

OUTREACH TO HAITI

Espwa, our newsletter of HOPE



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS | FALL 2026

HELPING HAITIANS HELP HAITIANS

“

For more than 15 years, Outreach has been a part of my life. Under your guidance and support, the young girl that I once was found her path, and that young girl is now a doctor! This achievement is not only mine – it is also yours!

”



- Dr. Franceska Colon,
Education Program Graduate

This testimony of new graduate Dr. Franceska Colon highlights the impact of our long-standing Education Program in the Christ Roi neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. Because of generous sponsors, we can educate about 170 children and young people from kindergarten through University or Vocational school. Besides tuition assistance, we offer yearly physicals, dental care and books, and tutoring for students who need extra help. In some special circumstances we offer help with food, specialized medical care, and participation in meetings to process trauma, which is needed all too frequently in Haiti currently. Time and again we marvel at the successes our students achieve



Over 240 students and their family members attended our January 2026 Parent Meeting to discuss exam results, supplemental learning, and other successes

while living in such a challenging environment. Lack of running water, food scarcity, limited electricity, and the constant feeling of insecurity as they go from home to school and back again – none of these things keep them from showing up most days, eager to learn, and still with a sense of hope in their future.

Can you help us to keep this hope alive for the children in our neighborhood? Sponsors receive yearly photos and thank you letters from their students, as well as an update about their grades and any other information we think their sponsor would like to know about.

The cost of sponsoring a student in primary grades (PreK-6th) is \$525, secondary grades (7th-13th) is \$600, and post-secondary is \$2000. You can pay once yearly or are encouraged to set up easy monthly auto payments.

We have 16 students who are in need of new sponsors this year. You'll see the photos and descriptions of three students later in this newsletter!

Please believe us when we tell you that our students are always amazed that someone who doesn't know them will give them this help in life!

- Sue Petruzzi, Education Coordinator
and Board Member



Please join our family of sponsors today!
Scan the QR code here to fill in an interest form or call our office at (860) 800 3601.



EMPOWERING THE FUTURE: A "HAND UP" FOR HAITI'S YOUTH

Grounded in the Catholic principle of upholding the dignity of the whole person, our education mission in Port-au-Prince is about more than just a classroom seat. We provide a "hand up" by offering the holistic support necessary for students to become the future leaders, healers, and innovators of Haiti.



In a country where 80% of schools are private or parochial, tuition costs often create an insurmountable barrier for families. Our program removes these financial hurdles, providing full tuition and books for over 170 students annually. Our commitment pays off: we maintain an incredible 94% retention rate from primary school through university. Since our inception, more than 2,000 students have successfully completed their schooling through our program.

The need has never been more urgent. Education in Haiti is currently under siege; according to recent reports, nearly 1,000 schools across the country have been forced to close due to ongoing insecurity and violence. But our schools and students persist!

Whether a student joins us in kindergarten or transitions into our care later due to changing family circumstances, we support them through every step of the Haitian education system:

- **Primary:** Pre-school to Grade 6
- **Secondary:** Grades 7 to 13
- **Higher Ed:** University or Vocational Training

By investing in these students today, we are ensuring that the light of education continues to shine in Haiti, even in the most challenging times - bringing hope and providing a pathway to a brighter future.

WHY WE SPONSOR: A REFLECTION

"We believe that education is a right, not a privilege, for every child. Being sponsors has given us the opportunity to help our students exercise that right by providing for their education. **It has been so rewarding for us to watch them grow in awareness of, and confidence in, their unique gifts.** Seeing them share what they have learned by giving back to their fellow students, families, and country is a true joy. Education is so important in creating justice and peace in society."

— Jim and Mary Ann Hubert, East Hampton, CT





MEET SOME OF OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM STUDENTS WHO NEED SPONSORSHIP!

CHRISTIE - GRADE 2



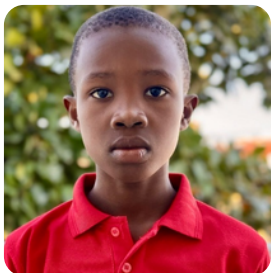
Eight-year-old **Christie Neyra Jeune** is in the second grade. She is a very good student. She loves math, the color pink, and riding her bike. Her father is an electrician with no work, and her mother is one of hundreds who sell small items along the streets to try to make a living. Christie can be sponsored for only \$44 per month (\$525 per year)!

DRINNY - GRADE 6



Eleven-year-old **Drinny Carries** is currently in the sixth grade. She is a dedicated student with big dreams of becoming a doctor one day. At home, she lives alone with her mother, who works as a beautician; Drinny stays busy by helping out with the cooking, cleaning, and dishes. When she isn't busy with chores or studies, she finds great joy in playing with her cat. Drinny can also be sponsored for only \$44 per month (\$525 per year)!

HANSLEY - GRADE 5



Ten-year-old **Hansley Osman** is a bright student in the fifth grade. He lives in a bustling household with his parents, his grandmother, and his siblings. His father works as a teacher, while his mother earns a living as a street trader. Hansley is a big help at home, where he assists with the cooking and makes sure all the beds are made! In his free time, you can usually find him on the field playing soccer. Hansley can also be sponsored for only \$44 per month (\$525 per year)!

If a recurring sponsorship isn't feasible for you right now, **you can still make a profound impact on our students through a one-time gift** to Outreach to Haiti. Your vital donation provides the flexible funding necessary to cover wraparound needs like nutrition, medical care, tutoring, workshops, and emergency aid. By contributing to our general fund today, you help ensure every child in our program has the holistic support they need to thrive.

Scan the QR code on the right, or visit our website at www.outreachtohaiti.org/donation, to make a donation!





Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti
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The Gospel Mission Continues

Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti's commitment to the people of Haiti is unwavering. Despite the current unrest, our programs continue to provide education, medical care, and economic development opportunities to the people whom we serve. Our Parish Twinning Program extends our reach beyond our Outreach Center in the Christ Roi neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, providing similar opportunities in surrounding parishes, and is made possible by strong relationships between churches in the US and in Haiti.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is a profound honor to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti. Since joining the team in December, I have been deeply inspired by the spiritual heart of this organization and your unwavering faith. While my career has taken me across the globe leading programs in East Africa, returning home to Connecticut to serve this community-driven mission feels like a true homecoming.

Although I have not yet traveled to Haiti, I have already seen its vibrant heart through the grit and grace of our incredible staff in Port-au-Prince and in Connecticut, and I am humbled by the steadfast solidarity of our supporters. As we look to the future, we are planting new seeds of growth, including a much-needed overhaul of our website to better share our mission and connect with you.

To bring this digital transformation to life, **we are seeking a talented web design expert** from within our own community to lead this project as an in-kind donation. Whether you are a professional developer or a Wordpress wizard, your expertise can help us build a modern platform and leave a lasting legacy on our organization's future. If you are ready to help us grow our digital footprint, please reach out to me at (860) 800-3604 or jen.harding@outreachtohaiti.org. Let's build something beautiful together!

With gratitude,
Jen C. Harding

A publication of Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti
Most Reverend Richard F. Reidy, JCL, Bishop of the Diocese of Norwich
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