



# RAYJONSHARECARE

## LITERACY = EMPOWERMENT

In Haiti, when you can't write your name, you are forced to sign your name with an "X." Imagine the pride and self-confidence gained when you are no longer an "X" but can sign your own name with dignity!

Since the first literacy class in 1992, Rayjon has helped over 1,600 adults learn to read and write.

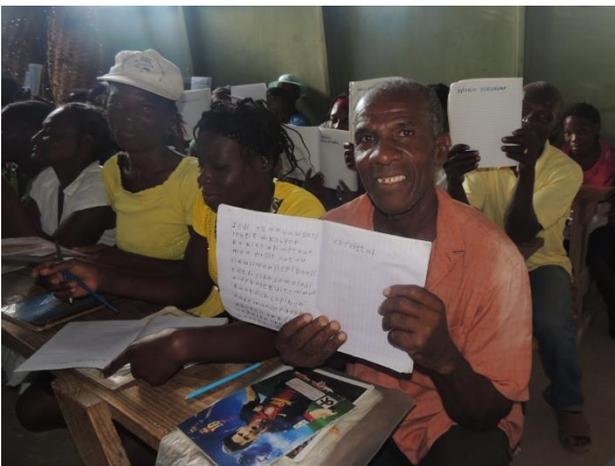
In 2017 the first even group of Level III students graduated from the 3-year program. These courageous men and women have expressed just how important literacy is to them, and how it has affected their lives. They also made it clear that they aren't finished learning! In 2018-2019 we plan to add Level IV training to the program, which will include basic business skills and financial literacy, and assistance starting a small business.



In 2018-2019 we also plan to open one new Alpha centre (Level I) in a new community.

Most of the students are women, but there are typically a few men in each class as well. In partnership with local Women's Federation leaders, Rayjon also supports a highly successful microcredit program, with a 100% repayment rate! Linking graduates of literacy classes with basic business training and access to small loans will help adults to develop self-confidence, better provide and care for their families, and support the economic growth of their communities.

**"I am a Level I student in the literacy program. For a long time, I had wanted to sign up in a literacy centre but I had no one to help me... Before I could not read or write. Now, I can read and write. It is my greatest satisfaction in life." — Facile, adult literacy student**



Alpha class, Haiti



1 Alpha Graduation, 2017

**The Cost:** each level of the Alpha literacy programs costs about \$ 5,000 (class of 25 students for one year). Rayjon hopes to continue supporting 4 communities through the full cycle (4 levels).

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING LITERACY & WOMEN'S INITIATIVES IN HAITI.**

- 1) One-time donation toward the Alpha Literacy Program (\$100 will support one adult for one full semester!)
- 2) A donation of \$50 allows for a small business loan for one adult.
- 3) Supporting one level of Alpha Literacy Classes in one community (\$5,000)

**\* 100% of your donation will go directly to Haiti to support programs.**

### **LITERACY– A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH?**

**If all women completed primary education, there would be an estimated 66% reduction in mothers dying in childbirth, and 15% fewer child deaths, saving 1,089,000 lives globally each year.<sup>1</sup>**

Why does education reduce maternal deaths? Educated women are more likely to:

- avoid complications during pregnancy (by adopting simple and low-cost hygiene practices)
- have a skilled attendant is present at birth
- use public health care services
- not give birth as teenagers
- have fewer children
- have healthier children, with reduced child mortality

**Many graduates of the Alpha literacy program have gone on to become leaders in their communities. The program follows a train-the-trainer model, so that participants may become teachers and continue the cycle of learning.**



Fedna, Women's Federation Leader

Women's Federation leaders like Fedna advocate for the development of their communities and higher standards of living for each family. Fedna operates a small healthcare dispensary that provides medicines in village without access to a hospital or clinic.

They work with Rayjon staff to vet microcredit applicants and ensure the repayment of loans. Rayjon wants to support them in their quest to lobby government offices for additional support and as they fight for social justice in Haiti.

In 2018-2019 we plan to provide additional training and resources for leaders like Fedna, and to work with the Women's Federation groups to bring quality services to their neighbourhoods.

You can give online at <http://www.rayjon.org> .Cheques can be mailed to:  
Rayjon Share Care, PO Box 2482, Sarnia ON, N7T 7T1

**ON BEHALF OF OUR FRIENDS & PARTNERS IN HAITI, "THANK YOU!"**