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Dear Friends,

I would like to reach out to every one of you that has or is currently assisting my work to raise up the organized poor in rural Haiti. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one who has shown solidarity with the Haitian people. You have each been a blessing for me. As I like to say to the Lord: bring me your best friends and please keep the rest for yourself! Well, truly, you are each the best of friends!

You may remember a time when I shared with you the true vision of my work. I like to describe the three parts of this work using the metaphor of a three-legged stool. The three legs of the stool needed to assure the creation of wealth and sustainability in rural Haiti are local grassroots organizations, higher education and economic opportunity. Each leg is important. But, for the stool to be strong and support true change all three legs must be in solidarity. While there has been substantial movement in each of the three areas over the past thirty years It has not been easy to advance all three together. That is, until now!

Toward the end of 2016, The Raising Haiti Foundation (RHF), a US based 501(c)3 in support of the work of APF Haiti, conceived a plan and secured commitments to send eighteen high school students, three from each of six rural communities to the University of Fondwa for the term beginning March, 2017. Only the first year's costs have been committed in the form of a loan but this is a big start.

I quickly realized that this was the perfect opportunity to begin to strengthen the local grassroots organizational capacity in those six communities. So, a plan was quickly set in motion to make that happen. We are still struggling to find all the funding needed to complete this process but we are confident that those resources will flow and we have not hesitated. APF-Haiti is already engaged in raising up and training some Local Development Committees in six States.

I support this project 100% and have asked my friends from the RHF to follow up with you and to see how best that you can get involved with us in this beautiful project. It is my greatest hope and prayer that this new small pilot project launched by Raising Haiti will find your support. A copy if the Three Legs Project is attached here or available at raisinghaiti.org/threelegs.html.

Thanks so much again for your attention and for great solidarity with us. May the Lord keep you and shine his blessings upon you and your family, upon your projects and all of your loved ones.

In Solidarity,

Father Joseph Philippe