded training this past year.**

Our Teachers Program cultivates the skills people need to better work out problems, find solutions, and collaborate effectively. Educators spend weeks reading and discussing the constitution. They also examined thought-provoking texts from Aristotle, Plato, the Bible, and African and Haitian folklore. They were trained in Open Space, a method for organizing meetings to help groups work effectively on issues participants deem important. And they put this training to use right

away by each holding two Open Space meetings in their local communities.

This training project for 1,000 people, which took place in two cities that are still largely in ruins, was put together and launched within just a few weeks of being approved. It was successful because of Haiti Partners’ extensive network of well-trained, dedicated Haitian colleagues. To them, and everyone else who makes this work possible, thank you for helping to “teach change” in Haiti this year.

## Changing Leadership

**The successful long-term development of Haiti relies on Haitians acquiring the skills to exercise independence and autonomy in respectful ways.**

Unfortunately, most Haitians lack both the practical skills to make them effective leaders and the experience that would allow them to lead inclusively and respectfully. Haiti’s history is only too clear on this point.

Haiti Partners is addressing this need through its Capacity Building trainings. These trainings, generously funded by the Vista Hermosa Foundation, have been taking place since February 2009. Four times a year, forty community leaders from all over Haiti convene to strengthen their leadership capacity so they can be more effective change agents in their own communities.

These women and men have learned how to integrate computers into their work; create measurable personal plans with clear goals and evaluation; apply participatory, democratic leadership methods;



**Joanne Engquist, a chaplain at Boston University and pastor of University Lutheran Church, huddles with Thialensla Registre and other students from the IMN Community School.**

and to network to find resources they need to turn ideas of change into reality.

Our current focus is on creating “social enterprises,” small businesses designed to support our leaders’ grassroots development projects. Socially responsible entrepreneurship is vital to

generating revenue with the ultimate goal of making these leaders’ projects sustainable. With the expertise of project partners from Grameen Creative Lab (an offshoot of Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammed Yunus’s Grameen Bank) and the commitment of our network of leaders, we see great hope for positive change.



## Follow Our Blog

**You can follow these and more stories of change on our blog. Our “15 Months After the Earthquake” report is there. Updates (including short videos) are posted a couple of times each week: [www.haitipartners.org/the-blog](http://www.haitipartners.org/the-blog)**

## A Pastor’s Ministry Changes

“I’ve been pastor of Emmaus Church in Iske for 15 years. For the first 10 years I didn’t have a good attitude. I thought I was the only rooster that could crow [a great Creole phrase, meaning: the only one who could give leadership]. Our church wasn’t progressing. We were frustrated and wasting people’s gifts and potential.

Then five years ago I received training and educational materials on Bible study and prayer [from the Disciples Program]. These approaches to the Bible, to education, to leadership—they completely transformed my life as a leader.

I learned how to encourage other people’s talents. Now our church has grown to 125 people. Very few people had Bibles before, but now they do [through Haiti Partners’ partnership with the Canadian Bible Society to provide 10,000 people with Bibles in Creole each year]. Now our church members are sharing in leadership of preaching, Bible study, community development projects, and encouraging our children’s education. More people are discovering God’s will.

We’re really making a difference for our community now—in spiritual and practical ways. And we’re so grateful for the people who helped make this transformation possible.”

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**An egg and a coconut! Pastor Joseph Asner holds “fruits” from Haiti Partners’ poultry and garden projects with area churches.**