



St. Teresa Vocational School

Creating Hope for At-Risk Youth

— Ouanaminthe, Haiti —



For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

PSALM 9:18



Executive Summary

Description

This project will fund the creation of the first vocational training school in an impoverished region. Young people who lack the skills to be employed will receive vocational training that will enable them to secure a good-paying job or build a home-based business.

Purpose

To empower 120 impoverished youths each year with job skills so they can create a path out of poverty.

Location

The Sisters of San Juan Evangelista minister to the poor in Ouanaminthe, a town in northeast Haiti that borders the Dominican Republic.

Cost

\$54,000 covers the cost of hiring eight staff members, including teachers, administrators and security guards; buying learning materials; and paying for operating expenses.



Highlights

NEED

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with nearly 60 percent of people living in poverty. (Source: CIA World Factbook)
- Destitute families come to Ouanaminthe with the hope of migrating to the Dominican Republic to find opportunity. Instead, they are blocked from crossing or detained upon entry and returned to the border town.
- Young people who lack hope can be ensnared by human traffickers, who often trick parents with false promises.

The new vocational training school will restore hope to at-risk youth by giving them the instruction and tools they need to improve their lives.

IMPACT

- The sisters minister to the poor in Ouanaminthe by providing nourishing meals and scholarships.
- Feeling the hopelessness of the youths they encounter, the sisters feel called by the Lord to open the new vocational training center.
- Inspired educators will provide between six months and one year of training to each student so they are prepared to secure a good-paying job or start their own business.

**For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.**

JEREMIAH 29:11



Many destitute families in Ouanaminthe face extreme challenges in meeting their basic needs.

The Need: Young People Without Hope

Although impoverished families arrive in Ouanaminthe with high hopes, the Haitian border town becomes a place of broken dreams for many of them.

Driven by desperation and a lack of opportunity in their home regions, poor men and women migrate to Ouanaminthe with the hope of crossing into the Dominican Republic and finding good-paying jobs there. Despair sets in when they are not permitted to enter the D.R. and must instead settle in one of the border town's impoverished communities.

The teenagers and young adults in these families are particularly vulnerable to hopelessness because they see no way out of the poverty around them, and because they typically arrive without an education or job skills, most feel they will never find meaningful employment. This hopelessness can lead them to engage in crime, strike out in violence or seek solace in drugs and alcohol.

Unlike other parts of Haiti, Ouanaminthe has no vocational school that would enable young people such as these to restore their hope by gaining useful job skills. Believing vocational classes could have a transformative impact on the lives of young adults in their area, the Sisters of San Juan Evangelista are determined to offer those options.

These devoted sisters already serve the impoverished communities of Ouanaminthe by providing scholarships for young children and nourishing food for anyone in need, and they have seen the despair in the eyes of the teens and young adults who come to them for meals. Knowing this hopelessness is not the way of the Lord, they have redoubled their commitment to founding a new outreach that will empower local young people with the skills they need to secure good-paying jobs or start home-based businesses.

While their plans are sound, the sisters need the help of the Church to make this vision a reality. **Please join us and support them in creating this mission of hope!**



Give Generously



With your support, the sisters will transform this building into a vocational school.

Your help is urgently needed! With that support, the Sisters of San Juan Evangelista can offer a lasting blessing to young people living without hope in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. Imagine the joy these young men and women will feel when the new vocational school is opened with the support of God's people. It will seem like a literal answer to prayer!

Cross Catholic Outreach is eager to tell the sisters we can help fund the nine staff members, learning materials and operating expenses needed — **but we can only do so with the support of friends like you!**

Working together, we can transform the lives of 120 young people in each session with courses on solar panel installation, laying of ceramic tile, computer science, pastry making, sewing and music. Scholarships for the neediest students will ensure the poorest of the poor can take advantage of these life-changing classes.

Please give generously so these young people can build a path out of poverty!

Our Mission

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

Good Stewardship

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.



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, 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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