



# The Eyes of Haiti look to us for help...

## What will your money buy for yourself and What could it buy for those in Haiti?

### in U.S.

### in Haiti

**\$25**

Feeds a family of four one meal at a fast food restaurant.

Feeds a family of four for two weeks.



**\$50**

Buys a medium priced pair of shoes.

Makes 6 school uniforms to be used by students for up to three years.



**\$100**

**Almost** buys a college textbook.

Pays tuition for one year at one of St. Raphael's Parish School.



**\$500**

Pays for a weekend getaway at a nearby city

Feeds 30 children two daily meals in the nutrition program for one month.



**\$1000**

Buys that new living room set you have been planning.

Pays for one semester of college at a local university.



**\$5000**

Would be a nice down payment on that sun-room you always wanted.

Would drill a well to get good water to be purified and given to people to live.



## Frequently Asked Questions

How did the parish twinning program begin for the Catholic Community of Jeffersonville?

The Parish Twinning Project of the Americas (PTPA) was founded in the late 1970's by Theresa Patterson after she had visited Haiti. Her dream was to match Haitian parishes with American parishes for the purpose of working collaboratively for the advancement of both groups of people. In 2001, Sacred Heart Parish requested a twinning and was assigned to partner with St. Raphael Parish in St. Raphael, Haiti. In 2009, St. Augustine Parish Council approved joining Sacred Heart in this ministry making it a ministry of the entire Catholic Community of Jeffersonville.

What projects have been accomplished so far?

Since 2001, the twinning has provided over \$150,000 in support for the people of St. Raphael and the people of Haiti (some of that money was directed to Port-au-Prince after the earthquake). Almost \$100,000 of that money has come in the last two years. Education, nutrition and self-sufficiency are some of the goals of the Haiti Committee's projects. Over the last ten years we have assisted with:

- We have supported 2 Catholic schools, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and St. Joseph's School in the town of St. Raphael.
- We have begun a nutrition program to feed between 50-60 malnourished children two good meals every weekday.
- We have helped pay the staff of the parish center.
- We opened an internet café and have assisted with its expansion.
- We have purchased three generators (each growing in size due to expanded needs).
- We have helped maintain the physical structures and the parish vehicle.
- We supported the beginning of a Satellite Branch of Fonkoze Bank, the premier micro-lending bank in Haiti.
- We support four seminarians from St. Raphael and have seen the first one ordained to the priesthood this past year.
- We have supported a nursing student and an agriculture student at University.

What are the priorities of the Haiti Committee for this coming year?

First of all we want to continue all the projects we have going right now (the annual cost of our ongoing projects total \$33,00.) In addition to those projects we hope to be able to meet the needs that Fr. Sem, St. Raphael's pastor, has designated. His priorities for the coming year(s) are the following:

- Replace the entire roof of the Parish Center. The current roof is very unsafe as well as allows water to enter into the main building causing it to flood in the rainy season. The wooden beams that support the sheet metal roof are rotting and could collapse. A new roof with metal trusses and new sheet metal would cost about \$14,000. Later he would like to put in a ceiling and electricity for the activity center. Cost for that additional work is \$26,000.
- Clean water is always a problem in Haiti. Food for the Poor has donated one water purification system to St. Raphael. A new well must be dug to make it operational. This would provide clean water for the entire parish. Cost to dig the well is estimated to be between \$5000 and \$10,000. The schools already have the wells, but need the purification systems which run about \$3,000 each. Total Cost: \$11,000-16,000
- Another problem in Haiti is electricity. Rural areas like St. Raphael have no electrical power. We have assisted with placing generators in St. Raphael. However, generators require fuel and are expensive to operate. Solar powered inverters make good use of one of Haiti's natural resources (the sun). The sun charges the batteries in the day and the batteries supply power throughout the night for items like refrigerators. An inverter costs \$2,500 (they have one and need a second) and the batteries (48 are needed) cost \$160.00 each. Total cost: \$10,180

Is it true that, due to corruption, it is not safe to send money to Haiti?

Corruption certainly exists in Haiti as it does in most third world countries (and in our own). We send money using electronic transfers from our bank, Your Community Bank, and Fonkoze Bank in Haiti. Fr. Tom emails Fr. Sem and tells him of the transfer. Fr. Sem is then able to go to Fonkoze Bank in St. Raphael and receive the money. We have been using this system for the last several years and there has never been a problem with sending or receiving money. When we ship supplies we use a container through PTPA and we have never lost anything in those shipments either. One of the purposes of our trips to Haiti is to monitor that the money we send is being spent on those projects for which it is designated. We have never found an instance where it was not.