



RAYJONSHARECARE



EDUCATION IS A KEY TO ENDING POVERTY

If all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.¹

In the rural area of Haut de St. Marc, Haiti, Rayjon has been working to reduce poverty, build community capacity and improve quality of life for over 30 years. At the Pinson school quality education is provided from preschool to grade 8, with of total enrollment of about 175 students. The school is literally bursting at the seams.

In this remote, mountainous area, few children stay in school beyond elementary school. Secondary school begins at grade 7, but the closest high school is in the city— much too far away and much too expensive for most families. In 2017, with the support of generous donors in Canada, Rayjon was pleased to add grade 7 and 8. Parents are anxious for their children to have the opportunity to attend grade 9, which we hope to add in 2018-2019.

THE COST OF EDUCATION:

The Pinson school relies on a combination of foreign and local support. Families contribute to the operating costs of the schools by paying very affordable tuition fees, and by donating their time and skills to help maintain the buildings.

To support the function of the school (including teachers' salaries, building upkeep, textbooks and curriculum development) Rayjon needs to raise approximately \$20,000 CDN each year. That's just \$100 per pupil!

KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Only 57% of primary school aged children actually attend school, and less than 30% of students will reach the 6th grade. The statistics are even more dismal for girls. Gender equality is a foundational priority for Rayjon and we are so proud that just over half of the students at Pinson school are girls! We are working with local partners to plan



activities that focus on keeping girls in school and ensuring that they succeed.

ABOUT THE PINSON SCHOOL

Since 1992, Rayjon has supported the education of over 6,000 children.

The Pinson school is located in a remote, mountainous area outside of the city of St. Marc, Haiti. It is accessible mainly by footpath, as the road is in such condition that few vehicles are able to venture that far. The families living there rely mainly on small scale agriculture, but often do not earn sufficient income to provide many basic necessities for their families. Some families rely on charcoal production, and environmental conditions have caused significant hardships. For example, during conditions of drought, the nearest water source is an hour's walk away; access to sufficient clean water is an ongoing challenge.

The school is truly a community hub. Classrooms are overflowing and supplies are limited. New textbooks and teaching materials are needed.



Construction of classrooms, April 2018



Pinson school teachers

A partnership with Hope for Haiti (a St. Mary's based group) allowed the beginning of construction of two new classrooms to accommodate the higher grades.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY.

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

*** 100% of your donation will go directly to Haiti to support rural education.**

¹ UNESCO, 2011 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001902/190214e.pdf>