

Education and Employment Equity for Women



Fondwa – In July, with help from PIP, Little Sisters of St. Antoine started a vocational school for young women called **The Professional School of Sisters of St. Antoine.**

The school

addresses the critical need for job training and livelihood

opportunities for women in rural Haiti. The Professional School trains young women in sewing and culinary arts. Classes started this summer with 30 students. Students were recruited from area villages, the Fatima House Orphanage, and St. Antoine's School. Partners in Progress provided tuition support for the initial class of students and will collaborate with the Sisters to develop a sustainability plan for the school.

Deslandes – Ecole Gamaliel Deslandes ("EGD") continues its efforts to create training and job opportunities for women in the field of construction -- opportunities that are rare in Haiti. As part of construction of the now completed EGD School facility, 12 women received training in compressed earth block ("CEB") construction, with 8 hired as general laborers or block makers. As EGD begins testing blocks in preparation for home and other CEB construction projects this month, additional women will be trained and employed as members of the CEB block making team.



Be a Partner in Progress!
 Donate Now, Support our Work in
 Haiti!
www.piphaiti.org
 We've moved! Find us at:
 2213 Brownsville Road (2nd floor,
 front) Pittsburgh, PA 15210

St. Antoine School Lunch Program

As the new school year gets closer, the Sisters of St. Antoine have identified a strategy for moving the school lunch program towards greater self-sufficiency. The plan involves continuing to purchase more food locally, while also developing farmland that will supply food for the lunch program. The Sisters have acquired land in the Central Plateau. The Sisters, PIP, EGD and leaders from the "Konbit Vanyan Kapab" Agroecology project are working together on a plan to develop the Central Plateau farm using agroecology methods that have proven to more than double food production in Deslandes.

Housing for Farm Families and Elders

Community planning for two housing projects launched

Community members from Deslandes worked with PIP architect, Adriana Duran, to create the home design and identify the major project plan elements of a pilot housing project. The pilot project would provide permanent housing for a minimum of 4 farm families, organized in traditional cooperative work groups called "Konbits." Families will be eligible to have a portion of their home loan forgiven in exchange for assisting in construction. Homes will be constructed using CEB technology. Plans for the pilot phase will be finalized in early September.

In Jacsonville, near the town of Pignon – PIP has been working with community elders to design phase one of an elders housing community. Phase one would provide housing, meals and elder care for about 20 elders. Says Community organizer Berteau Zephir: "This is a uniquely important project in Haiti. With so many other basic needs not being met in Haiti, the needs of our elders are often forgotten." PIP and the community planning committee hope to unveil the phase one project plan in the fall.



Farmer-to-Farmer Training

The last week of August, men and women farmers of the KVK Agroecology Project in Deslandes will participate in a training to prepare them to begin teaching agroecology methods to other farmers. The training will cover simple tips and techniques for planning and facilitating educational activities for adults. Farmers have set a goal of teaching agroecology methods to 100 additional farmers.