



Update #3 on Hurricane Matthew Funds Collected by the SSND Atlantic-Midwest Province

Thank you again to the people of the Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame who gave so generously to support the recovery of 23 families in the villages of Masikren and Matènwa on Lagonav Island.

Your open heart has profoundly changed the lives of these predominantly female-headed households, where women like (from L to R): Dieutineie Valieuis, Etude Jean-Jacques, Jaisine Yvenol and Nahome Cherubun are now hopeful for what the future holds.



Dieutineie is raising her three girls, ages 6, 8, and 9 in the new home that was built for them in the village of Masikren.

Dieutineie said of the Atlantic-Midwest Province's sponsorship: *"I have a new vision of how life can be. We can eat now. I can see a future for us. This program is creating a future for all of us."*

Thanks to the generosity of the AM-SSND family, Dieutineie and her family and 22 other families have a solid foundation for their future that includes:

- A safe, sturdy, dignified home to call their own,
- Clean drinking water to keep them healthy,
- The means to earn a living - either animals to raise, breed, and sell or goods to run a small business - so that they can provide for themselves,
- A home vegetable garden to provide food to eat and sell in the local market,
- A small savings account in a community savings and loan, and;

- A new ‘family’ of fellow program participants ready to support each other any time the need arises.

From January 29th-February 1st, 2018, Sister Catherine Sarther, SSND, visited Lagonav Island with Beyond Borders Director & Co-Founder David Diggs and a group of board members and donors.



As part of the visit, Sister Catherine (*photo left, with Freda Catheus, BB Staff and Anne Gibbons, BB Board President*) and the group met with families in Beyond Borders’ Hurricane Matthew Response Program and heard firsthand about the kind of impact that the AM-SSND sponsorship is having in the lives of these families.

“What impressed me most was the active involvement of the

Beyond Borders staff throughout the program with the heads of households, usually women. Not only did they offer these women material assistance but also provided coaching and support to sustain the family’s progress in the future. This feature was aptly summed up by one woman who said: ‘Before I did not see a future; now I plan for my future and my children’s future.’”

~ **Sister Catherine Sarther, SSND**

Here are testimonies directly from program participants themselves in all the communities where Beyond Borders Hurricane Matthew Response Program is working:

“This program lifted me out of a very bad situation. We were at zero. We’re not at zero anymore. It has done so much for us. It gave us goats, and pigs, and chickens to raise, it gave us a little bit of spending money before we began earning a living ourselves. The program built a new house for me. Now we can stand on our own. Now we have valor. We are on the way up. All of us in the program are one family now.”

~ **Jean Jolimene, 44**, raising 8 children in the village of Tikoma

“Thank you so much for all you’ve given us: goats, pigs, a rebuilt home. Now we eat well, all my children are in school, I’m selling in the market and earning money. We have a water filter too.”

~ **Nahomei Cherubun, 36**, she and her husband are raising 6 children in the village of Masikren

“After God, this program has done the most for me. We were staying with others when I was accepted in to the program. Now we have a house with a toilet. I’m raising goats to earn a living. We don’t have to sleep at the homes of other people now. I thank God for this program.”

~ **Jean Louis Mata**, 41, raising 7 children in the village of Chenkontan

In the remaining months of the program, families like Angelise Hylaire and her three children (*photo*) who live in the village of Matènwa, will continue to receive weekly accompaniment visits by their caseworkers to ensure that they are making progress toward achieving their goal of economic independence.



Families will also continue to either join existing village savings and loan associations, or will form their own where one doesn’t already exist. These associations will serve as another source of credit for families as they grow their small businesses or if they need funds for an unexpected family matter.

Thank you again for your generous sponsorship of these 23 families as they’ve worked to rebuild their lives after Hurricane Matthew. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, your care, and your concern, and we are truly ecstatic at the transformation that the AM-SSND family has made possible in their lives.