



February 1, 2012

Dear Congregational Leaders,

As you know, the U.S. and Canadian members of the International Justice Team for the Sisters of St. Joseph have been working for the past two years on an initiative that was suggested by the UN-NGO of the Congregations of St. Joseph: a response to the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. This package contains our proposal. Griselda's hope is that we can initiate a response to which other members of the Global Joseph family might respond as well.

It might seem counter-intuitive to be focusing on Haiti right now, two years after the earthquake. However, this is a critical time in Haiti's reconstruction. As the initial, emergency-phase responses begin to wind-down, it is important to support efforts for longer-term systemic change.

The people of Haiti have a history that is dominated by oppressive exploitation. In the 1700s, Haiti was the hub of the slave trade. A slave rebellion led to a declaration of Haiti's independence in 1804. However, France demanded a payment of 150 million francs, the equivalent of about US\$21 billion today. Between this debt and other demands to compensate colonialists for the slaves that were lost through independence, Haiti was saddled with enormous, unpayable debts from its very beginning. After Haiti fell behind on payments to France, it refinanced its debts through U.S. banks. When the U.S. occupied Haiti, from 1915 to 1934, one of its primary goals was to ensure debt collection.

It is a history that cries out for justice. And, as this history reveals, the global community owes Haiti a debt of reparation for standing by and allowing such exploitation to continue. The Congregations of St. Joseph can play a small part in these reparation efforts.

In the accompanying package, you will see a detailed outline of our proposal. It has been an enriching experience for us to collaborate with Sisters Joan Atkinson and Sue Wilson over these past two years in researching a possible response to our "dear neighbors" in Haiti and it is with great joy that we offer this proposal to you.

Sincerely,

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U.S. Federation members of the International Justice Team



Haiti Proposal

Rebuilding Haiti Through the Empowerment of Girls

**Canadian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph**

2012



Canadian Federation
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



Haiti Proposal

To: Canadian and U.S. Federation Leadership
of the Sisters of St. Joseph

From: Canadian and U.S. International Justice Team
Members and CSSJ NGO-UN

Title of Project: *Rebuilding Haiti
Through the Empowerment of Girls*

Project Recommendation: To provide for the education of ten (10) Haitian girls from primary through secondary school at Annunciation School, Leogane Haiti; to provide three (3) years of technical education for ten girls; to assist in the salaries for and certification of teachers; to provide partial financial assistance for building a secondary school in Leogane, Haiti.

Time Commitment: Up to Ten (10) Years

Financial Commitment: Cumulative Total: \$356,200.00

Date Submitted: January 2012

Initiator of the Project: Griselda Martinez-Morales CSJ UN-NGO

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Background for Proposal for Haiti

In January 2010, Griselda Martinez, at the UN-NGO office for the Sisters of St. Joseph contacted members of the Justice teams of the U. S. and Canadian Federations, part of the International Justice and Peace Team, asking us to consider some response to the people of Haiti who had just experienced a devastating earthquake that took many lives, and destroyed much of the infrastructure of that small island country.

There was a unanimous response supporting this idea. From this, Griselda set up the CSSJ Haiti Focus Committee to explore the possibility of a response that would involve a commitment to assist the people of Haiti in the long-term building of their future. The members of that committee represented members of the U.S. and Canadian Federation Justice and Peace committees.

Research – 2010 to 2011

As we began our research we learned that already there are many groups, Religious and others, who have a long history of working with the Haitian people. Among them, are Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto and of St. Vallier who have members working in some of the areas where the earthquake occurred. We talked with the Toronto Sisters when they were back in Canada.

Sister Mary Alban shared with us a paper written by the Jesuits working in Haiti that outlined a vision for the empowerment for the people of Haiti. We liked the systemic vision they outlined. We contacted the Jesuits (Provincial Office in Quebec) seeking to understand their vision and if there was a way we might contribute to making such a vision to take root. There was some dialogue, but no concrete proposals were forthcoming.

St. Joseph Health Care, Hamilton, Ontario also sends teams of medical personal and supplies to Haiti to assist in the treatment of people in the Port-au-Prince area. This medical support has been on-going for some time.

We also researched **Fonkoze**, a Haitian Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor. They are the largest micro-finance institution offering a full range of financial services to the rural based poor in Haiti. (www.fonkoze.org). We did not know of any one on the ground who might help us with such an initiative.

Another group, called **Friends of the Children of Haiti – FOTCOH**, runs a clinic in the rural area in Cyvadier, which not affected by the earthquake, but was able to provide medical care after the earthquake for those who were able to travel there for treatment. It is supported by medical teams from the U.S.A. This effort seemed to be responding to the immediate medical support needed right after the earthquake.

Mission Haiti Inc. was introduced into the discussion through Mary Ellen Gondeck, csj who traveled with Mission Haiti, in January, 2011 to Leogane, Haiti. This opportunity to meet and experience the ministry of the Company of Jesus, a Haitian Community of Sisters at Annunciation School opened the possibility of collaborating with Haitians in their reconstruction efforts as well as helping with the ongoing education of girls.

Analysis

Based on many other sources, what we did come to know much better was that the needs are great and the poverty of the people is very deep. The inability of the country to respond to this disaster quickly and effectively only highlights the assistance needed at this time. We also felt, that many aid groups and much money was flowing into Haiti to address some of the immediate needs as a result of the earthquake. However, long after this initial response from the around the world ends, there are still urgent needs to equip the people with skills and capacity to help themselves. Most of these needs centered on health care, shelter, food security and education.

After much discussion, our committee recommends that our efforts focus on education as a strategy to effect long term systemic change. According to the 2011 Report on the Millennium Development Goals, enrollment in primary education in the developing world has reached 89% but progress is slowing and it is unlikely that the MDG target of universal primary education will be reached by 2015. The situation in Haiti is one of the reasons why the MDG target will not be reached. In Haiti, only 45% of children attend school, with 15% of those children going to public schools and 30% attending schools run by private organizations or church groups.

Studies also confirm strong links between education and poverty reduction. For example, in Pakistan, it was found that each additional year of schooling level increased earnings by 3 percent at primary level, by 5 percent at secondary level, and by 7.1 to 8.2 percent at higher/tertiary level. Each additional year of technical training increased earnings by 2.5 percent. (See "Impact of Education on Poverty Reduction," *International Journal of Academic Research* Vol. 3. No. 1. January, 2011, Part II, Masood Sarwar Awan, Nouman Malik, Haroon Sarwar, Muhammad Waqas).

Furthermore, UNICEF notes that, in situations of extreme poverty, girls are particularly at risk since they are vulnerable to abuse in all its forms and very often confined to households in which they are virtually slaves. Thus, access to education for girls is a key factor to bringing about significant social transformation. Education for girls yields greater opportunities and life choices, greater workforce participation, and greater participation of women in political and economic decision-making.

Proposal

Purpose:

1. To expand the empowerment of women and girls through education in partnership with Mission Haiti Incorporated.
2. To support the Haitian Sisters of the Company of Jesus in their commitment to the education of Haitian girls.
3. To collaborate in the implementation of the goal of the 2011 CSSJ International Justice and Peace Team: to address poverty and discrimination, especially as it relates to women and children.
4. To express our global citizenship by building relationships with the 'dear neighbor.'

We propose, working through Mission Haiti to:

1. To financially support the education of 10 girls through elementary and secondary school.
2. To provide funding for the on-going training and education of teachers.
3. To provide partial funding for the building of a secondary school.

Who is Mission Haiti, Inc.?

Mission Haiti, Inc. is a Minneapolis MN based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, founded and directed by enthusiastic, committed volunteers and overseen by a Board of Directors. Established almost 15 years ago in 1998, Mission Haiti, Inc. built a school in Leogane, (a port city about 18 miles from Port Au Prince) for the poor, uneducated children of the area. Currently, the Board of Directors oversees a 13-acre complex which includes Annunciation School, a home for abandoned and disabled women, a feeding center, and sustainable community farming project. <http://www.missionhaitiinc.com/>

Education: Annunciation School, Leogane, Haiti

Annunciation School, with grades 1-6 consists of eight classrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and restrooms for 165 students. The children receive a noon meal, a uniform plus all school supplies. The faculty consists of eight teachers, including a part-time teacher who teaches English in all grades three days a week, and a part time gym teacher who teaches two days a week. The focus on education responds to the reality that 55% of the children in Haiti do not have access to any kind of education, which leads to a continuing cycle of illiteracy and poverty for nearly half the population.

Haitian Sisters of the Company of Jesus manage the school on behalf of Mission Haiti, Inc. while the maintenance and finance of the school is the responsibility of Mission Haiti, Inc.



In Haiti, 75% of Haitians live on \$2 per day or less, while half the population lives on only \$1 per day. Haitian parents often have to literally choose between food and schooling. Without privately funded schools like Annunciation School, only 10% of the current 15,000 schools would exist. Since the 2010 earthquake not only has a new cafeteria replaced the demolished structure but all repairs at Annunciation School have been completed. Teachers also receive continuing education to be certified to teach at a higher level. Mission Haiti's next project is to build a secondary school.

Our CSSJ Connection:

At least twice a year, board members of Mission Haiti Inc. travel to Haiti with other interested persons to maintain a personal connection. The purpose is two-fold: to become acquainted with the children, staff and sisters at Annunciation School and with the women who live at the Village of Jesus, and secondly, to provides an opportunity for an immersion experience into the culture and lives of the people of Haiti. In January 2011 two members of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Mary Ellen Gondeck, CSJ and Sue Torgersen, CSJ traveled to Haiti with Jack Pelner, Chairperson and Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Additionally, Mission Haiti's project to support the educational needs of teachers and students at the College Coeur de Marie (Heart of Mary School) was funded in 2011 by the Congregation of St. Joseph's Generous Promise Grant Fund.

We believe that the opportunity for annual immersion experiences as well as the established connection the Congregation of St. Joseph with Mission Haiti, Inc., offers the Canadian and U.S. Federations the potential to create an ongoing relationship with the Haitian people as we focus on the empowerment of girls through the gift of education.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE HAITI PROJECT

Educational support of girls at Annunciation School in Leogane, Haiti (Grade school, secondary school, technical school) that includes tuition, books and supplies, uniforms and lunch:

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|--|---------------------------|
| • Grades 1-6: Ten girls a year for six (6) years at \$450.00/yr. | Total: \$27,000.00 |
| • Secondary School: Ten girls a year for four (4) years at \$525.00/yr. | Total: \$21,000.00 |
| • Technical School: Ten girls a year for three (3) years at \$800.00/yr. | <u>Total: \$24,000.00</u> |
| | \$72,000.00 |

Teacher support:

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|---|----------------------------|
| • Salaries for teachers and staff at both levels for ten (10) years | Total: \$158,700.00 |
| • Certification programs for the elementary teachers. | <u>Total: \$ 10,500.00</u> |
| | \$169,200.00 |

Construction of Secondary School including the purchase of the land, the building of a sanitary block (bathrooms), and a water treatment building.

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| • The total cost of this is estimated to be \$200,000 of which we will make a partial contribution. | Total: \$115,000.00 |
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Total Proposal: \$356,200.00

Given the difference in size of the Canadian and U.S. Federations, we are proposing that:

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| • The Canadian Federation pledge 10% of this amount over 10 years | \$ 35,620.00 |
| • The U.S. Federation pledge 90% of this amount over 10 years | \$320,580.00 |

Recognizing the varied financial realities in our individual congregations, we would suggest that congregations within each Federation pledge an amount that would be paid either in one sum or over a ten year time period as each is able.

Annual Costs of Federations Contribution

Year 1 and 2 costs:

• Secondary school construction (1/2 of cost)	\$57,500.00
• Education of ten (10) girls on the elementary level	4,500.00
• Salaries for seven 7 teachers on elementary level	6,300.00
• Teacher certification program	<u>3,500.00</u>
Year 1 Total:	\$71,800.00
Year 2 Total:	\$71,800.00

Canadian Federation portion: \$ 7,180.00 – per year for first 2 years
US Federation portion: \$64,620.00 – per year for first 2 years

Years 3 – 6 approximate costs per year

• Education of ten (10) girls on the elementary level	4,500.00
• Salaries for seven (7) teachers on the elementary level	6,300.00
• Teacher Certification (Year 3)	<u>3,500.00</u>
Year 3 total :	\$14,300.00
Year 4-6 total: (per year)	\$10,800.00

Year 3:

Canadian Federation: \$ 1,430.00
US Federation: \$12,870.00

Years 4-6: per year

Canadian Federation: \$ 1,080.00
US Federation: \$ 9,720.00

Years 7 – 9 approximate costs per year:

• Education of ten (10) girls on the secondary level	5,250.00
• Education of ten (10) girls in technical school	8,000.00
• Teacher salaries	<u>30,225.00</u>
Total per year:	\$43,475.00

Canadian Federation: \$ 4,347.50
US Federation: \$39,127.50

Year 10 approximate costs per year:

• Education of ten (10) girls on the secondary level	5,250.00
• Teacher salaries	<u>30,225.00</u>
Total year 10:	\$35,475.00

Total Allocations for each Federation

Canadian Federation: \$ 35,620.00
US Federation: \$320,580.00

The chart below distributes the costs on an annual basis spread across the ten years.

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Canadian Federation	\$7,180.00	\$7,180.00	\$1,430.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,080.00	\$4,347.50	\$4,347.50	\$4,347.50	\$3,547.50
U.S. Federation	\$64,620.00	\$64,620.00	\$12,870.00	\$9,720.00	\$9,720.00	\$9,720.00	\$39,127.50	\$39,127.50	\$39,127.50	\$31,927.50
Total	\$71,800.00	\$71,800.00	\$14,300.00	\$10,800.00	\$10,800.00	\$10,800.00	\$43,475.00	\$43,475.00	\$43,475.00	\$35,475.00

Final Recommendations:

- 1. We recommend that the US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Canadian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph financially support Mission Haiti Inc., over a ten year period, as they seek to empower girls through education.**
- 2. We recommend that our two Federations (Canadian and U.S.) give a total of \$356,200.00 toward this project, with the amount of each Federation’s financial contribution reflecting the number of Sisters in each Federation – eg. The Canadian Federation pledges 10% of the total over a 10 year period (total, \$35,620.00); The U.S. Federation pledges 90% of the total over a 10 year period (total 320,580.00).**
- 3. Recognizing the varied financial realities of each of our Congregations, we recommend that the Congregations within each Federation pledge an amount that would be paid either in one sum or over a ten year time period as each is able.**