

Sacred Heart Haiti Mission Foundation, Inc.

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The good Lord smiled on us this spring and sent a new group of volunteers. Several people became active volunteers and wanted to get involved in gathering goods and shipping containers. Grace Stevens and Lisa Jessen volunteered to accept responsibility and as such, became members of the Board of Directors of the Sacred Heart Haiti Mission Foundation, Inc.

We rented 2 large storage units in Rochester in April. We use one for sorting & packing and the other one for the finished & inventoried boxes (pictured below). We just rented a third because the other 2 are getting quite full. Donations are coming in from everywhere! At this rate, we may have to ship 2 containers in October!



Sister called from Haiti one day and mentioned that the new Cathedral had a large outdoor Joseph statue, but only a small figurine of Mary; and no baby Jesus for their nativity set. She asked if we may be able to find a decent set before next Christmas. Joyce called Father Breza in Winona, MN who runs the Polish Museum. They went to high school together. He started the museum several years ago. Churches from all over the Diocese of Winona have donated church supplies to the museum. He was happy to help with our request. Long story short...he gave us a 10-piece nativity set with 4 foot statues! We told him about the 60 churches that went down in the 2010 earthquake. We toured the museum and found many treasures that he graciously donated to the Mission. Pictured are some of the treasures he donated: Stations of the Cross, candle holders, incense burners, large crosses, vestments, kneelers, etc. We hauled 2 van loads, plus a pickup full!



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People have been so generous! Donations are pouring in every day faster than we can pack them! We just received a substantial donation from HJ Boerboom Candle & Church Supply. They gave us enough candles and church supplies to fill the back of a pick up truck (pictured below) and the whole inside of the cab (minus the very front seat)! More will be coming soon!



We stay in contact with several priests in Haiti and try to help them support their parishes. They are lucky to bring in \$100 in the collection basket each week! It's difficult to fathom!

We have had some specific requests for donations—

- Folding chairs for the schools
- Smaller sized living room chairs
- Single mattresses

We plan to be in Haiti in early December to receive the shipment in the port. That is when the REAL work begins! We will be dispersing items to the Bishop who in turn gives them to the poorest of the poor in Port au Prince. Some items are marked especially for the Sisters. The Sisters have 10 houses/facilities that consist of a Home for the Destitute & Dying, a school and a Children's Nutritional Center. While other items are marked for priests in the area who will disperse to their parishioners. We hope to get some of the new group of volunteers to go along and show them the ropes.

We thank all of you again for your help, your support and your prayers.

God Bless you,

Dale & Joyce Grabarkiewicz

A Facebook page was set up in January of this year. If you haven't yet, please go to Sacred Heart Haiti Mission Facebook page and "Like" us. This is a great way to keep everyone updated and informed about what is happening in Rochester, MN as well as in Haiti. We also share pictures on Facebook; so if you have any pictures or a story about YOUR experience in Haiti, please post it on our Facebook page.

Please invite others who may be interested in learning more about our mission to "Like" us on Facebook. Social media is a great (& inexpensive) way to spread the word.



Joyce enjoys cleaning and dressing the donated baby dolls.