



# Haitian Education & Leadership Program (HELP)

Scholarships for high-achieving students from desperately poor communities

— Haiti —



Know also that wisdom is like honey for you; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

PROVERBS 24:14



## **We are a Catholic ministry**

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



## Project Synopsis

### Description

This project will provide scholarships for six talented but desperately poor students to study at the University of Notre Dame — Haiti's only Catholic university.

### Goals

1. Provide merit- and need-based university scholarships for deserving students to fulfill their potential by attending university, something they could never afford to do on their own.
2. Fill a vital need for trained professionals in Haiti.
3. Bring equality, social justice and the love of Christ to Haiti's poor through the education of these high-achieving students.

### Location

Port-au-Prince and poor, remote surrounding communities.

### Ministry Partner

Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP).

### Cost

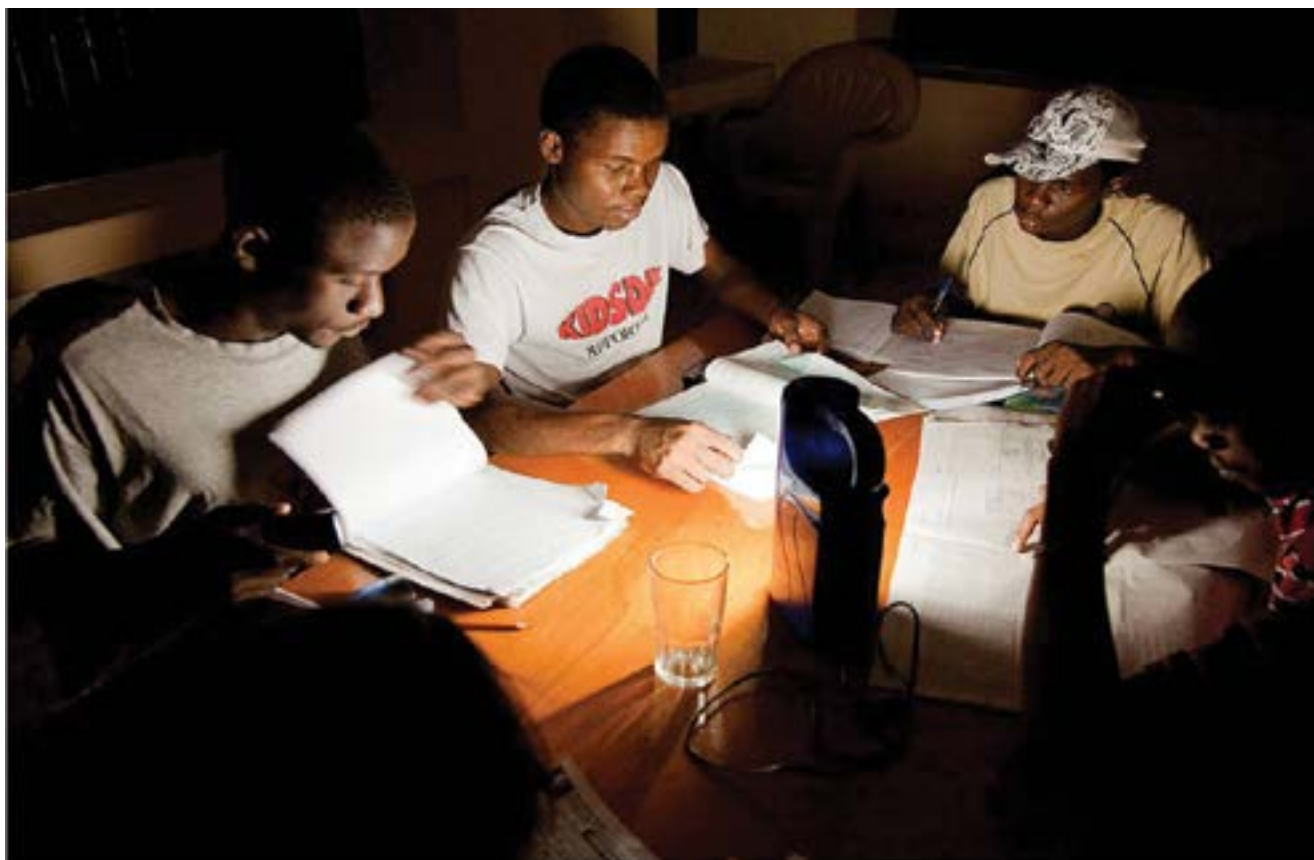
**\$54,000** will fund the annual university scholarship program and enable six students to attend college.

### Highlights

- Cross Catholic Outreach and HELP believe that supporting the most promising and disadvantaged students is one of the best investments to be made in Haiti's future — breaking the cycle of poverty and bringing critical skills and role models to poor communities for decades to come.
- Each Cross Catholic-supported HELP scholarship includes university classes, textbooks and supplies, housing in HELP dorms, monthly living stipends for food and transportation, individualized student advising and career services, classes in English, an internship program and study-abroad opportunities.
- Post-university, HELP has an employment rate of over 80 percent. Over 80 percent of HELP-sponsored graduates remain in Haiti and help to improve their country.







*Many students in Haiti live without electricity. Still, they study late into the night, hoping to earn a chance at higher education.*

## **Poverty: An Enemy of Potential**

Bright minds are born into the developing world, but oppressive poverty often keeps those students from shining to their full potential. These young, hardworking men and women dream of attending university and improving their communities, but their families are simply too poor to provide them with the opportunity. In fact, many Haitian parents struggle just to supply daily bread and the most basic medical care for their children.

Weetherson Pierre faced this terrible situation. This high-achieving student from the Haitian community of Saint Marc saw his dreams of escaping poverty through education fade after his father died. His mother did have a job at a small retail store, but her meager earnings barely supported the family's most basic needs. She earned less than \$2 a day!

"There were times when I went to school — or to bed — hungry. But I still studied hard to maintain my grades," Weetherson says.

When he was in eighth grade, Weetherson's impressive achievements in the classroom earned him a scholarship to private high school. It was a blessing, but an imposing roadblock remained. His higher education would end frustratingly short of his goals — unless he could find additional financial assistance. Without that help, Weetherson's clear natural talents would never reach their full potential in a college classroom.

Higher education is the only way to equip the next generation in Haiti, and it is essential to developing the impoverished country's next Catholic leaders, but it will remain out of reach for deserving students without sponsoring resources from Catholics like you. Through the Haitian Education and Leadership Program, you can give young men and women like Weetherson Pierre hope and set them on a path out of poverty. Please — give the gift of an accredited Catholic education to a poor student and forever change his or her life for the better!



## HELP for Needy Students



*With HELP, Weetherson was able to enter the nursing program at the University of Notre Dame, Haiti. He is already using this opportunity to serve the poor in his country.*

In 1997, the Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP) began providing scholarships for young people who possessed great talent and ambition. In years since, the program has helped impoverished straight-A students attend the University of Notre Dame, Haiti, nurturing intelligent minds and creating a bridge of hope for these students to escape poverty. The leaders of the outreach are eager to continue this important mercy ministry, but they rely on outside support to fund the scholarships and financial assistance they provide.

Their outreach is crucial to the Haitian community as well.

For example, in a country where only one doctor is available to serve every 10,000 people, there is great value in encouraging students who dream of becoming doctors and nurses! Medical skills are in high demand and short supply. For this reason, Cross Catholic Outreach has partnered with HELP to fund scholarships for six nursing students. The scholarships — \$8,250 each — will cover tuition, textbooks, school supplies, basic living expenses, transportation, an internship program, academic advisement and social counseling.

Weetherson is one of the students who benefited from our support in the past. After he graduated high school, his perseverance caught the attention of HELP and earned him a Cross Catholic Outreach-funded scholarship. Now at Notre Dame, Weetherson has chosen to major in nursing because there were no medical facilities in his hometown. He dreams of applying his education toward serving families much like his own.

“In Haiti, we have a lot of nurses who don’t care about people,”

Weetherson says. “We need health professionals who love and care.”

The benefits HELP provides also extend beyond the academic. HELP requires its students to take courses in citizenship and leadership, and the program teaches students the importance of giving back. Of those who have received support in past years, more than 80 percent remain in Haiti to improve the welfare of their nation. Additionally, as Haiti’s only Catholic college, Notre Dame plays an important role in the spiritual growth of the students and their home communities. For example, Weetherson and another scholarship student now lead a campus prayer group. It grew from four to 50 students in one month, and its impact on young lives has become life-changing.

“The Bishop has offered his support, and we are reaching out to a poor community in a surrounding area — distributing food, praying with people,” Weetherson describes. “It’s a balance of education and faith. It’s part of what we learn at HELP.”

There is no limit to what great minds can accomplish, by the grace of God and with support from the Catholic community. With HELP, we can change the future of a nation in need — one student at a time!

### National Stats vs. HELP Students

	Haiti	HELP Students
University Graduation Rate	16%	80%
Graduates Working In-Country	16%	80%
Employment Rate	50%	80%
Average Annual Income	\$820	\$15,500



## Help Now!

Where there is brokenness, corruption and sickness, God wants to call forth people of skill and integrity to bring blessings and positive change. When you support HELP's outreach, you empower this mission — you shape young leaders and give them the tools they need to succeed and to better serve the Lord!

Students blessed with a HELP scholarship are often the only members of their families to attend college. They understand this as the opportunity of a lifetime, and they are deeply grateful for the help you provide. Without such contributors, they know they would have no chance of achieving their dreams.

When you change the life of one student, you also change the life of every person they impact through their education and training. Donate now to give the gift of education, break the cycle of poverty and forever alter the future hope of Haiti!

**I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

COLOSSIANS 2:2-3

### Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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