

Vermont Haiti Project

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Donations and grants received: \$49,300

Detail of expenses and revenue allocated:

Duchity Vocational Center: \$37,900

The vocational school graduated 55 students in 2019. Students started the 2019-2020 school year in the popular Plumbing course, and the new and highly anticipated Electrical course. Other courses are on hold due to the need to cut costs. Alumni of the vocational school's construction, tiling, agriculture, computer science, plumbing, English and welding courses continued to be successful in employment. Payroll support for the school continued at \$750 a month and supplies were purchased.

The economic situation in Haiti this year deteriorated with the gourde being devalued significantly, fuel tripling in price and food costs rising constantly. We did not attend graduation in November due to violent protests and roadblocks in Port au Prince and Les Cayes. Earlier in the year, two U.S. school groups cancelled their planned trips with VHP for the same reason.

In January, the solar energy system was upgraded. The size of the solar array was increased from 300 watts to 1200 watts; new batteries, a new inverter and a charge controller were installed. This work was done by the Solar

SEED Project who initially installed it in 2012.

Construction primarily focused on masonry of the main building, the perimeter wall and the small schoolhouse. In June, the masonry crew averaged 20 people per day, including graduates of the two-year vocational course. Another crew painted the concrete main building. The expenses that month were \$4,575 for 2,427 total hours of labor and \$7,544 for locally sourced materials. Also this year, 6 doors were purchased, 2 bathrooms were finished and approximately 350 chairs were purchased for the auditorium, and improvements were made to “Fr. Bill’s workshop”.

High school students continued using classrooms at the vocational school after they were displaced from their school by 2016 Hurricane Matthew. Work on the current disaster-resistant dome shelters continued.

Water purification: \$14,750

An additional 45 Biosand water filters were installed in the villages of Duchity and Desab, and instruction for use and follow up were provided. Each filter can serve 10-20 people, resulting in around 675 or more people having access to clean water. In the past 10 years, having access to a water filter from this VHP program has helped over 10,000 people. The technicians continued to meet with people in the villages to teach about clean water and proper hygiene. An educator at the vocational school taught

about clean water while providing buckets of clean water to those stopping by. The results were seen as people did not get waterborne illnesses and children were able to go to school.

In March, the team was finally able to travel to Duchity to deliver and install water filters to families who were waiting for close to a month. The delays were due to political unrest, unsafe travel and roadblocks. In August, fifteen water filters were brought up to Duchity from Port au Prince during a period when the roads opened and there was a break in street protests.

Primary Education: \$1,700

The students in grades 5-8 at John Wallace Middle School in Newington, CT collected coins and dollar bills and raised \$1,700. These funds were used for the elementary school in Duchity to make benches, buy tiles and cement for a classroom, make lockers, purchase twelve backpacks and school supplies for the best students of the year, and pay teachers the bonus they did not receive the previous year.

Microloan program: \$500

The interest-free loan program in Desab continued to support basic business and entrepreneurship. An additional \$400 was allocated in 2019 for the first and

second groups to start their next round of loans. The groups are 4 women each. Payback from the second group will cover startup for a third group next year. \$100 was allocated for the organizer and mentor of the program, a long-time community leader with a degree in business administration.

Administrative costs: \$1,850

Annual IRS filing, bank fees, website domain, postage, March meeting day in Haiti.

Communicating and maintaining ties between Vermont and Haiti is what keeps the projects working, and the value of this volunteer time cannot be measured in dollars.

It is the policy of Vermont Haiti Project to never compensate any directors or officers.

Prior years' financial statements available upon request to vermonthaitiproject@gmail.com