



# PARTNERS FOR HAITI

## **Haitian Ministries for the Diocese of Norwich, Inc.**

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With the Haitian proverb ‘Men anpil, chay pa lou’ (Many hands lighten the load) as our guide, we work to support and empower the Haitian people.

Haiti, just 600 miles from Florida, is the poorest nation in the Americas. Struggling to establish a democracy, it is a country where the average age of mortality is 53 and where the literacy rate is 51 percent. The country has only one doctor for every 10,000 people. For most of the 8 million Haitians – many surviving on less than \$1 a day – health care is far out of reach. Also, fewer than 60% of the children attend school. Because the government provides little in the way of public education, many families struggle to pay tuitions at private schools.

In our mission of ‘Helping Haitians help Haitians,’ we support Haitian agencies assisting those most in need. We fund orphanages, a meals program, and medical clinics. We also support a scholarship program, an environmental education project, and a small business loan program.

*(Please see the other side for information on our programs.)*

## Our Programs

**Emergency Relief:** We help Haitian organizations aiding families in disaster areas, where hurricanes and flooding have caused landslides and other devastation. We also fund a reforestation project to reverse the ruination caused by centuries of exploitation of the once-verdant countryside.



**Orphanage Support:** We support two orphanages that provide health care and education for children who have lost their parents or have been abandoned. There is no institutional structure in Haiti to care for these children and others like them.

**Neighborhood Meals:** This program began in 1985, when Mme. Samson, a neighbor to our agency's Norwich Mission House in Port-au-Prince, approached our staff for help to feed children nearby. Today she offers vitamins and a meal, five days a week, to more than 75 children, many of whom get their only food at her small home.

**The Tierney-Tobin Memorial Scholarship:** Haitians know that education is likely the only route out of poverty, and often families go without food to put their children in school. This program sponsors about 100 students with full tuitions and books for their classes. Once sponsored, a student remains in the program until high school graduation, on condition of high marks. We have many children on a waiting list.

**Neighborhood Micro-Credit:** We grant small loans to market women and skilled laborers who need money to buy merchandise to start small businesses or tools for their crafts. Oftentimes, a \$100 investment can help a merchant to become self-sufficient and support her family.

**Medical Assistance:** We support the following:

- **Notre Dame de Lourdes Neighborhood Medical Clinic:** In addition to her orphanage, Foyer des Filles, Paula Thybulle founded a clinic for the poor. Open daily, it provides consultations and medical treatments for less than \$3 a person.
- **Emergency Medical Assistance:** At Norwich Mission House, we give money for treatment, operations, and medication to our neighbors in emergencies.
- **Medical Missions:** We send teams of doctors, nurses and lab technicians to work with Haitian caregivers at Notre Dame de Lourdes, out on mobile clinics, and out in rural communities.



**Immersion-Retreat Visits to Haiti:** As part of our mission to build relationships between Haitian and American communities, we host retreats, when visitors stay at the Norwich Mission House. We invite people to spend 10 days traveling in Haiti, visiting orphanages and clinics, and getting to know the people.

**Artisan Support:** Through our shop – Haiti's Back Porch – in Middletown, Conn., we support hundreds of artisans in Haiti. These artisans work with every type of medium to create unique and beautiful goods, and our shop offers a wide range of their crafts. For more information and hours, call: 860-344-9547.

***To learn more about Haitian Ministries or to make a donation, please contact Kyn Tolson, Director of Development, at: 860-848-2237 x 206, or at: 860-575-8691.  
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