

## Hello, Friends!

The following is our current Apparent Project update. It's always a hard to put into words... to convey all that is in my heart & on my mind, and to share the challenges, the vision and the accomplishments we've experienced. But I'll give it a try...

## First... Team USA

**We made it through the Christmas Rush here in Lacey, WA... again!** Our shipping "department" consists of "The 4 Fairy Grandmothers" (my husband's name for that team) and some volunteers & other temporary workers that "magically" appear when we need them... especially during the Fall. God knows our needs, and when we need extra help, the right people come along. We are always amazed at His provision! This past year (2014) we sent out 202,000 items! Half of that occurred from September through December. This has been the pattern for the past several years.

Then January rolls around, and we deal with the aftermath of the Fall "Tsunami." Waves of payments, paperwork & boxes of unsold items continue to come in through January, and into February. This slows down in March, but our orders continue consistently throughout the year... especially Fundraisers.

**After working with my 4 shipping ladies and the office staff (1 fulltime & 3 part-time women) for several years now... We've become a well-oiled machine!** I am so proud of our team. Each person who works here at the USA office was a volunteer first. As it became obvious that each person "fit" into our group... and where each fit in... they became paid employees. And, it has been such a joy for me to watch the little group become a functioning "body" – each properly fitted into the right place.



Sandy packs almost all our Party Boxes



Me

Vera – Office Manager shown with Kelly who processes payments. (We have 2 more part-time office staff.)



Keri packs all Christmas Boxes (and more)

Karen - Shipping Manager

Jodeen packs most Fundraisers

Marilyn (Me)

Sandy

We just **added another person to our staff** here in the States. I desperately needed a competent computer person to help me with a variety of projects – starting with our inventory. My work load has been quite a challenge! But, one thing I've discovered in the past 4 years... Once I'm confident that a person is capable & willing to do a job... I let that job go! So, I'm currently busy releasing some of my work to Diane, our newest granny! *(It seems that God delights in having AP hire grandmas!)*

**Each person works with AP because they have a heart for our project and for the people of Haiti!**

**Each person also needed a job!** Our Haitian friends have helped provide employment for people in the USA who needed work! It is clear to me that “we”- the Haitians & Americans - are working together. It’s not just about us or them! It’s about God & His purposes for His Kingdom... here & there! It’s about people across America & Haiti (& elsewhere!) that are hearing His voice & His heart – and responding to Him!

## **Second... Team Haiti!**

**I’ve been going to Haiti at least 4 times each year since 2008**, and have been part of Apparent Project from the beginning... initially just providing moral support, and any help that needed to be done from the States. **These regular visits to Haiti have given me opportunity to get to know our Haitian friends – to watch them grow and change over the years.** Teenagers who used to beg for leftover food from an orphanage in the area have grown up & become excellent workers who provide for themselves and their families. Parents have learned skills and become managers of other workers. I’ve also seen deportees find a new life and new hope as they’ve been given a second chance!



**This past year has been the most exciting to me!**

**Yes... Our artisans have learned various skills...** They’ve become quite competent at making beads... and designing and assembling jewelry. Some have learned to make pottery! A variety of production is taking place at Papillon Enterprise (the legal production company that was birthed as a result of Apparent Project efforts.) Artisans are employed and earning a fair wage... able to take care of their families’ needs. **But... a couple problems needed to be addressed.** Our 2013 Annual Report mentioned the need for infant & toddler childcare for some of the artisans’ children who were at risk. And, there has been a need for additional education for our artisans so they could do their jobs better.

## **AP Institute**

**From April to July 2014, Pierre – one of our artisans – lived at my home and was tutored in various subjects.** We began with Typing, then Rosetta Stone, English Grammar, Excel & Word! Pierre also worked at the AP Shipping office while here in the States. **After returning to Haiti – we launched the AP Institute with 23 managers as his first students.** They have learned to type, learned some English, and are currently learning Excel. This past week the managers provided their weekly reports in Excel spreadsheets! The joy and gratitude they show me each time I show up has been the most satisfying experience since I began my AP journey! They now greet me in English... then laugh & hug me... and thank me for the opportunity to learn. They are becoming empowered with valuable skills for life!



**Christmas 2014 – Pierre stayed at my home for couple weeks again. He used “Lynda.com” to learn how a Mac works.** We have several other artisans who are being trained in graphic design skills, and are using the Mac laptop purchased using a designated donation. Having Pierre become proficient in the operating system is so helpful! These artisans are also using Lynda.com to learn the **Mac system & some Adobe products** so that the graphic design teacher can focus more on **design skills**.



**Since Christmas, we’ve added a few more artisans to the AP Institute program.** We have 4 laptops available for the basic skills, so we are limited to a certain number of students, but as they progress, we are making adjustments so more artisans can participate in the program. I just returned from a trip to Haiti, and will go back in May (?) to work with Pierre. **The artisans now have different skill levels.** Some have had more schooling than others – though most have very little education at all! **So we are working to see what each student knows – where the gaps are in their education & are finding ways to “fill in the gaps.”** *Since their learning is job related, right now the focus is on math skills & Excel proficiency* (including the ability to use formulas.) Excel is important for the manager reports, and they need to understand basic math in order to use the formulas!

Lots of interesting challenges! But this is fun for me!

## **Another Potential Opportunity to Teach: the Haiti Prison**



While in Haiti this month, we visited prisoners who are making beads for Papillon Enterprise and earning some income. Prisoners have to pay for their necessities! They are very grateful to have money for toothpaste, shampoo, clothing, food (only minimal food is supplied.) While at the prison, we were asked if we’d be willing to teach prisoners some computer skills. We need wisdom to know if this is something we can do. But my heart goes

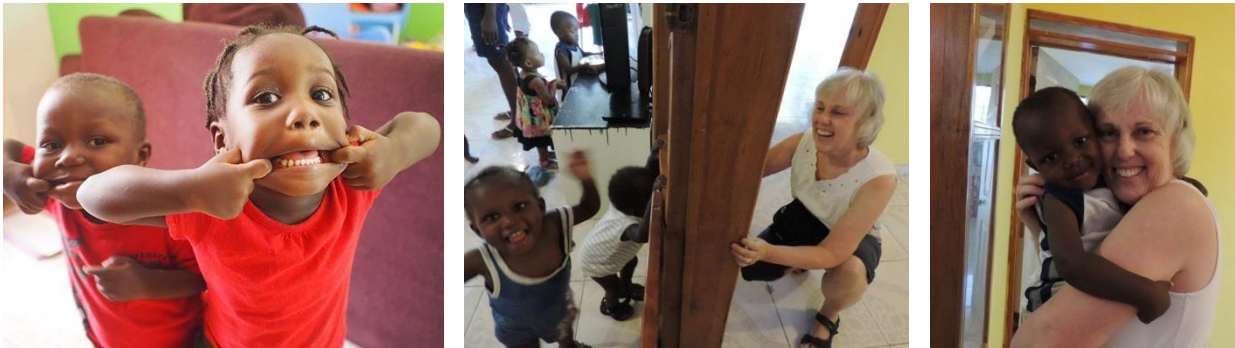
out to these people who have done wrong, but who are still people! They seldom receive a kind word or a caring physical touch. It was my privilege to be there, and if training prisoners is part of God’s plan... I’m willing to help make it happen.

**We need wisdom!**

## AP Childcare

The other program that was launched in 2014 is the AP Childcare program. **The primary purpose is to provide safe, nurturing care for the artisan's infants & toddlers who are at risk.** Prior to this, some artisans were relying on other children, sometimes other family members, but often people they didn't trust. This left the parents distracted & concerned for their babies and toddlers while at work.

**These mothers** are now able to bring their babies to work, nurse them during the day, and **feel confident that their children are being cared for in a loving way! The children are happy and healthy!** They receive nutritious food and have opportunity to grow & play & learn in a safe environment.



**We are giving these children a chance to thrive!**



**Daycare workers are trained in the proper care of the children,** emphasizing not only the basic needs of food and shelter, but **also pre-school education in basic skills,** which is lacking in the Haitian culture as a whole. A side benefit is that the nannies will be able to use the training and experience they are gaining for any future employment... and with their own children. Their lives and the lives of those they care for are improving!

## AP Needs: Wisdom as we navigate the New Opportunities

For the past 5+ years, we've been fortunate that our organization has had success with our Party Box & Fundraiser programs. **We have been a "product-based" non-profit**, able to meet most of our needs through sales alone! It is such a blessing to be able to keep our artisans employed by distributing goods throughout the US (and Canada!) The Party Box & Fundraiser Programs continue to do well!

However, **with the new programs we've added this year, our expenses have increased** quite a bit. The AP Childcare & AP Institute programs don't generate income. **We are making adjustments** to help offset some of the additional expense. It's a challenge, but we are confident that this is where we need to invest our time & efforts right now. *(And, we are grateful for your support in this effort!)*

**We are working on promoting our new programs** through Facebook posts, blogs, etc. **We are emphasizing the progress**, not the "sad stories" that the Haitians have experienced. Cami Franklin (one of our board members) was with me on my trip this month. The goal was to interview & photograph as many managers as possible so we have more "before & after" stories to tell – focusing on hope, success, new opportunities, etc. so that more people will see the value in what we are doing. *(In this picture, Cami is interviewing Jack!)*



### An example: Sinese' Story on Facebook



Six years ago Sinese went to an orphanage to give up her baby because she had been abandoned by the family where she was a servant. The lady at the orphanage told her that her baby would be adopted. She then asked Sinese if she knew what adoption was. She did not. After it was explained to her she said, "I would rather go through misery than give up my baby and never see her again." Now she is a team manager of 13 artisans and learning typing, English and Excel in our AP Institute. She has three beautiful children. Your support has made a difference in this mom's life!

### Future Goal: Provide opportunity for groups to "Come & See" Haiti & AP.

**(Need wisdom.)** We have a Guest House that is used throughout the year, but could be used to offer this opportunity. We need a vehicle "upgrade" to allow for better transportation of people & luggage. There is room for 6 adults with seatbelts inside the Kia truck. But luggage needs to be in the truck bed. (Not a safe location.)

**Problem: Need secure place for luggage while traveling.**

**Simple Solution: "Cage" for the back of the Kia truck.**



Thanks for your support!!! Be blessed today! Marilyn Monaghan, AP Director