

Canaan, Haiti

The Western New York District
of The Wesleyan Church

Village Partnership Proposal





Our Brothers and Sisters

World Hope International has been operating in Haiti since 1996. In fact, WHI's first project, a computer lab, began in Haiti. Since that time, WHI has served the vast and various needs of the people there through child sponsorship, an extensive health program focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention, and relief from the 2010 devastating earthquake.

Haiti is often introduced as “the poorest nation in the Americas” or “the location of the catastrophic 2010 earthquake.” While both are true, these common identifiers deter many from the beauty, strength, resilience, and potential the country has for improvement.

Presently, WHI operations within the country of Haiti focus on development and long-term strategies towards sustainability. Projects in agriculture, education, church development and community-based development focus first on the opportunities and the strengths people have in the area to be served before focusing on the needs. WHI enters as a partner to schools, church, and communities to serve together with the understanding that both must contribute for the partnership to be successful.

The Need

Even though the country has made some progress over recent years, widespread poverty affects most of the population and the needs of the country are staggering. The following are issues that continue to dramatically affect life for the people of Haiti:

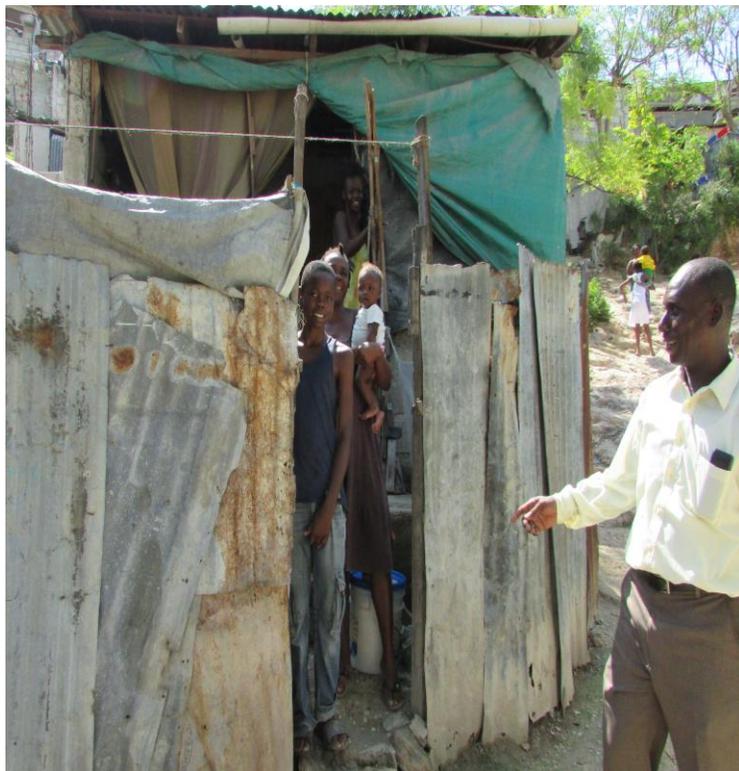
- In rural areas in Haiti, 84% of people live under \$2 a day and 69% live in extreme poverty under \$1 a day.¹
- 50% of primary age children do not attend school.²
- 30% of girls over six years will never attend school.³
- Approximately 25% of children are victims of child labor.⁴

¹ Unicef.org/infobycountry/Haiti_statistics

² Unicef.org/Humanitarian Action Report

³ Unicef.org/Humanitarian Action Report

⁴ Unicef.org/infobycountry/Haiti_statistics



All the statistics cited above are merely symptoms of a larger problem – the absence of opportunity. World Hope International understands that God grants every human the desire to work—to cast off the shackles of poverty and generate his or her own income, improve economic stability and sustain a better quality of life. We base what we do on long-term results: we offer more than charity; we provide resources and knowledge to the poor, empowering them to become agents of change within their own communities. Village Partnerships seek to improve individual circumstances—one village at a time—and allow villagers the opportunity to gain dignity through shared effort and energy and secure hope for their future.

The Response

Bringing Hope in the Midst of Heavy Challenges

World Hope International (WHI) believes that every person should have the opportunity to live a life of dignity; to not only survive but to prosper, to have the ability to provide food, shelter, and education for one’s family. However, for many in Haiti a life of dignity is far beyond reach. Living without basic needs being met, such as, clean water, adequate shelter and food, regardless of how hard one works, is not living a life of dignity. WHI’s response to extreme poverty in rural areas is to provide holistic, sustainable programs that equip each village with the foundation necessary to build its economy and provide a healthy environment for its members. Empowering the poor, by involving them in the development process and addressing the needs in their own village is crucial to long-term success.



Canaan Profile

Canaan is located in the hillside near Croix Des Bouquets, 20 miles from Port-au-Prince in the West Department. WHI will partner with the newly planted Wesleyan church in Canaan 3C section. This section is home to 1,500 families with a population of approximately 5,000 people. These families were severely affected by the earthquake that occurred in January 2010. Their former homes were destroyed, and they lost everything. Unable to rebuild in their former villages, many became part of tent cities and more recently, moved to Canaan after the government granted them a small piece of land to rebuild. These families are poor and have little or no resources to live, never mind rebuild.

The community's land is very dry and few crops are able to grow here. Some families are raising goats. One of the biggest challenges in the community is the limited access to water. Most people purchase their drinking water which is difficult with the small income the families earn. Thus, people collect rain water which causes diarrheal diseases. Additionally, only a few families own latrines and hence, people use the bush to go to the bathroom. The closest hospital serves over 100,000 people.

The community members are a blend of Catholics, Protestants, and those practicing voodoo. The Canaan Wesleyan Church is led by Pastor Leah. The church is new and is still under construction. Despite the lack of resources, the church provides the following activities: Sunday services, weekly services, Bible studies, children's activities, and home visits for prayers. There are two area schools where some of the children attend. Others do not, as many families cannot afford the modest cost of school.

Implementation Plan

World Hope International proposes a four-year village partnership between a church based in the US and a community in Haiti. Depending on the size of the community, Village Partnership gift amount, and level of need, there may be other funding partners helping in the same community. It's through various Christian partnerships that WHI is able to address the multi-faceted issues surrounding poverty. While there are no simple solutions to the devastation of poverty, the church has the opportunity to bring hope and renewal to many families in Haiti.

Village Partnerships provide holistic, sustainable programming that addresses the physical and spiritual needs of the community. The community based initiatives listed below are developed with the community which empowers them in the process. **These initiatives are not all needed or used but are determined by the specific needs of each village.** WHI will conduct a community assessment and plan with the community.

Education

Major obstacle to the future of Haitian children is access to education. More than 600,000 children are out of school with literacy rate of about 61 percent⁵. Children face shortage of educational supplies and qualified teachers to receive knowledge and basic skills. Many children walk 45 minutes to an hour to attend school.

⁵ [Usaid.gov/haiti/education](https://www.usaid.gov/haiti/education)

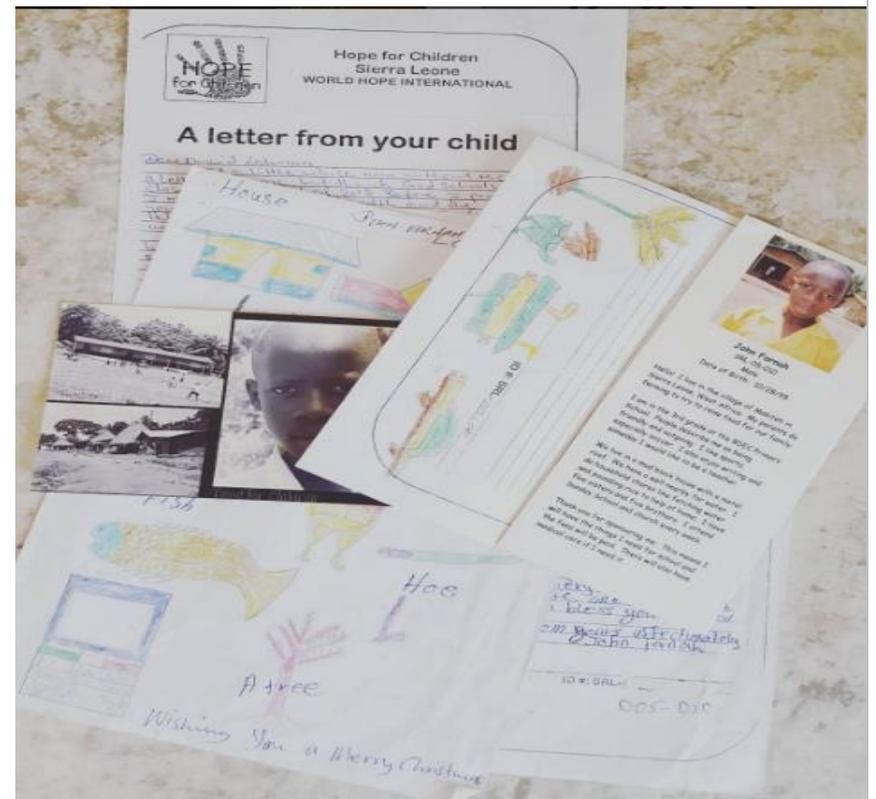
The construction of a Christian school at the Wesleyan church is in the planning process with Global Partners. Construction on the first classrooms (foundation, some floors and roofs) will begin in May even though there are not enough resources to complete the walls, the latrine, and more. Pastor Leah is determined to open school in the fall and serve over 100 needy children in kindergarten through third grade. A small woman in appearance, pastor Leah has great faith and a powerful testimony.

One important goal is to create a path for the children in the Canaan community out of poverty by attending this Christian school. That's why World Hope International addresses the holistic needs of children and their communities. We measure our success not only by whether the child is attending school, but our overall impact on the community's understanding of the gospel, food security, access to clean water, decrease in sickness, improvements in teacher training, availability of school supplies, and other important metrics.

WHI works to provide education by providing spiritual discipleship, leadership training, life skills, vocational education, and construction of schools.

Child Sponsorship

You can also become personally connected to a child in Haiti through child sponsorship! Your sponsorship will enable the child to not only attend school but receive a good education from a school with trained teachers resourced with appropriate teaching supplies and materials.





Safe Water, Health, Hygiene & Sanitation

Without access to safe water and sanitation facilities, major diseases like cholera are rampant in rural Haiti. Many of these diseases are not only easily treatable but, more importantly, they are preventable. As a result of cholera and other preventable diseases, Haiti has one of the highest child and maternal mortality rates in the western hemisphere.

WHI works to construct or rehabilitate wells, latrine slabs and teach proper hygiene to ensure the safe water stays clean during use and the sanitation facilities are used properly.



Bringing Electricity

In partnership with Sonlight Powers, WHI will install solar panels to bring electricity to the school and the community. A trained volunteer team will install the solar power system mounted on a high pole and train the community leaders on how to care for them over time. Vacation Bible School type activities will also be conducted to share the love of Jesus with the children and their caregivers.

Our Philosophy on Evangelism

As Christians, we desire to show others the love of Jesus Christ through both word and deed. To simply address the physical needs of a community and not the spiritual needs, means not sharing the hope, love, and grace we embrace as necessary to navigate an often difficult life on earth. However, we understand that when we share the gospel, not everyone will embrace its message. We choose to love and accept these community members in the village development process. WHI opens all village development programs to people regardless of faith or whether or not they choose to follow the Christian faith. In some villages, there are Christian churches and/or those interested in learning more about the Christian faith. In these villages, funds are often requested to help in church building and leadership development as well as evangelism.

These activities can include:

- The Jesus Film Campaign
- Training and support of pastor and community Church leaders in areas such as business counsel
- Distribution of print materials (Bibles, tracts, etc.)
- Construction or renovation of a church building

However, there are other villages we operate within where the Christian message is not accepted. The funds requested for evangelism are limited. We accept that we have done our part in sharing the hope of the gospel and pray that God will continue to work in their lives and draw them to Him.

Opportunity for Further Engagement

Short Term Missions

World Hope International facilitates opportunities for individuals to experience international projects firsthand. We invite you to not only partner with Haiti by providing the necessary resources but to also come visit and see for yourselves the changes taking place! You will also be able to visit Haiti to see how the people continue to work together.

Prayer

It's easy to overlook the vital aspect of prayer at times. However, the success and effectiveness of our work cannot happen without the commitment of prayer.



Invitation

The total donation needed for this partnership is \$70,000 a year for four years. We invite you to join us to bring spiritual, social and economic well-being to a community crippled by the lack of opportunity that comes with extreme poverty.

Through your partnership, Haiti can experience increased hope for their families and community and gain the ultimate hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ!



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