

LEADERS Program

Training 40 strategic community leaders from around the country in an intensive 3-year program.

Your Partnership:

- Brings these leaders together 4 times a year for training and exchange
- Provides each leader with a laptop and training to use it
- Positively impacts thousands of lives because of leaders' influence in schools, churches, communities, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and government

The Need

Haiti has suffered most of its history under the misrule of autocratic and violent leaders. While the country has made fitful progress toward democracy on the national level, the model of leadership in local institutions still tends to be extremely autocratic. In local governance, leaders are taught to speak, but not to listen. In schools, leaders are expected to organize and control without engaging the participation of students and other stakeholders. In churches, leaders preach and interpret without inviting their congregation's concerns.

Haiti Partners has been addressing these issues directly through the promotion of organizational and educational methods that:

- Teach leaders to listen
- Invite the participation of others, and
- Seek to lead through serving others rather than through dominating them.

Unfortunately, the paradigm-shift that these approaches demand does not come easily. It takes substantial ongoing training, support, and the development of a solid network of colleagues similarly engaged in improving Haiti through improved approaches to leadership. This takes time.

Strategy

Haiti Partners has developed the LEADERS Program in close collaboration with the leaders who are involved. This three-year training provides over 40 local Haitian leaders with the skills, methods, and ongoing support they need to transform the

institutions and communities they work with to become more democratically engaged at the grassroots. Participating leaders:

- Meet together 4 times each year for several days each time.
- Deepen their understanding of participatory and servant leadership techniques like Reflection Circles, Open Space meetings and Lectio Divina Bible study.
- Receive and learn to effectively utilize a laptop computer and the internet. Learn and practice improved methods of communication, accountability, and self-evaluation.
- Participate in exchange visits with other participants to communities where such techniques are already being successfully employed. Each sign a covenant agreement detailing what she or he can expect and what is expected of her or him.

Goals

To help leaders in local organizations, schools, churches, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and government to:

- Lead in a way that inspires others and helps them discover their potential
- Increase their organizations' effectiveness at engaging the talent and energy of their stakeholders to accomplish their mission
- Use computers and internet to educate themselves and increase their personal effectiveness
- Nurture spiritual growth and a culture characterized by mutual respect, trust, innovation, dedication, and compassion

How you can help

- \$3,000 per year for 3 years enables an influential community leader to complete this intensive, empowering training
- \$1000 provides one leader with a laptop and the training to use it effectively