



## Solidarity News Notes...

News from the Rich in Mercy Institute – Summer 2015

### [Rich in Mercy Institute Launches Online Presence at www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org)



The new **Rich in Mercy Institute** website ([www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org)) marks a major step to advance the Institute's mission: "to promote a global culture of solidarity with a view to achieving a more just and sustainable world". Visitors to the site will find basic information about the Institute and updated information about its programs including development projects and transformational travel in Haiti and educational outreach in the US.

Technical assistance in developing the site came from **Natalie Capito**, a junior computer science major at **St. Vincent College** (Latrobe, PA). Secure, online donations – via credit card or PayPal – are processed by **Network for Good**, a leading, online giving platform offering a secure website where donors can make a one-time or recurring gift to support a specific project or provide general support for "the greatest need".

Back issues of "**Solidarity News Notes**" are available on the site together with detailed information about **Rich in Mercy** projects and programs. Several photo galleries provide a closer look at the work of the Institute. The website also provides access to the **Solidarity Matters**, a web log ("blog") hosted by **Rich in Mercy** executive director, Dr. Rich Gosser, that includes reflections on the themes of solidarity, justice, and sustainability with references to articles, book reviews, and links of interest. Additional content for the website is planned to include a "**Resources**" page of downloadable documents and links with content relevant to the **Rich in Mercy Institute** mission.

Check out the new [www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org) site and share your feedback with us via the [Contact](#) page there

### [Sisters of St. Antoine Inaugurate Vocational School for Girls in Fondwa, Haiti](#)

The **Little Sisters of St. Antoine** are a community of Haitian women religious founded in the village of Fondwa in 1996. Their work is with local peasant farmers, women's groups, orphans, a primary care clinic and the St. Antoine School that enrolls nearly 600 children in pre-school through the end of secondary school.



Often young girls in Haiti are forced to leave school early without completing their education and with few opportunities to learn a trade or other skills by which to support themselves. The sisters, in collaboration with local women's groups, decided to address this issue in Fondwa by launching the **Fondwa Professional School for Women and Girls**. The **Rich in Mercy Institute** will provide financial support for this endeavor through the **Fondwa Women's Fund**.



The new professional school will equip women with practical education, marketable skills, and knowledge to create their own small businesses. Initially it will enroll 20 young adult girls and women, drawing from the **Fatima House Orphanage**, the **St. Antoine School**, and various women's groups active in the Fondwa community. The **Fondwa Women's Fund** will provide scholarships for 9 students.

Tuition and fees for the **Professional School** are a modest US \$20 a month or \$240 a year. Donations to the **Fondwa Women's Fund** can be made through the **Rich in Mercy Institute** [Donate Now](#) button at [www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org). We especially welcome monthly donors whose support will make possible additional scholarships and increased enrollment benefiting more girls and young women from Fondwa!

RICH IN MERCY is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation with tax ID #.47-1591567

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The official registration and financial information of Partners in Progress may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## **Fair Trade Supports Family Forging Alternative Future Amidst Gang Violence**

**Jacob Jean Telus** was a gifted artist, who brought together other artists and talented craftsmen from the infamous City Soley slum, in Port au Prince to form the “**Atelye Atisan Reyini**” (“Artists Reunited Workshop”). His dream was to model an alternative way to make a living in an area marked by extreme material poverty and subject to continually erupting violence among rival, armed gangs.

In 2008 Telus was murdered for his efforts, but his legacy and the dream he had only begun to realize continue through the efforts of an original **Atelye** artist, **Wisly Jean Louis**, and his four sons. This artistically talented family produces beautiful note cards hand-crafted from banana bark, accented with pen and ink drawings and depicting various Haitian themes and motifs.



The **Rich in Mercy Institute** markets these cards to various retailers and participants in "fair trade" networks in order to help the **Jean Louis** family meet its basic needs and continue modeling an alternative way of life in the midst of violence. A gallery of card samples available to retailers can be seen at the Rich in Mercy website at [www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org). (Click on “Projects / Haiti Projects” and then “Fair Trade Banana Bark Card Sales”.)

## **Barraderes Programs Provides Food for Seniors and Formation for Girls**

Barraderes, located in the Nippes department in the southwest part of Haiti, has a population of about 32,000 and is accessible via a rocky dirt road and passable only to large trucks and high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicles.



**Rich in Mercy** provides financial support for the Barraderes social service center where rations of rice, beans, sugar and oil are provided monthly along with basic health care services for some 300 elderly residents of the community who are most “at risk” for malnutrition and chronic hunger. Additionally the center operates a vocational school offering young women classes in embroidery, cooking, and sewing.



The project is coordinated by **Sr. Denise Desil** of the **Little Sisters of St. Therese** whose community has worked in Barraderes since 1972. Additional support for the Barraderes programs is needed. Visit the **Rich in Mercy Institute** web page at [www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org) and click on the [Donate Now](#) button to make a one-time or recurring, tax-deductible donation!

## **“Education for Change” Supports Summer Soccer and Leadership Training**

Solino is a neighborhood in Haiti’s capital of Port au Prince that is dominated by poverty, violence, disease, and despair. It is a place where street gangs attract youth who have few opportunities to attend school or earn a livelihood.

The **Rev. Patrick Eugene**, with support from the **Rich in Mercy Institute** “Education for Change” fund, is helping to change that. In addition to providing scholarships to 100 youth based on merit and need, an annual summer camp gathers more than 200 Solino youth to participate in a soccer camp that offers wholesome athletic opportunities, strong leadership formation, and renewed HOPE!



To make a donation to the Education for Change fund visit [www.RIMIN.org](http://www.RIMIN.org) and click on the [Donate Now](#) button!

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