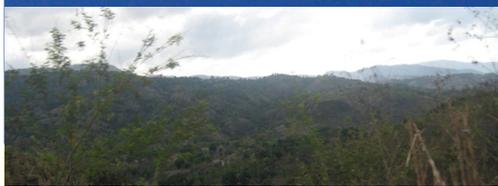


Newsletter June 2013

# Haiti Projects

*Empowering Women since 1994*



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PURE LINEN, ORGANIC COTTON, QUALITY YARN

## An inside look at why materials matter

***If you ask HP founder, Sarah Hackett, why materials matter, she'll give it to you straight "you can't let the women spend hours embroidering exquisite motifs on materials that aren't quality...." Below we explore the fabrics that she selected for HP wares.***



I have fond memories of seeking out the cotton plants that I saw as a child growing wild along the walking paths of Haiti's beaches. Little tufts of cotton exploded out of their husks, waiting to be gathered up. The cotton balls were thin and the texture soft, and spongy. The purity of the raw cotton remains strong in my memory.

Someday we hope to source our cotton from Haiti. For now, our cotton is imported raw from Indonesia and combed and finished in the US. It is considered the finest quality; thin, soft, pure, washes well, dries quickly, and is soft against the skin of the woman embroidering it and the woman who will eventually wear it.

.....  
**"We only use 100% pure linen, organic cotton, and quality yarn" -SARAH**

Our linens and yarns are selected for quality, refinement and texture. Linen is made from flax seed. Once the woody outer layer is removed, the fiber of each seed is spun into threads and woven into a cloth that doesn't pill or lose its form. The heavy linen is cut and sewn into table napkins and aprons. The handkerchief linen is light, cool, breathes well against the skin and is used to create our demoiselle nightgown, an exquisite piece shaped to a woman's body. Our organic cotton yarn is knitted into baby sweaters that are soft against the baby's skin, durable, and easy to wash. Please visit: [haitiprojects.org](http://haitiprojects.org) ■

## Welcome

Dear Reader,

Change, change, change. Haiti Projects (HP) has undergone a transformation. We welcome new Board Chair, Jim Tew and Vice Chair, Vickie Rothbaum, who have been working tirelessly to rethink the way that HP does business. I am honored to be part of these change as HP's new CEO. Together we are rethinking HP, devising new strategies for success and sustainability, and building new partnerships. In addition, Sarah Hackett stepped out of retirement to help direct and upgrade HP's Clinic, and Renee Ryan has been an anchor, remaining steadfast on production. These changes mark a rebirth for HP; a time to focus on what matters and why, and a time to set goals and priorities that will accelerate HP's transformation from a traditional nonprofit to a powerful social enterprise.

*Kenbe La!*  
 --Cherie



# Did you know...

Fond-des-Blancs means “valley of the white people”? We asked an elder, Sr. Jeanine Bissereth, to explain the history and this is what she says...

Fond-des-Blancs is a diverse region that includes immigrants of many origins -- Spain, Italy, Poland, Germany, Israel, China, Africa, Russia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Syria, Lebanon and indigenous islanders. Immigrants arrived in Haiti in waves over time, seeking fortune. The Polish, however, have a unique connection. Folklore has it during the Haitian Revolution, Napoleon hired Polish mercenaries to fight against the Haitians. At a certain point in the struggle, the Polish forces switched sides to fight along side the Haitians and against the French. After the Revolution, these whites settled in the region of Fond-des-Blancs. It is also said that at the time of the Revolution, many whites stashed their treasures in the mountains while they helped Haiti fight for her independence. Today in Fond-des-Blancs you can find people with different shades of hair, with white, brown, or black skin, and with blue, green, or brown eyes. ■

## NEWS FLASH

Today

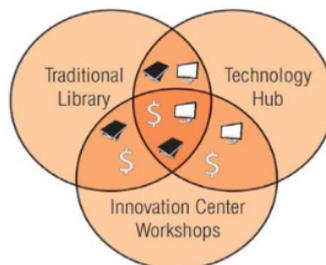
DUNCAN KINCADE

At MIT donated gently-used IMACs and PCs to our Library in Fond-Des-Blancs!

HP'S CHALLENGE TO GROW AND CHANGE

# W.K. Kellogg Foundation Challenge to HP

***This year Haiti Projects received its largest ever matching grant from the W.K. Kellogg foundation. For every \$2 raised, Kellogg will match \$1 up to \$474,000. The grant provides HP with the resources to expand the Artisanat, upgrade the clinic, and build a new library. In this issue, we focus on the library plans.***



Library with Additional Programs Proposal

Plans are underway to expand the existing library into a Tech Hub/Community Cultural Center for the region of Fond-des-Blancs. There are very few libraries in Haiti where kids can borrow books, surf the web, and engage in culturally enriching activities. Haiti Projects' new Tech Hub/Community Cultural Center will build on its existing successes to host literacy programming, youth clubs and talent competitions (including our girls soccer program), after school classes, and a variety of computer classes.

Our current facility is approximately 1100 square feet, while the propose facility would more than double the size, and be handicap accessible. The new Tech Hub/Community Cultural Center will be able to serve more than the current 700 members.

Here are the current library programs in brief:

1. Lending Library: Over 700 members of the community library can borrow books and surf the internet cafe.
2. Summer Literacy Enrichment Program: 20 children this summer will work with two teachers develop their reading skills.
3. Lecture Series: Each Thursday night, a variety of lectures are presented at the library on topics such as agriculture, Voudoun, and Haitian history.
4. Saturday Kids Club: Approximately 25 children, ages 3 and 8, gather to read, write, draw and sing. Each child is provided with a small lunch and sometimes a popsicle treat.
5. Book mobile: A motorcycle delivers much-needed borrowed books to nearby schools.
6. Bookclub: Books are selected to read and review certain evenings.

### **One young man discusses his experiences growing up with the HP library:**

“As a child I spent much time at the library. It was open to everyone in the community who wanted to learn to read. We had a cyber cafe where you could use the Internet for research for school projects. On Saturdays, programs for little children were offered and we could develop our talents in song, poetry, writing and organized play. The library currently needs many repairs and computers and we hope HP will build a new one.”

Please consider a donation to the library fund. ■





# Focus on Literacy

HP's library in Fond-des-Blancs is poised to offer to youth a series of reading classes this summer.

The classes will be taught by two local teachers and will provide much needed summer enrichment for children.

The program is designed to work on elementary reading skills using elementary Kreyol reading programs.

This program is sponsored in part by the "Friends of Sarah Hackett" who believe in the power of education to expand minds and change the world. ■

## HP'S CHEIF STEPS ASIDE

### A Tribute to Lummy Gannett

Lummy Gannett recently stepped down as Board Chair after a decade of dedicated service. She has given her time, her resources, and her heart to HP. She played a critical role in bringing people together to keep HP focused on its core mission. But Lummy could also roll up her sleeves to fold sweaters, price items, help with inventory, and host a sales event at her home. We especially remember her care for Staff, occasionally preparing egg-salad sandwiches for lunch and bringing snacks and drinks to those working in the office. Thank you, Lummy, for all that you have given to Haiti Projects! ■



Lummy in action

## CONNECT THROUGH SOCCER

### Soccer + Youth = Success

***HP launches and links two new programs this summer -- the HP girls soccer team in Fond-des-Blancs and the HP Young Ambassador Program.***

HP launched a girls soccer program in Fond-des-Blancs that has caught fire, with 54 players, ranging in age from 13 to 28. The players hail from six different in-town schools. Practices, games, and instruction in life skills are just a sampling of the programming



offered. Molly Klarman and Taryn Silver, the program coordinators, find practices fast, furious, and well attended. The girls are placed on either the A Team or B Team. The two teams practice separately during the week and then square off for games on

weekends. In May, the A and B teams combined forces to face a team from Ti Goave. More than 100 people turned out to pay (about 20 cents) to watch the match. Funds raised were used to pay the transportation costs of the opposing team. Our HP team lost 3 to 2, but played hard and had fun.

Nearly 1,000 miles north in Hanover,



MA, Hana, Marissa and Stephanie are collecting soccer balls, and equipment to send to our girls in Haiti. These young women are part of HP's new Young Ambassador Program, connecting youth in the world through soccer. Our goal is to harness the power of soccer, public service, and leadership to help youth impact their world. Our Young Ambassadors organize fundraisers, events, and hope to travel to Fond-des-Blancs to meet their counterparts to play a few matches. ■

# Wisdom from Haiti

**This month we share 10 Haitian Proverbs from "Hidden Meanings; Truth and Secret in Haiti's Creole Proverbs" by Wally R. Turnbull**

**1** "Pye bwa ki wo di li we lwen, gren pwomennen di li we pase l."

Translation: The tall tree says it sees far, the wandering seed says it sees more.

**2** "Malfini pou grann, poul pou grann."

Translation: The hawk is Grandma's; the chicken is Grandma's.

Meaning: No matter the behavior (good/bad), grandparents love grandchildren.



washing a newly sewn nightgown

**3** "Ou pa bay chen an kanson; ou pa ka veye chita l."

Translation: You didn't give the dog a pair of pants; you cannot tell him how to sit."

Meaning: Unless one provides the supplies, one cannot dictate how they are used.

**4** "Yon sel dwet pa manje kalalou."

Translation: You cannot eat okra with one finger.

Meaning: People need to cooperate.

**5** "Pa achete rad nwa nan nwit."

Translation: Don't buy black clothing at night.

Meaning: Make sure that you see and know what you are getting into.

.....  
**"The rooster's advantage lies in his spurs."**

-- Haitian Proverb

**6** "Piti piti zwazo fe nich."

Translation: Little by little the bird makes a nest.

Meaning: Goals are accomplished one step at a time.

**7** "Se senk kob ki fe goud."

Translation: Pennies make the

**HP Yard Sale**

**Time to clean out those basements!**

**Save the date for our Yard Sale on Saturday**

**October 19, 2013**

**9 Locust Ave, Lexington.**  
 We are collecting new and gently-used items. All donations are tax deductible (rain date Oct. 26)

gourde (20 cent piece).

Meaning: Little things add up.

**8** "Kat je pa koupe bwa kwochi."

Translation: Four eyes do not cut a tree crookedly.

Meaning: Working together gets the job done better.

**9** "Bay bef pou Kbrit."

Translation: You gave a cow for a goat.

Meaning: A bad deal.

**10** "Kouri bourik ou, lale gran."

Translation: Run your donkey; the road is wide.

Meaning: Make the most of a good opportunity.■

## Who we are...

### Staff

- Cherie Miot Abbanat, CEO  
cherie@haitiprojects.org
- Renee Ryan, Production  
renee@haitiprojects.org
- Jean Rene Leseau, Artiisanat
- Fenol Jacquotin, Assistant
- Jeannine Bissereth, Treasurer
- Annius Etienne, Driver

### Board Members

- Jim Tew, Chair  
jim@haitiprojects.org
- Vickie Rothbaum, Vice Chair  
vickie@haitiprojects.org
- Aaron Noble, Treasurer
- Charlot Lucien
- Susan Baldwin
- Pierre Valette

### Advisors

- Sarah Hackett
- Michelet Mascary

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!!!

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Glovsky and Glovsky, Kenneth Horak, Sarah Selden, Will Brownsberger, Junie Tew, and Timothy MacKinnon

## Thank You to Our Volunteers!!!

Catherine Celestin, Molly Klarman, Sarah Charland Lassage, John Diehl, Anna Abbanat, and Breanna Faye

This newsletter is published by:

**Haiti Projects, Inc.**  
**136 Rantoul Street, Beverly, MA 01915 USA**  
**haitiprojects.org** 978.969.1064  
 E-mail: renee@haitiprojects.org

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## How can you get involved?

- Volunteer with the HP Team
- Become a HP corporate sponsor
- Buy our products online at [haitiprojects.org](http://haitiprojects.org)
- Like us on Facebook
- Give items to the yard sale
- Join our young ambassador program
- Donate funds to support our many programs