

HAITI NEEDS YOU 2015 NEWSLETTER

1011 Arianna NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

"To live charitably means not looking out for our own interests, but carrying the burdens of the weakest and the poorest among us." Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

Through your support, we have been able to serve the poorest country in the Western hemisphere: our beloved Haiti. Thank you for helping to make dreams a reality this year: by providing water filters and latrines making people healthier, by making medical and dental missions trips possible, and by building a house for a dear friend of ours. **Looking ahead to 2016**, we are planning dental missions, high school trips, and looking into setting up speciality teams to work in the Port au Prince area. Thank you for your generous support so that we can continue to care for our brothers and sisters in Haiti! **We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with love, joy, and peace!**

Jim Ryan



Healing the Children - Ludiana's parents came to us in January, and we were able to coordinate and fund the surgery for her in April. Her parents are thrilled with the results of the cleft palate surgery. Samuel's parents also came in January looking for help for his feet. He will be evaluated this December to see if he is a candidate for surgical correction. We will keep you updated on his progress.



High School Summer Trip - Blog Post from Patrick Truskowski in Seguin on July 1, 2015: *"The long journey and my adventures in Haiti have come to an end. Although I am sad to leave, there are few feelings that beat being at home. Haiti now feels like a second home to me. The people are so grateful for everything you do for them whether it's something as big as helping them build a house or giving them a tarp to put over theirs. It may even be as small as giving the kids a high five or letting them hold your hand as you walk through the mountains. But I personally feel the most important job that we did was deliver water filters. Having clean water can do so many things: help people live longer, stronger, and healthier lives. The joy that comes to people's faces when they get a water filter is beyond*

belief. One filter can change a family. Now, add up all the filters we gave out and we are changing the world a small step at a time. Plus, the satisfaction you get when you help people is a feeling that cannot be described with words. I love helping people and going to Haiti turns my love into joy for others. Which is another reason I can call Haiti home."

616-430-9875 - tim@haitineedsyou.com - www.haitineedsyou.com

“Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God.” Pope Francis



Roger’s House, From a Dream to Reality

Roger has captured the hearts of many who have travelled to Seguin. Being blind and living on a rocky mountain is quite a feat; yet, Roger proceeds daily with a positive attitude. His house was very small and leaked when it rained. Once some of us saw where he lived, we worked together to build him a new house for which he is so grateful.



Our Lady of Consolation March Trip - Blog Post from Amy Veltkamp in St. Jacques de Majeur in Oranges on March 18, 2015: *“Yesterday we started the medical clinic and have seen about 800 patients so far. Many of the people walked for hours to get to us. Most of them have had very little access to any kind of healthcare before. I think what has surprised me the most is the number of infections we have seen. In America infections are rare, here it is the norm. Almost every one of the patients we have seen has had either a bacterial, fungal, or worm infection. Things that we don’t even think twice about in the States, like having clean water to drink from and bathe in, are very hard to come by here. It feels good to know we are helping, but at the same time it is frustrating because you know that once they run*

out of medications, there is a good chance they will get infected again because they just don’t have the access they need to clean water and food. There is a lot of work that will still need to be done here at St. Jacques after this mission. Our water filter project planned for the fall will be such a blessing for these people! (Sidenote: Who knew a bucket shower by flashlight could be so refreshing?) At dinner tonight, we were having a discussion with the Haitian doctor who is working with us. His words of wisdom for tonight: “Love is bigger than religion, politics, or skin color.” He couldn’t be more right. That is exactly why we are all here. We are all having an amazing time spreading the love in Haiti!!”

Holy Spirit Parish January Trip - Blog Post from Gary Marsiglia in Seguin on January 27, 2015: *“I first came to Seguin with the initial medical mission in 2001. At that time we saw a very unhealthy population with malnutrition, parasitic infections, scabies, goiters and multiple skin infections. In subsequent years we could see gradual improvements. My last trip here was in 2009, and now in 2015, I cannot believe how healthy the people look. We are really making a difference! By installing water filters, deworming twice a year, building latrines and giving the people medical education, the overall health in Seguin has improved. Our current medical team is working well together and we have seen around 1200 patients and still have one more day to go. Dental is seeing close to 80 people per day. We appreciate all of your support and prayers.”*

