

PILH NEWSLETTER

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PILH in a Nutshell

Our Mission: PILH enhances literacy in children and families in Haiti through work with, support for and development of community libraries and learning centers. We are transforming the next generation of Haitians with libraries featuring better trained staff, books for study and pleasure, and modern technology.

Our Values:

1. Partnership: Partner with organizations, both within and beyond Haiti.
2. Action: Work to benefit as many children as soon as possible.
3. Education: Embody passion for education with the flexibility to seek new solutions.
4. Stewardship: Promote the responsible use of resources to achieve goals.

[Click on our logo:](#)



Welcome & Thank You Friends!

PILH has launched a new organization to bring support and encouragement to our efforts in Haiti. Our “charter members” of Friends of PILH joined us in November and December. It is our hope that many more enthusiasts will join us in the next few months. Children in Haiti are eager for books to read. They want knowledge, entertainment, vision, even a future. A financial contribution buys a “Friend” membership for a year. We will publish names of new members periodically, along with updates on our work in Haiti.

Our Charter Members: Canisha Beck, Lisa Bodenheimer, Ken and Mary Bolt, Ronald Chew, Clara Chu, Pamela Colt, Karla Cubbison, Janet Deavor, Tom Dennison, Meredith Dew, Dot Dill, Annette Donegan, Marci Duncan, Ann B. Edwards, Barbara Ellis, Emily Fayssoux, First Baptist Church: Johnson Class, Bruce Fisher, George Fletcher, Richard Graffis, Ed and Peggy Good, Brian and Ginny Holt, Janet Huskey, Linda Kelly, Tom Kirby, Surendra Jain, John Lane, Laurence Lee, Gerald Leiber, Dan Linginfelter, James Linginfelter, Sara Mansbach, Pamela Miller, Sanford Miller, Nicola Page, Michael Payne, Linda Russ, Donald Shelley, Dawn Strickland, Tonja Weimer, Sam T. Ziady, the Johnson SS Class, FBCG

Thanks to each of these “Friends” for their support and generosity. Children’s lives will be changed because of their caring. ★ *By Linda Russ*



Ojeno Project’s Earthquake Recovery Camp

A private PILH donor answered a request from Inette Durandis, Ojeno’s Children’s Humanitarian Assistance Project Director, to assist children in 3 trauma recovery camps in villages in Boileau, Camp Perrin, and Les Cayes.

The children’s homes, schools , and churches had been severely destroyed by the August 14, 202, 7.2 scale earthquake. For 200 to 300 children, each village received about 33 copies of every PILH title (600 books totally valued at \$5,000). After recreational reading use during the week of December 27-31 in the camps, the books were stored to begin the collections of the 3 villages’ new community reading rooms Ojeno is in the process of launching March 1st.

Words to Live By

“The more that you read
 The more things you will know,
 The more you learn
 The more places you will go.”
 - Dr. Seuss

For the Love of Reading

By Melinda Long, children’s author

“Learning to read and write frees the mind and opens doors, offering children and adolescents a ladder out of poverty and a path to a promising future.” - UnicefUsa.org

I can remember my ten-year-old self, rushing to my local library and snatching their copy of Madeleine L’Engle’s *A Wrinkle in Time*. I couldn’t wait to read the whole book, devour it cover to cover. The library was two miles away, a short drive from my home. Ten minutes and I was immersed in the world of Meg Murry! It was easy. That book made me want to read more and eventually become a professional writer. It opened doors.

Not everyone is that lucky. Literacy is a gift. We have a responsibility to offer it to children who don’t have easy access to books and libraries. The statistics on literacy rates and their effect on the development of children are undeniable. Children need books. They need libraries.

Partners in Literacy Haiti is an organization that wants to make that happen in the rural areas of Haiti. ★





Education in Action!

PILH is training librarians in Haiti now and expanding daily.

PRIX PEPA 2022
CONCOURS NATIONAL DE LECTURE A VOIX HAUTE
Lire en 120 secondes
5ème édition
THÈME: "HAUSSONS LA LECTURE A TRAVERS NOS VOIX"

PRIMES

- 1^{er} prix: 75 000 GOURDES
- 2^{ème} prix: 50 000 GOURDES
- 3^{ème} prix: 25 000 GOURDES
- 4^{ème} prix: 10 000 GOURDES
- 5^{ème} prix: 5 000 GOURDES

FRAIS D'INSCRIPTION 750 GOURDES
Niveau de Paléontologie: Mon Cash (509 4652 37 76 Nicole Visseux)

Date des inscriptions: 05 au 20 Mars
contact: volens@odugency.com | +509 36 14 7814 | 43 59 9009
@odugencyht

Sponsors of the 2022 PEPA Competition in Port-au Prince, Haiti

Partners in Literacy Haiti
Admin: 202 Hope Street
Greenville, SC 29601

Donations: P.O. Box 90057
Indianapolis, IN 46290

administrator@haiti-literacy.org



Brulan Jean-Michel

A PILH Trailblazer

“With PILH, I envision people all over Haiti committing themselves to laying down their weapons of destruction and replacing them with different types of books to build their minds for a better country and a better world.”



Hiring our first employee after 11 years as an all-volunteer organization was an especially important decision. We sought a part-time Haitian or Haitian-American to be our “boots-on-the-ground” Training and Outreach Manager. We happily found him among our

volunteers. Starting as a volunteer in the Spring of 2021, Brulan Jean-Michel brought a wealth of knowledge and sound advice from his background and experience in Haiti and the US.

As PILH Training Manager, Brulan paves the way for individual village plans, facilitates training sessions and monitors program performance. As PILH’s Global Outreach Ambassador, he creates partnerships with established literacy and library groups thus raising PILH’s effectiveness and visibility. Among our newest collaborators are PEPA Education Agency, currently running its National Haitian Read Aloud Contest and The Duplan Community Library.

Brulan is a leader in the nonprofit sector with The Friends of Petit-Goave Association, Family Action Network Movement in Florida, The Highland Park United Methodist Church Medical Missions in Texas and The Church Of Resurrection Disaster Response Team in Kansas.

Emigrating from Haiti in 1982, he continued to serve Haitians in the Unites States as a Financial Advisor, a sales and marketing analyst, a planning strategist, a lawyer in Haiti and a radio and television host.

His Law Degree is from Universite d’Etat d’Haiti and he is a graduate of Montclair State University in New Jersey in Business Administration and Finance. He is the Founder and CEO of BJ Transparency Consulting, Inc. (Transcon, Inc FL).

After the passing of his late wife, Brulan returned to Haiti to manage the Eglise Methodiste d’Haiti International Volunteers in Mission Program and Guesthouse, from 2013 to February 2021. He and his current wife live in both Petionville and Pembroke Pines, Florida.

★ *By Partners in Literacy Haiti Staff*



Happy Reading

Do you love reading? So do we. Your kindly support of PILH will enhance this and future generations in Haiti.



Contact Us



administrator@haiti-literacy.org



Creole Training for Teachers in LaChapelle

In Haiti, for generations, when children started school, they were taught in French, a language they had not heard before the day they entered the classroom.. Millions of them felt intimidated, humiliated, and discouraged by this. They lost interest in learning. Children learn best in their native language. In Haiti this is Creole. Now they have the opportunity to learn in Creole.

Teachers and school Directors are making efforts to adjust to this new reality, but most of them lack the necessary skills.

PILH has developed a training strategy specifically designed to provide those skills. In the first week of January 2022, just before school reopened, four training sessions for teachers were held in LaChapelle Community Library. The topics were Teaching Early Creole Language Skills and Sharing Creole Books. The trainer, Pastor Carlo Belon, was a LaChapelle school director whose teachers use Creole to teach. Two of PILH’s educators wrote original training manuals to assist Pastor Belon. Two library workers, Mackenson Elisca and Fernand Constant, assisted.

Brulan Jean-Michel, a Haitian-American citizen who is the PILH Training and Outreach Manager purchased the required training supplies in the US and transported them to Mackenson and Fernand. 34 teachers and 5 school directors from 5 different schools participated. PILH provided Creole alphabet charts to the attendees.

LaChapelle was also the site of a first pilot training in August where 20 teachers from nonparticipating schools appeared and asked to be included. The January training was PILH’s response. These sessions are making a positive difference in the life of the children of LaChapelle. PILH intends to continue training.

We are especially grateful to the nonprofit organization, Haiti Education and Production Initiatives, our partner in training and library collaboration in LaChapelle.

★ *By Brulan Jean-Michel*



World Storytelling Month

The invitation “**Cric?**” and the reply “**Crac!**” in Haiti means gather and hear a story. Oral storytelling is a beloved Haitian tradition. [World Storytelling Day](#) is a celebration of Oral Storytelling. It is celebrated each year on March 20 and many activities occur in days around it. Our PILH goal is to celebrate the art of storytelling with as many children as possible, both listeners and storytellers. Tell stories often—they enhance communication, build vocabularies, instill virtues, teach sequencing, boost listening, heighten visual imagery, sharpen memory, and develop imagination. And they’re SO MUCH FUN!

★ *By Partners in Literacy Haiti Staff*

Help Support PILH by Donating for the Printing of Books and Alphabet Charts in Haiti’s Native Tongue “Kreyòl”

[Click Here to Donate](#)

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