

# Teacher Sponsorship Program

## Yearly Update 2006 in review



Partnering together to provide tuition-free, quality, Christian-focused education for the youth of Haiti  
~one teacher at a time ~one village at a time.

*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. Matthew 18:5*



Dear Sponsor and Donor:

**Thank you.** Sometimes the words “thank you” seem trite in a world that seems to throw out those words with little meaning. Know that we do not take for granted your desire to join us in a vision to see children grow in knowledge and skills which will one day give them the power to lift themselves to heights their parents may only dream about. With an education, you may be helping mold the next village leader, the next teacher, the next businessman, the next mother, the next father, the next pastor, the next..... Only our Lord knows what the future holds for each child and we pray He uses the Teacher Sponsorship Program to make the vital difference in lives.

This is the first of many annual updates about the Teacher Sponsorship Program. When this Program was first developed and put into motion in September 2005, little did we know that it would catch on and grow. When these things happen, we can all easily look and see that only our precious Lord could be in control!

Over the last year, the major growth has been seen in teacher development through which you will meet Terri Bucci and her Empowerment Project.

As you read this update and look at the photos, it is our prayer that you feel His love and see His hand in motion and know our thanks are well overdue.

Sincerely yours,

*Allegany Region Missions Board of Directors*

## INSTITUTION MIXTE LA TRINITE CHRETIENNE a.k.a. Pastor Benito's School

Your donations sponsor the teacher salaries (teachers pictured above) and support the director of the rural school in Gallette, Haiti. The director of the school is in Pastor Benito. Pastor Benito started his school quite a few years ago as he continued to look for ways to help his community. Pastor Benito has a vision for his rural village and a heart for its children and families.

Pastor Benito had to charge tuition to have funds to pay the teachers he hired. He tells stories about families who couldn't pay the tuition, but Pastor Benito saw their promise and would keep them in school anyway, often covering the missing salary money out of his own finances. Now with the Teacher Sponsorship Program, there are no worries that a student won't be able to continue their



Pastor Benito and his wife.

education just because their family cannot afford the tuition. With teacher salaries at a more competitive level, the quality of education is also another reason you will find Pastor Benito smiling.



Allegany Region Missions  
PO Box 294  
Randolph, NY 14772

Web site: [www.armissions.org](http://www.armissions.org)  
E-mail: [information@armissions.org](mailto:information@armissions.org)  
Telephone: 716-358-9126

*Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Proverbs 8:10-11*

All tax-deductible sponsorships are to be sent to Allegany Region Missions (ARM). ARM is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, accepted by the New York State Department of Education. 100% of donations go toward ministry mission work.



## Meet Professor Terri Bucci

Terri Teal Bucci, PhD is an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education in the School of Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University—Mansfield. She has been working on Haitian education issues for two years, working with teachers and curriculum, and led the initial professional project conducted in May 2006 (see The Empowerment Project below). Dr. Bucci serves as director of the Empowerment Project, provides professional development in mathematics education and general pedagogy and leads the in-country sustained

development component of the Project. Dr. Bucci will also be assisting with the teaching and development of courses in the new Bachelor of Science degree from CREFI University in Haiti. Terri has a heart for education and also a heart for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Finding a way to serve her Lord and His children while exciting others in learning, has given these growing education projects even more joy and satisfaction.



### THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT



In order for people to be empowered, they must be educated—this is the basis of The Empowerment Project. Designed by Dr. Terri Bucci and colleagues, both in the US and in Haiti, the Empowerment Project works to address some of the social, intellectual and geographic obstacles in the Haitian educational system and works toward student success through the teachers.

The first major change must come in the teaching of lessons in the spoken language of Creole. Currently, school lessons are taught in French despite the fact that the children do not speak French, making it difficult for students to understand the lessons or gain critical thinking skills. This change won't come easy since, historically, French is equated with education and achievement. Therefore, the success of this vital transformation will lie with the parents and teachers seeing the value of teaching and learning in their native Creole.

Teri and her team have worked to set up strong collaborations between in-country Haitian education experts and US experts in educational professional development. See [www.haitiinnovation.org](http://www.haitiinnovation.org) for more information. Their strategies for effecting change are to:

- Alter curriculums to teach in the native language Creole
- Professional development for Haitian teachers in constructivist teaching methods, focusing on two rural schools as test sites (Galette and Faith Academy)
- Gain capital funds for building and sponsoring intermediate and secondary schools

The monumental step to alter the education system in Haiti has the potential to impact their society on multiple levels and most importantly bring a vision of change and hope.

Coworkers in the Empowerment Project are:

- Donna Farland, EdD—Ohio State University—Mansfield
- Ms. Cheryl Canada, MEd—Ohio State University—Mansfield
- Dr. Jean Elie Larrieux—CREFI University in Haiti (Research and Training Center in Educational Sciences and Psychological Intervention)

Prayer Requests from Terri:

1. For God to guide their direction and focus - there are so many avenues opening up for their work, Terri wants to make sure they are following the correct priorities and not diluting out His impact in Haiti's education system.
2. Be with her team in March as they head back to Haiti to teach seminars and conduct hands-on professional development sessions with the teachers in Galette and Faith Academy.
3. Funding from Faith-based organizations will be found. Much of the current funding for projects, travel and more are from secular sources (Ohio State and grants). Terri wants to be sensitive to balance the secular and Christian motives. With significant funding from Christian organizations, it would be easier for Terri to mix activities of faith within projects.

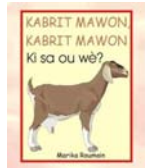


### BOOKS

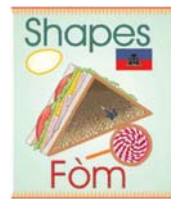
ARM Supplies  
Creole Books  
for Students

Focusing on a Creole-language based education, books in Creole were and are highly needed in the classrooms.

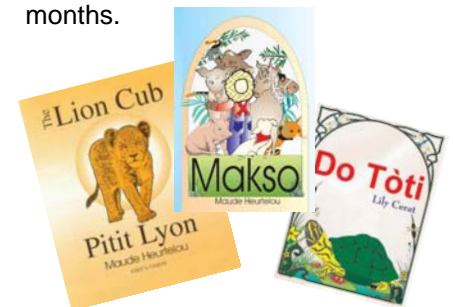
In cooperation with teachers in Haiti and the US, titles were selected for PreK, K-3, and 3-5 grades. See [www.educavision.com](http://www.educavision.com) for more titles. These "fun" books are being used to encourage reading in children and to foster the nurturing classroom with reading-time by the teachers.



When the team from Ohio State University were able to first introduce the books in the Haiti classrooms, there were wide eyes on everyone—teacher and students alike!



Thank you for your donations (*Creole Books Fund*) to make this happen. There is still a great need for books and more titles will be purchased within the next few months.





Students working on a group project.



Sponsored teacher instructing his class.



A Sponsored teacher in the Gallette School in the middle of a writing lesson.



View of the pavilion-style school in Gallette.



Smiles from one of the girl's classes.



A young student works at the board in the Gallette school.



Group of boys ready to begin classes

## Challenge 2007 and Beyond

### Building Intermediate and Secondary Classes

Most of the rural schools in Haiti only go up to the 6th grade, limiting the level of schooling children receive. Intermediate and Secondary schools exist in the larger cities, however, the tuition and the distance to travel from home is prohibitive for many. Providing an intermediate and secondary school right in the same community in which their primary school was located adds to the educational growth of the student and the community.

The challenge is to begin raising funds for building additional school classrooms to house the additional grade levels. The dream is to add one or two grade levels per year so that those students currently in the 6th grade will be able to continue in their education each year as another grade level is added.

#### Join the Challenge:

Those wanting to help in this challenge, send your gift to Allegany Region Missions, making a note that the funds are for the *Intermediate/Secondary School Challenge*.



## Flannel Graph Ministry

### Sharing Bible Stories with Visuals

When Linda Ferrie went to Haiti she had a tug on her heart to find a way to give more than just one week of teaching about Jesus to the Haiti children. So, the Flannel Graph Ministry was born.

When Linda first used a borrowed flannel graph during a Vacation Bible School week in Haiti, she watched the children light up as the Bible stories were not only told, but visualized. After returning to the U.S., Linda looked into acquiring flannel graph kits to give to the school in Gallette and through the help of donors who also saw her vision, she was able to purchase two large kits. Volunteers helped cut out the many figures and Linda took the two kits with her to Haiti and spent time teaching the enthusiastic teachers how to use the flannel graph to share about our amazing Lord. The Bible story book and directions for



A teacher practices her flannel graph presentation with the story of Noah's ark

which figures to use are in English, so volunteers in Haiti have been lovingly translating the text into Creole so more stories can be shared with the children.

With an open heart and a desire to serve, you never know where God will take you!

## Pass on the News

### More Teacher Sponsorships Available

With a desire and plans in motion to build Secondary and Intermediate classrooms, there is an equally important need for teachers to instruct those students. ARM needs additional donors to catch the vision of educating a full classroom of students through sponsoring the teacher's salary and providing teacher development programs to continue to boost education quality.

If you, someone you know, your church, or your local PTA wants to learn more about supporting a teacher, have them contact ARM. Members of the ARM Board of Directors will gladly come to a group meeting or talk with an individual about the program, its workings and show exactly how 100% of the donations are used for the Teacher Sponsorship Program.



E-mail: [information@armissions.org](mailto:information@armissions.org)  
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## A Cry for Teacher's Aids

### Large Class Size Require Help

There is a general rule in education, the younger the student, the fewer you put in the classroom. With the vast need for education in the town of Gallette, the grades with the youngest children have experienced an explosion of attendance. This blessing, however, poses a challenge to the teacher had his/her ability to teach the important foundational skills when spread so thin. Also, because young children are the same in any country, the time spent in managing the enthusiasm of the energetic youngsters takes away from quality learning time.

	# of students
K - 1	25
K - 2	32
K - 3	42
1st Grade	45
2nd Grade	42
3rd Grade	31
4th Grade	19
5th Grade	19
6th Grade	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268</b>

Dr. Bucci strongly suggests that an aid be considered for the first 4 classes (K-1, K-2, K-3 and 1st Grade). These aids would require additional financial support in order for them to be paid a fair wage and for the schools to remain tuition free.

Pray with ARM as we seek to provide the best quality education for the Haitian children while being good stewards of the monies donated for Haiti education use.

If you have been blessed by a teacher's aid or know of a teacher's aid who would like to sponsor a fellow aid in Haiti, please contact ARM or send your donations to the *Teacher Aid Fund*.

Allegany Region Missions provides a multi-denominational Christian mission ministry to the needy of the world, through a focus on mission projects and programs in medical care, surgery, construction and education.