



# Jou Nouvo

*Kreye chemin la vi miyo*  
*"Creating pathways for a better a life"*

*Jou Nouvo meaning "New Day" in Haitian Creole seeks to provide a way to meet the needs and aspirations of the Bon Repos' community. By implementing a program with fundamental literacy and health instruction, as well as a small loan program, Jou Nouvo hopes to redress the hardships of the people of Bon-Repos so that they may justly benefit from their own resilience and determination. Experienced caring staff and volunteers will provide a clean, safe and welcoming environment that retains the spirit of the Haitian culture. With a conviction that no effort is too small, the mission of Jou Nouvo is primarily created to pay tribute to the devotion and resilience of the struggling peoples of Haiti.*

## **Need for the Initiative**

Pressing through an era of deep political angst, the people of Haiti have extremely limited access to free education. As a result, over half of the Haitian population cannot read or write Creole, the native language, and French, the official language. Emphasizing education as essential for relief from poverty, most Haitians allocate what small financial resources they have to pay for private or parochial schools for their children. Unfortunately, "Haiti is often referred to as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and listed among the poorest of all countries in the developing world." However, the resilience and determination of poor families who are struggling on a daily basis for a way out of the extreme poverty cannot be dismissed.

## **Description**

Jou Nouvo seeks to bring together supporters from the United States and experienced community leaders from Haiti to exchange ideas and work together in order to provide a venue and staff to teach fundamental literacy skills to adults. The program will be accessible to those, who for the first time want to learn to read and write in Creole, as well as those who wish to continue to improve their literacy skills. Additionally, the program will provide basic instruction to strengthen family health as well as guidance in economic development and stability supplemented with a small loan.

## **Coordination and Participants**

Although services will also be open to men, the essence of Jou Nouvo is to provide women with an opportunity to acquire skills so that they may be involved with the schooling of their children and to promote good health habits for themselves and their family. Jou Nouvo will target adult women with little or no literacy skills who are in a state of economic despair.

With programming already implemented to address the needs of children, Jou Nouvo will address the needs of women who want to improve the overall quality of life both for themselves and their families. Jou Nouvo is working in partnership Institution Mixte Alexandre Dumas located in Bon-Repos, Haiti. The Institution is a private school and has successfully delivered kindergarten, fundamental and secondary education, nutrition program and other basic assistance to the struggling families of Bon-Repos for over ten (10) years. Jou Nouvo also supports and consults with Institution Mixte Quisqueya in Lizon, Haiti. Quisqueya is serving children of 4 to 10 years of age. With hopes of expansion, Jou Nouvo will continue to recruit and serve ten to twelve women in the literacy class at Institution Mixte Alexandre Dumas.

## **The Literacy Component**

Of central importance to all other elements of this initiative, the goal of the literacy program is to provide adults of Bon-Repos with fundamental reading and writing skills in either or both French and Creole. Experience and trained staff and volunteers of the Haitian community will provide two hour long evening classes three days a week to develop the literacy skills of participating members. With small intimate classes, the literacy program seeks to not only provide access to education, but also to instill a commitment to further their education beyond the first year of the initiative.

## **The Health Instruction Component**

Supplementing the literacy component, the health instruction component, run by health professionals will address the demands and needs for basic information about general health and nutrition issues for the families of Bon-Repos. Jou Nouvo will look for opportunities to partner and work with Health Professionals or a local clinic where at least one (1) Doctor and two (2) Nurses will be willing to take part at health fair or series of health sessions providing preliminary/basic care and instructions to participants of the literacy component and the community at large.

## **The Economic Stability Component**

The goal of this component is to address the demand and need for economic stability for the families of the local communities. With a small loan ranging from \$50 to \$100, individuals living in extreme poverty will receive basic instruction and relevant training in order to start up or further develop a business. The ultimate goal of the economic stability component is to provide individuals or small groups with some resources to establish a means that will allow them to support themselves and their families.

## **Long-term Goals**

Although the initial implementation of Jou Nouvo is small in scope, Jou Nouvo seeks to improve the quality of life throughout the targeted neighborhoods by providing people with the tools of education, access to health instruction and care, financial support and hope for a better life. Further, Jou Nouvo will look for assistance to promote and develop sustainable opportunities for families, advocate for a healthier environment and vibrant community of Bon-Repos.

*Jou Nouvo is a collaborative effort initiated by Kerline Tofuri currently supplemented by two (2) qualified & committed volunteers who believe in delivery of quality and sustainable services by working with the people of Haiti.*