



SOUTH FLORIDA HAITI PROJECT



**What's
happening
in Haiti &
Bondeau?**

Education
Clean Water
Healthcare
Food Support
Sustainability

Mission:

Our shared partnership with the people of Bondeau, Haiti is to journey together embracing the transformative power of God's love.

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We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. — 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Dear Friends and Supporters of the South Florida Haiti Project,

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and generous financial support for the people of Bondeau, Haiti. For the last two years, it seemed unimaginable that the situation in Haiti could get worse; however, Haiti has faced the worst time yet in the first quarter of 2024. Absolute dysfunction politically combined with unbelievable gang violence has affected every facet of life in Haiti. Movement of both people and shipment of goods has been halted with gangs controlling passage in or out of Port au Prince. Experts of all kinds say conditions in Haiti have never been as bad as it is now. When we share that **your giving is truly life-giving, we hope you can absorb the reality of those words.**

Please continue your prayers and support. The situation remains dire.

We give thanks for your support of our partnership and shared mission— you make a very real difference in the lives of our partners in Bondeau facing such incredible hardship.

Status of Haiti as of May 2024:

There are no words to adequately describe the situation now in Haiti.

- Haiti's current ongoing political turmoil erupted in September 2019 as tens of thousands of Haitians took to the streets demanding the resignation of then President Jovenel Moise. Waves of crime and violence have rocked the country since his assassination in July 2021 that left a power vacuum.
- No federal elections have been held in years and now there are no longer any democratically elected officials in Haiti.
- With travel to, from, and within the country being life-threatening, there is scarcity of every kind. Prices for goods and services that *are* available have astronomically increased and are unaffordable.
- In 2024, there has been a significant escalation in violence and protests across Haiti. Gangs – particularly in Port au Prince and Artibonite controlling most those areas – effects are felt throughout Haiti paralyzing the country. The international airport has been closed in Port au Prince since March.
- The first quarter of 2024 was the deadliest for Haitians with around 2,500 people killed or injured in gang violence. Living everyday life is impossible – Haitians are living in fear & anxiety.
- 55% of Haitians (4.9 million people) are in high levels of acute food insecurity, including nearly 1.4 million people on the brink of starvation.
- Thousands of Haitians – over 362,000 – have fled their homes
- Oct 3, 2023 - The United Nations Security Council authorized a foreign security mission to Haiti led by Kenya to help fight the violent gangs. It has not yet been deployed to Haiti.
- US is not sending any troops, but is backing the multinational mission with logistical and financial assistance, that could include intelligence, airlift, communications and medical support.
- A Transitional Presidential Council was formed with the help of CARICOM (leaders from the other Caribbean nations). On May 1, a new Prime Minister was appointed by this Council and a President of the Council selected.

Status of Bondeau as of May 2024:

There are blessings and challenges...

- Gang activity is not present in Bondeau... no violence... and for that we give tremendous thanks.
- Collective earthquake damage to the Primary school buildings has rendered them unsafe... all 7 primary classes are in temporary classrooms with concrete foundations, corrugated siding & roof, with slatted openings for ventilation. Not optimum, but temporarily sufficient awaiting rebuilding.
- Refugees are arriving escaping the violent areas... population of Bondeau is swelling.
- Most refugees are children brought to the safety of Bondeau by their parents and left with family members as the parents return to try to earn money.
- Some families whose homes were burned or overtaken by the gangs are arriving who have nothing and are traumatized needing resources of every kind... food, housing, clothing, safety.
- As hunger and food insecurity was *already* the biggest issue in Bondeau, the increased population and need has brought hunger to a crisis level.
- School enrollment has grown to 380 students not including most refugee children that have arrived in the last 2 months... some classes are full... many more children will need to be accommodated in Fall
- Years of insecurity, earthquakes, hurricanes, fear, and now the unimaginable violence in the country has traumatized the community bringing an acute need of mental health resources.



So what is SFHP doing?

Despite the challenges and thanks to your support and generosity, our partnership with Bon Samaritain Episcopal School is strong. **We are doing the basics and more...**

- Meeting regularly by Zoom with our partners, the Bondeau Leaders, listening to their priorities with respect, brainstorming with them and committing resources as available (expertise when needed, funding as available, etc). These meetings are the heartbeat of our partnership.
- Keeping our commitment of monthly funding for school salaries, community nurse salary, cooks for school lunches, and Night School (adult/teen education for basic skills) *Total - \$6,361.44 per month*
- School Lunches provided (Food Packing PLUS Rice & Bean purchases in Haiti)
- Small amounts of Emergency Food purchased in Haiti for the community as funding has allowed
- Teacher Training with leadership skills and motivational resources implemented through P4H.
- Rebuilding the Friendship House (formerly called the Guest House) has continued incurring a \$16,312 cost increase (due to rise of materials cost) leaving \$34,678.49 now needed to complete the project.
- Limited amounts of medications provided that are available for purchase over the counter in Haiti
- Formed new partnership with Food For The Poor to address infrastructure needs that are priorities of the community (rebuilding Primary School, building 30 homes, Healthcare Clinic & Community Center, Water System maintenance, and Goat Breeding Project for economic sustainability)

Upcoming Urgent Project:

- **Summer Program** completely designed by Bondeau Leaders to give refugee children/teens there housing, meals, and activities for one month starting in July. *See insert for more details.*

Upcoming Critical Projects:

- **Emergency Community Food** during summer and **School Lunch purchase** if Food packing supply cannot be delivered by September.
- The **Friendship House** (formerly called the Guest House) rendered unsafe by the 2021 earthquake, is in the final rebuilding phase with completion awaiting the final \$34,678 needed. It serves as housing for 17 Bondeau residents and as accommodations for anyone visiting Bondeau (mission teams, pilgrims, visiting clergy, healthcare professionals, etc).
- Sustainable, ongoing **healthcare for the community** by Haitian healthcare professionals awaiting implementation when healthcare professionals can travel safely within Haiti to Bondeau.
- While funding from our faithful core donors, many individual & organizational occasional donors, and 3 major grants has fueled our \$153,477 budget for ongoing initiatives to date... **more funding needed.**
- **New grants** are needed to meet our budget AND now the new emerging needs of community. ***Do you have any connections to foundations, organizations, individuals offering grants? Please contact us!***
- **Additional partner congregations/organizations** are needed.
- **Teams to support main areas** (Education, Food, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Economic Sustainability and Communication) to partner with the people of Bondeau are critically needed. ***No need to be local***



Summary:

All aspects of our partnership with Bondeau have deepened through the challenges with increased communication and brainstorming together finding new ways to do our mission.

We are so grateful for remarkable progress amid the extreme challenges!

If you are interested in exploring opportunities to serve or have info to share, please reach out to us.

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Please continue your support, prayers, and share with others about Bondeau and our mission.

Your giving is truly life-giving

SCAN to DONATE

