

## Haiti Committee Minutes

December 9, 2012

In attendance: Father Stephen Alcott, Jim Benedict, Tom Herlihy, Katie Hillgrove, Larry Hofmann, Anne and Mike Knasel, Joan McDonald, Maureen Minor, Joe Monaghan, Robert O'Brien, Vince Powers, Garrett Rapp, Jeff Sanborn, August Sanusi, Kathy Smith, Janet Stack, Mary and Mike Woloski, Ellen Zagrobelny, Ginny Zeller.

### **Action items are in bold type**

Anne Knasel called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Fr. Stephen offered the opening prayer.

### Haiti Education Fund Presentation (HEF)

Kathy Gross, Paul Fuhs, and John Beall presented school information and data from the Bureau Diocesain D'Education (BDE) for the diocese of Hinche, including specific data for St. Michel in Saltadere and St. Michel in Lagua. These data included information on examination schedules and results, teacher education levels, supervisor activities and reports, lists of primary and secondary schools, book lists, and a final report of the National Survey of Catholic Schools in Haiti sponsored by the Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education, Catholic Relief Services, and the University of Notre Dame. Kathy explained that the current mission of the HEF is primarily to provide support for teacher training and support to the BDE. They are currently seeking additional board members, especially those with some marketing and fund raising skills.

Handouts from the presentation can be found on the Haiti table at St. Thomas.

### Trip Report

Larry Hofmann reported on the recent trip that he and Bob Fromm took to Saltadere. Bob surveyed the damage done to the hose of the irrigation system at the school and also discovered that the pump had been damaged beyond repair. It will need to be replaced. While they were there the water line from the water source to the village became clogged and there was no water for the duration of their visit. The water committee met with Bob and he promised \$500.00 to help with repairs. Reportedly, the problem has been fixed and Saltadere now has water again.

Larry held a clinic with Gertrude's help and the assistance of a local translator. He examined most of the children living in the rectory compound and found most of them to be in good health. He referred one child who appeared to be deaf and without language to an ENT in Port au Prince. He delivered \$900.00 worth of medicines purchased at UVA and 1000 medicines donated by Medical Missionaries.

### Financial Report

Mike Knasel reported that our income in November was \$7367.00 (\$4975.00 from sponsorships) and our expenses were \$7907.69.

### Coffee Sales

Mike Woloski submitted a written report of the coffee sales to date. There have been 204 bags of coffee purchased from Singing Rooster. This equates to \$612.00 of direct coffee bean purchase (which is 172 times the average daily Haitian wage of \$3.56 by a 2008 estimate). As of December 2, 2012, we have an after-expenses profit of \$495.80. Our total sales as of 12/2 amount to \$1946.00. Mike thanked all the volunteers who have helped to sell coffee: Jim Benedict, Bob Fromm, Larry Hofmann, Anne and Mike Knasel, Joan McDonald, Julie Murphy, Trisch Schechtman, John Stack, Mary and Mike Woloski.

### Long Range Planning

Anne reported that she, Bob Fromm, Paul Dierdorf, and Larry Hofmann met to discuss long range financial planning. We sent \$6000.00 in December plus and additional \$6000.00 for back pay owed to teachers. Pere Ilric had used the school funds sent previously to finance nursing school tuition for 4 Saltadere students. We also sent \$500.00 promised by Bob Fromm for repairs to the water system. **The committee will try to establish a Skype connection with Pere Ilric to facilitate communication about financial expenditures.**

Anne met with Fr. Luke to discuss plans for more fund raising. Fr. Luke would like all fund raising to be done in conjunction with planning for broad parish service operations.

### Annual Haiti Gathering

St. Thomas will be hosting the annual Haiti Gathering on March 16, 2013.

### Sea Container

Kathy Smith reported that Pere Ilric picked up 47 of the 50 boxes sent in the sea container. The three missing boxes will be delivered to him when found.

### January Trip

Janet Stack reported that plans are underway for the dental trip 1/22-1/27. Those going will be Jack Kayton, Joan McDonald, Jeff Sanborn, Kathy Smith and Janet Stack.

The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Thomas.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. Fr. Stephen offered the closing prayer.

Minutes recorder: Janet Stack