

THE CATALYST

A publication of the Haiti Plunge

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

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Colleen Janz, HPI Assistant Director recently spent a morning with the second graders at St. Mary's School, Lee, MA. The second grade are the youngest HPI partners. They have held a cupcake sale annually to raise money for special projects in the villages that HPI serves. This year they presented Colleen with two checks. One for \$370 for the Giving Tree Project. This year the mango trees will be given to all the babies born in 2018. By the time these babies are ready to attend school the fruit from the tree will pay for their school tuition, uniform and school supplies. She also gave a check for \$100 to give a child the opportunity to go to school.



HENRIQUEZ GLOBAL AWARENESS FUND recently awarded Haiti Plunge Inc. \$7,650.00. Berkshire County youth can apply for a scholarship to supplement their shortfall in their fundraising. The per person cost for a participant is \$1,700 which is all inclusive. Once a student is accepted into the program, team members are expected to raise the cost of their trip.

Each one receives their own brochure for distribution to potential sponsors. This process is also an indication of how serious students are invested in making the plunge. For students who do not have a broad network of family and friends and have difficulty raising the entire amount they can apply to the Henriquez Fund for a scholarship.

The Henriquez Fund was initiated in 1995 to promote the development of peace among nations and justice for all people by funding international experiences for young people in their intellectually formative years.

Mr. Henriquez believed that "an understanding of other people and their cultures, as well as sensitivity to the destabilizing effect of social and economic injustice is what young people will need if they are to effectively contribute to a peaceful and just world in their adult life."

Haiti Plunge Inc. is a multi-year recipient of this award and is very grateful to the Henriquez Fund for giving so many youth the opportunity to participate in a plunge.



Scouting will be introduced to the children in the nine villages that HPI serves beginning in Brely. Both Colleen Janz, HPI Assistant Director and Don Rochelo a Board member have over 30 years experience in scouting. After some research Colleen realized that Scouts exist in some of the cities in Haiti. The first troop will start with 16 boys and girls. An anonymous donor has offered to pay for the scouting guide books in French.

Because HPI has limited resources it invites donors to invest in the program so that uniforms, badges and other supplies can be purchased. If anyone is interested in investing in this program checks can be made out to Haiti Plunge Inc. / Scouts. Contributions can also be made via the HPI website. Just designate the program by adding the name in your address section. All donations are tax exempt.

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