

**Haiti Update** - Your prayers are needed. Unfortunately, life in Haiti is now more difficult than ever due to a gas shortage, 20% inflation increase since January, and government corruption. Delta is cancelling all flights into and out of Haiti beginning in January. Fortunately, after working in Haiti for 20 years, we have established strong secure relationships that allow us to continue our work without having to travel to Haiti.



Our focus this year is on **Family Involvement**. Typically, the experience of working in Haiti has such a profound impact on travelers that they get their families involved as well.

**The Mangan Family** - In high school, when Erin Mangan first told her parents that she would like to go on a mission trip to Haiti, their response was, "WHAT?!" She ended up going on three trips: once by herself with the group, another time with her dad David, and finally with her mom Laura.



*I am so sad to be leaving Haiti today. It has been such a blessing to be able to come here for the past three years. Meeting these amazing and gracious people has been the best experience of my life. The people here have so little, but are the most humble, kind, and beautiful people I have ever met. I hope to come back and see the people in Seguin again. I love this trip so much, and I am so thankful for this experience. ~ Erin Mangan*

**The Schichtel Family** - Three members of the Schichtel family went on a trip together, Lisa and two of her children. The plan was to go again with another daughter, but the trip this year was cancelled due to political unrest.

*For me personally, I have seen and learned things I will never forget. The people here may be less wealthy than we are, but they are much richer in spirit than we are. The environment they live in year after year is a situation that many of us complained about after a few days, but they never give up hope of a better future. Maybe we can learn something from them. ~ Jack Schichtel*

*Being here in Haiti for only a week has shown me so much more of this world. I really don't want to leave. Yesterday when we went to the orphanage, I talked to a woman who told me I would be back because when you come here to Haiti, you leave pieces of your heart, and you'll have to come back for it. I really do hope that someday I do come back. I will miss everything here: the culture, the views, and especially the people. ~ Maggie Schichtel*

*As I reflect on the last week, I realize the varying emotions I have felt each day. The first couple of days here were truly overwhelming for me. The conditions are beyond belief for any person in this day and age. No family should be forced to live this way. As the week went on I realized how much we have in common...the love parents have for their children, the willingness of a parent to make hard choices so their child has a better life, and most importantly the love we share in our Faith. ~ Lisa Schichtel*



**The Krueger Family** – Tom Krueger has done water testing on the filtration systems and has brought both his daughters with him to Haiti.



*This trip has exceeded all of my expectations so far. Everybody on this trip is so friendly and kind-hearted, from the students and adults to the locals. Language is not a barrier to communication, whether we are communicating through smiling and taking pictures, playing soccer and cards, or having dance parties, we always find a way to have a good time with everybody. This trip has been so incredible and life changing. ~ Kendall Krueger*

*My time in Haiti was certainly eye opening. The abject poverty and the lack of basic resources we take for granted is everywhere. But also is the compassion and gratefulness of the people of Seguin. To describe the fifteen girls who chose to give up their spring break to serve those less fortunate ... in a word ... impressive. There were a lot of physically and emotionally challenging moments, and the girls never complained, never wavered in their desire to help. They are an inspiration! ~ Tom Krueger*



**The McWain Family** – In 2014, the entire family went on a student trip together. Fred and Jennifer went as adult volunteers. Currently Leanne is in human resources at Ikus, a non-profit that helps individuals with disabilities. Chris is finishing a degree in Civil Engineering. This decision was born in Haiti because of the lack of basic infrastructure. He hopes to help Haiti rebuild someday.

*Today we got to cover the corn stalk houses with tarps and played with the children... Another part that really hit me in the heart was at the last house. I was playing and holding a little girl, and the father came up to me and offered me the child. It was so sad that he would say that, but also it was like he wanted his child to have a better life. ~ Leanne McWain*

*I am sure going to miss being on the mountain with all those beautiful people. Thank you, Haiti, for changing me for the better. ~ Chris McWain*

*Words cannot completely explain the experience. The students are a wonderful, energetic, faith-filled group who have taken on every task and adventure without any hesitation. They are all truly brothers and sisters in Christ. I am blessed immensely to be here with this group. ~ Jennifer McWain*

**West Catholic High School St. John Paul II Award** – On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, West Catholic High School honored Tim for his 47 visits to Haiti, involvement with 14 medical and dental missions, and his annual high school mission trips providing students from West Catholic and Catholic Central with a unique service opportunity. He is pictured here with his brother Pat Ryan and his sister Kathy Hopkins. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAV7I7pQgml&t=5s>



**Thank you** for your continued prayers and support as you help improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, health, and happiness.

*Tim Ryan*

President of Haiti Needs You