

# THE CATALYST

## A publication of the Haiti Plunge

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( Mailing Address )

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***The Haiti Plunge mission is to challenge and empower young people to make a difference with their lives and to be of service to others.***



### Change a child's life

In the nine villages that HPI serves, 50% of the children are not in school because there is no public school. All schools must charge tuition in order to exist.

Haiti recently suffered a six month drought which destroyed the crops of our village farmers. This was the main food supply for the family. This drought reduced the amount of food parents could feed their children limiting them to one tiny meal daily. Parents would like to send their children to school but food keeps them alive. The only way these children can go to school is through a sponsorship. For \$100 a sponsor can change the life of a Haitian child. The money pays for tuition, uniform and school supplies. If interested send a check to Haiti Plunge Inc./SP, mail it to P.O. Box 745, No. Adams, 01247. A photo and short biography of the child you are sponsoring will be sent to you. The Aug. HPI team will bring the money and register children in school.



Post earthquake development resulting from the new six mile road HPI built as part of their rebuilding commitment to reach the villages they serve. Hundreds of houses have been built at the road's entrance by various organizations to house earthquake victims. For the pre-quake teams this development will seem very strange after travelling through banana fields for 25 years.



Mike Marchetti, Sue Yates and Alex Daughert are prepping for the HPI pancake breakfast which was held on May 22nd. This event raised \$3,227 toward the purchase of a new truck for the HPI mission in Haiti.

### News Updates & Events

- Next team departs Aug. 7—16 with Holly. There is still space for anyone interested in a life-changing experience. The team will be building raised gardens for women.
- HPI is also conducting an August Cash Calendar Fundraiser. For \$10 you can purchase a calendar and have multiple chances to win \$1,200 in cash. A sample of the calendar is enclosed with the newsletter. Fill it out and a numbered calendar will be mailed to you. This is a great way to support the HPI mission.
- The 2nd annual Seamless Team Reunion will take place Saturday, July 30, 2016 at Sacred Heart Hall in Pittsfield. It is located on Newell St. next to the Pink Church. Bring the kids. We will offer some special kids events, serve the traditional rice & beans, have updated videos, and hold a 50/50 raffle. Bring your check books because we will also holding an auction of a few Haitian painting donated to HPI by Peter Harding, a former diplomat to Haiti and an connoisseur of Haitian art.

## 2017 Trip Schedule

For anyone interested in participating in a Haiti Plunge team there is space available on the following teams. Applications can be downloaded from the website or by contacting HPI via email.

<b>Dec. 28—Jan. 6, / '17</b>	<b>Feb. 17—26</b>	<b>March Spring break</b>
<b>April 14—23</b>	<b>May 21—31</b>	<b>June 23—July 2</b>
<b>August 6—15</b>	<b>Oct. 15—22</b>	<b>Dec. 29—Jan.7 / '18</b>

Trip cost is \$1,650. Fundraising brochures are available to help defray the cost.

Not on this schedule is the Oct. 15—22, 2016 trip. An 8- day trip for adults that have always wanted to do a mission trip but never had the opportunity. The trip cost is \$1,320 and includes airfare, transportation to/ from airports, all on-site meals, trip insurance and a day at the beach. Participants live in tents at the HPI compound located in the mountains of Haiti's central plateau. There is no electricity or running water. A generator is used to power electronic devices and power tools. The group will assist in the building of raised gardens for women and teaching village children whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. This is a great opportunity for senior citizens in good health who enjoy new challenges. To help defray the trip cost HPI has fundraising brochures and bulletin announcements available upon request.



Assistant HPI Director, Holly Palardy, recently graduated from the 2016 class of the Berkshire Leadership Program. The 10 week program seeks to prepare, involve and sustain leaders from diverse backgrounds who are committed and competent to address community challenges and improve the quality of life in the Berkshires. The program is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year and has over 500 alumni. Through this program she was able to learn about key development issues facing Berkshire County, participate in creative problem solving and team building skills, and establish a network with other leaders from various sectors of society. Holly hopes to use these lessons, skills, and connections in her work with HPI. As Seamless Team members know, team building and problem solving are necessary skills to have in Haiti. Holly also plans to use her new network to enhance awareness and support for HPI within the Berkshire community.

## Donors are the lifeline to the Haiti Plunge mission.

“Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others.” Pope Francis

### 2016 2nd Quarter Major Donors

**St. John Paul 2 Parish**  
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