Making a beautiful and durable basket is a complex process, involving many hands. The place where basket material is gathered must be cooperatively managed so it is protected. Material has to be harvested at the right time, in the right way. Old and young must learn from each other so weaving techniques are passed to future generations.

PIP has found that the most successful development projects are those that involve authentic and equitable community participation. PIP engages diverse voices at every step of a project cycle – from prioritizing needs to planning, implementing and evaluating the project. This process involves communities locally, regionally and globally exchanging ideas and resources so that the best development options are considered.

For more on our development approach, visit PIP’s new website scheduled for launch in late December at www.piphaiti.org
The Project involves farm families organized in traditional work groups called Konbits. Each Konbit has four to five families. Families take out a home loan and pay what they can afford. The remainder of the loan is forgiven in exchange for helping other families build. Measures are taken to ensure that even the poorest families have a chance to participate in the project.

Men and women who were trained in CEB technology during construction of the Agroecology Resource and Cyber Center (“ARCC”) this past winter will be hired to provide training and supervision to families throughout the construction process. They will also be hired to manufacture the CEB blocks used to build the homes.

St. Antoine School (“SAS”) was established by the Asosasyon Peyizan Fondwa (“APF”) in 1993. The school provides pre-school thru “philo” (grade 13) education for children who come from Fondwa and 15 surrounding villages. Many of these children must walk 3 to 4 hours each way, every day to get to school! This daily feat is even more impressive when you consider the steep mountainous terrain of Fondwa and that children typically have nothing to eat before leaving for school.

Despite these challenges, SAS students consistently exceed the national average pass rate for standardized tests. Last school year, 84% of 9th graders passed their national “fundamental” exam compared to 72% nationally. PIP partners, Sacred Heart Church and St. Margaret Mary Church, provide support for teachers’ salaries and the school lunch program. This support is critical to making sure SAS students have the learning environment and nutrition they need to succeed.

Some of the partners who made it happen.

Asosasyon Peyizan Fondwa, Dominican University, Duquesne University, Earth Block International, Ecole Communautaire Gamalie Deslandes, Fatima House Orphanage, Friends of Anne, Jacsonville Planning Committee, Komite d’Planifikasyon Delandes, Maritech Engineering, Mt. St. Peters Church, Mullaney’s Harp and Fiddle, Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh, Ryan Family Foundation, Sacred Heart Church, Sisters of St. Antoine, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth KS, St. Antoine Professional School, St. James Church of Wilkinsburg, St. Margaret Mary Church, Twinning Parish, St. Sylvester’s Church, and many amazing individual donors and volunteers.