



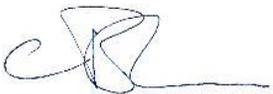
Dear Friends,

The first HELP students were graduates of a school on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince where I had taught. I knew they were worth investing in, but I always wondered how many other straight-A students there were who didn't have anyone to help them fulfill their potential. So we started to think about how we could award HELP scholarships to the most deserving students, wherever they were.

In the early days, I would grab a single HELP student and visit as many public schools as possible in Port-au-Prince. The first year, we probably visited no more than 10. As HELP grew, Country Director Garry Delice was able to drive to more remote areas with several students. He soon realized we could never cover the country like this, so he made HELP students responsible for recruiting their successors. Today, we are closer than ever to achieving our goal of nationwide awareness of HELP, and this year's recruiting drive resulted in 243 applications from straight-A students from every corner of Haiti.

This abundance of demand is unfortunately tempered by a decrease in supply. HELP is losing a significant donor for the upcoming school year and we are looking to make up 20 scholarships to meet our goal of accepting 50 new students from our most promising applicant pool ever. Any support you can offer towards this goal is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Conor".

Conor

2014 Recruitment Reflections

Students and staff share their experiences

The end of the school year is always a busy and exciting time at HELP, as we showcase academic accomplishments, honor our newest graduates, and say goodbye to staff and students for the summer. To mark the end of ESL classes this year, students in English Three adapted classic Haitian folktales into plays and gave a night of entertaining performances.



Team leader Agronome-Paul SAINT-PAUL (agro-economics '14) spending time with students at the secondary school he attended in Torbeck (South Department).

This year, HELP identified our recruitment drive as a priority and developed a new strategy for the January – March recruitment period. Over the course of 12 weeks, student-led teams visited over 1,000 schools across the country and spoke directly to more than 160,000 secondary school students, even reaching those in remote areas like the islands of La Tortue and La Gonave. “We put in a strong effort this year, and the results speak for themselves,” says Recruiting Intern Sabrina CYPRIEN (agronomy '15). “Some notable differences from past years include the assignment of team leaders for each department and the increased availability of vehicles and materials for each team. These changes allowed for better productivity and time management.” HELP’s outreach was expanded even further by our student media teams, which appeared on more than 50 regional and national radio stations, and by our partners at Digicel, who sent a nationwide text blast with admissions information to 2,000,000 subscribers!



A Match Made for Haiti

A tremendous THANK YOU to each and every one of our supporters who gave in response to HELP’s year-end matching grant campaign! Through your generosity, we successfully met the \$50,000 challenge from an anonymous donor, generating a total of \$100,000 for HELP! We couldn’t have done it without you.

From Hungary to Haiti

This past winter, HELP welcomed our newest international volunteer, Nora NEMERE. Originally from Hungary, Nora was living in Memphis, Tennessee, when she came to Haiti to visit her sister, who is working at an orphanage. Nora has been lending her expertise to our Operations Department.



After experiencing life in Haiti for a few months, I realized that “wanting to help” was not enough – I needed to find an organization that had a good reputation as well as personal value for me. Luckily, my sister suggested HELP, and it has been a great experience so far. This was the first time I accepted a job not for the career advancement, but because I felt like it was the right thing for me. Looking around at the streets of Port-au-Prince often makes me sad and frustrated, but now I can finally do something for beautiful Haiti. Every day here brings something new for me, I get to learn the culture, and I am surrounded by some of the smartest kids around!

Not only did the recruitment drive spread the word to tens of thousands of students about the importance of education, but it was also an inspiring experience for the HELP participants. As Sabrina explains, “An especially large number of students were interested in taking part this year. To me, this shows an impressive level of engagement, as well as a strong sense of belonging with HELP, and a desire to share with others the important values that it promotes.

The continued participation of the students in the recruiting process, and in HELP’s activities overall, is indispensable to strengthening the program.” We also had more employee involvement in recruitment than ever before, with a total of 10 staff members joining student teams across Haiti. Below, both students and staff write about their recruiting experiences, and you can see more photos from the recruiting drive here.



Jean Jean LACROIX (agro-economics '17) and Jean-Widny LORDEUS (civil engineering '18) sailing to Ile de la Tortue (Turtle Island) in the North-West Department. No school is too remote for our student teams to reach!

Benji TOUSSAINT (computer science '17): *It's thanks to a HELP's recruiting campaign that I'm part of the program, so it was a great pleasure for me to go to my home region (the Northeast Department) to find students who may have lost hope of going to university. My role is to tell them how they can be part of the HELP family, where we work to build a more just Haitian society. The recruitment period was also an opportunity for me to develop my sense of leadership by speaking with younger students, advising them, motivating them, and sharing the story of my own education. I also had the chance to visit parts of the region that I'd never been to before. The recruitment campaign was, for me, a campaign to raise awareness among young students of how to see Haiti from a different, more positive angle.*

Susie ZEIGER (English Instructor): *Recruiting in the Grand Anse Department will remain one of my favorite memories of my time at HELP. Although we traveled long distances and the roads were difficult, the experience and beauty of the countryside were absolutely worth the challenges. There was excellent team spirit throughout the trip as everyone did their part to reach as many schools and students as we could. Great leadership and a sense of humor among the team members were critical to our success, even if I didn't always understand the jokes in Creole! I was also impressed by the countless schools we visited where, in spite of the scarcity of resources and over-crowded classes, the secondary school students were both curious and receptive.*

After each long day speaking at schools, our team returned to the home of Nephtaly Andoney PIERRE-LOUIS, a HELP student from the area. There we were treated like family, with warm welcomes and amazing food that allowed us to recharge and get ready for another day. Overall, our mutual respect, as well as the generous hospitality from our hosts and the schools we visited, made the trip really pleasant. If I were to give a grade to the participants and for what we achieved, it would definitely be an A+!

Nephtaly Andoney PIERRE-LOUIS (economics '17): *I see recruiting as the duty of every HELP student, so I was just doing my part by participating. It is also an initiative that contributes significantly to strengthening the bonds between students and staff. The teamwork we exhibited will be really useful for us in the future, whether in our professional or family life. As a Team Leader for the Grand Anse Department, I'm thrilled with the experience I gained. I was able to*



Jean Bernard DURONE (agro-economics '17) at the Centre d'Etudes Communautaire Sapiens in the village of Areguy in the South-East Department.

practice my skills in leadership, planning, and management. The feelings of pride and belonging that I experienced while speaking to the students were powerful. Having grown up in Jeremie, it was great to share my story and my experiences at HELP with other students from my hometown, to show them that education is the true path to success. I will always be a willing volunteer in promoting the mission of HELP because I truly believe in it. The past two years that I've been part of this family have changed my life in many ways, and have helped me to become a better person.

Samuel-Leon BOURSQUOT (IT Instructor, HELP class of 2013): *I participated in recruitment for the first time this year, and was fortunate enough to visit my parent's birthplace of Jacmel in the South-East Department. It was so easy to work with my team, where everyone kept a careful eye on each other – we were like family. We became somewhat competitive, trying to visit as many schools as possible. I was proud to stand in front of the classrooms in every school we visited, telling the story of how I was once a student sitting in their chair, studying hard. Now it feels so rewarding to be the messenger. I know that if I could do it, they can do it, and I hope they will gain strength from my story. It was a great experience to tell more students about the unique opportunity I received at HELP.*

Success of Student Sponsorship

HELP has been sponsoring deserving students for over 15 years, and we are firm believers that education is the most direct route out of poverty. It's always nice to get validation that we are on the right track! We recently came across a



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2013 article in the Journal of Political Economy which does just that. In the first study of its kind, U.S. based researchers concluded that international sponsorship dramatically increases the probability that a beneficiary will finish school. In fact, the study found that international sponsorship increased the probability of a beneficiary completing a university education by 50%–80%, and increased the probability of obtaining a white collar job by 35%. Thanks to all of our sponsors for increasing the chances of success for all HELP students and for Haiti.

