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### **Project Empower Abandoned Teens of NW Haiti**

Define Abandoned: Forsaken, left alone gave up. No family willing or able to live with. No one to help. No money to pay for school. Looking for odd jobs and begging for food. Poverty is often the root cause of child abandonment.

Define Empower: Authorize and enable an opportunity to learn resulting in credentials worthy of employment. Life changing hope for the future.

A person with faith, desire and vision to improve their status in life **will** learn and apply their education to producing meaningful and gainful self sufficiency through employment.

#### **About Hand and Hand the Bread of Life, Inc.**

Hand and Hand the Bread of Life, Inc. a 501c3 non-profit organization, was formed in 2002 by a small group of U.S. and Haitian American citizens who were seeking ways to alleviate poverty and provide **hope** through education to people in Haiti. The group's efforts are concentrated in Gwo Sab, a remote area of approximately 6000 people in northwest Haiti, far from bustling cities where most non-profit groups are based. The group's mission is to empower the people of rural Northwest Haiti by improving their quality of life through developing educational programs and micro-enterprise. (Tax I.D.#16-1654167)

#### **Accomplishments**

Our Goal of helping the people to provide for a better living was realized in our **Adult Education Center**. The Center, built in November 2006, has helped local families learn new skills and set an example for the youth of the importance of education for their future. Our vocational programs include sewing, tailoring, typing, cooking, and home economics. All our courses are taught by local Haitian certified teachers who had no opportunity for jobs before our facility was established. The Education Center is recognized by the Haitian government Department of Education.



We have directly improved the opportunity for self-preservation to the 500 plus students. Literacy and vocational training builds a base of strength that will allow these intensely poor people to start to break the cycle of helplessness and despair that has gripped this region for many years. We have seen first hand the amazing transformation of an entire region. It is the effect of a little hope in the future because someone cared to “help”. It can change a person and a community.

Through a designated grant from The International Foundation we built a bakery. The bakery provided a much needed local source of food, construction jobs, baking jobs and financial support of the Adult Education Center.

***How are we different?*** The executive staff is 100% volunteer. Our office is donated. All the money we have raised goes directly to help the Haitian community. We have provided jobs by building a school, construction workers and now teachers are employed. We also are driven by a heart to serve God by helping the poor and disadvantaged in Haiti.

### **The PROJECT FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

We have been approached by five young people who have expressed a desire to continue their academic education. Each one has grown up without the love and support of a mother and father. Seeking, they found hope, believing in God and His Savior Son Jesus. Their faith is strong in that God will provide for them and with God all things are possible. They are asking for our help.

In Haiti, a young person without parents or other extended family support has no chance to finish school. These young people need more than someone to pay for their continuing education. They need a home and guidance. Just a few years of someone caring enough to help them grow in their faith, along with food, clothing, life counseling, and the opportunity to finish school, will in fact change their lives for better forever.

These pictures demonstrate how Hand and Hand has helped the community.



From here

to here

and on to college

**Why young people need help to continue education?**

- Many young children are placed in distant communities as unpaid helpers in higher income households so they can be assured of adequate food, shelter, and maybe education. Children as young as 10 are forced to leave their homes and families as a means of survival. Some find themselves in abusive situations with little hope of escape.
- Fifty percent of the locals are illiterate, with about half the population completing one year or less of school.
- There are no government schools in the area. Tuition at the three private elementary schools ranges from \$.50 to \$1.00 per month and many families cannot send all of their children to school at the same time because the cost is prohibitive. Many families cannot afford to send their children to school at all.

For children who are fortunate enough to attend and finish the primary grades, there is no opportunity for further education and little opportunity for work in Gwo Sab. Middle and high school age children are left with few options but idleness.

**A student will have to travel 10 km by foot to attend a high school. A high school diploma is required before a student can continue higher education. The only college and universities are located in Port Au Prince 300 km away.**

After extensive interviews and counseling we believe God has great rewarding plans for these 5 young people's lives. You can help put these forsaken, unfortunate young people on the track for success and serving the Lord.

Cost for one teen for one year \$\_\_50.00 a month\_\_\_\_\_

Includes food and shelter; tuition, transportation, and clothing; guidance and supervision.