



August 15, 2018

Dear Friends in the School Sisters of Notre Dame family --

Thank you for being Hurricane Matthew Family Sponsors! I am so grateful for your generosity and your commitment to seeing that 23 families on Lagonav Island make a full recovery from Hurricane Matthew.

The goal of Beyond Borders' Hurricane Matthew Family Sponsorship Program is to ensure that every family is able to live independently and with dignity. *(Photo: Sponsors - including Sr. Limeteze Pierre-Gilles, SSND, back row, third from the left - meet with families on Lagonav Island, May 2018.)*



Here's an update on the progress that two of the 23 families are making as they work to develop the means to provide for themselves and to graduate from the program next month!

At the beginning of the program, each of the 230 families we began working with, including the Merolus and Setout families, received income-generating assets: either livestock to raise and breed, or funds to launch (or relaunch in some cases) a small business. Both the Merolus and Setout families selected chickens and goats.

To ensure that the 23 families succeed in becoming economically independent, they are all receiving:

- regular training on how to manage their new assets,
- help establishing a community-based savings account to use for future expenses, including emergencies,
- weekly coaching visits from a dedicated caseworker to reinforce skills, build confidence and prepare them to handle any challenges, and,
- access to healthcare to help keep the family healthy so they are able to keep working.



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Today, the total value of the Merolus family's assets is about \$212, and the total value of the Setout family's assets is \$222! The families developed a plan with the help of their caseworker to continue to grow their assets. *(Photo: A program participant with the sow she selected shortly after it gave birth.)*



Here's what Westa Merolus wanted you to know about what your sponsorship means: "With all the support from the program, with all that I now have, when the program ends, I will be able to take care of my family." And here is what Margaret Setout wanted you to know: "I am working with the resources to better take care of my family. I plan to start a small business too." SSND's sponsorship is teaching these families small business skills so that they can earn a living, provide for themselves, and keep their children in school and at home, where they belong.

After the 23 families graduate next month, I'll share with you a final report on all that they've achieved thanks to the sponsorship of the SSNDs.

Thank you again to everyone in the SSND community for your generosity, your care, and your concern for these 23 families. You are giving them a path to a brighter future, filled with dignity, hope, opportunity, and independence. If you have any questions about what you read here, or any feedback on what you'd like to see in future reports, please let me know.

With deep gratitude,

David Diggs, Co-Founder & Director
Beyond Borders



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