



Real-life
stories with
real-life
impact.

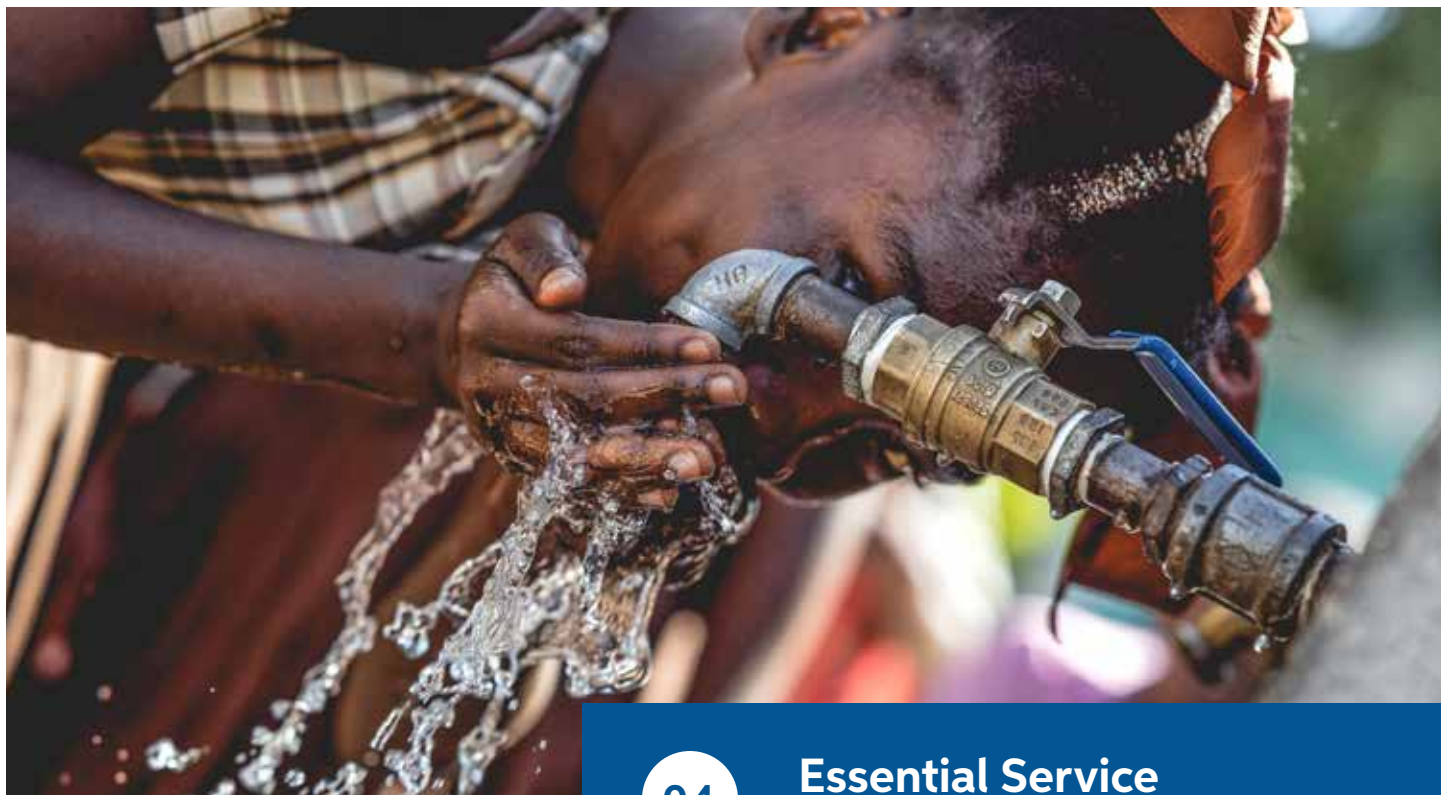


OVERTURE
INTERNATIONAL

2022 BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER

HAITI STRONGER

OVERTURE INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER



04

Essential Service Implementation

02

Letter from our Executive Director

Lisa Hyatt shares Haiti news, Overture updates and champions our supporters.

02

Upcoming Events

Sign up for the last two sessions of our 2022 *Stronger Series*.

03

Milestones

The first six months of 2022 have been action-packed. Read about our accomplishments.

Last fall, we implemented our **Overture Social Support Model**, which is our proven foundation for building Haiti stronger through empowering Haitians of all ages at individual, family and community levels toward independence and self-sufficiency.

The model, which is established around community partnerships and locally-driven services, is built on **five pillars** that equip community members with the education, skills and resources they need to overcome daily obstacles. Collectively, these five pillars serve as the building blocks to a stronger Haiti free from generational dependence. And it's important to note that the model and its five

pillars of service are entirely led by Haitian community members who are equipping their fellow neighbors.

By Haitians for Haitians.

Find out what we've accomplished within our five pillars so far this year.



As we cross over the halfway mark of 2022, we're taking this opportunity to celebrate and recognize. **We celebrate YOU, our donors**, who keep our work moving forward. You are the lifeline of Overture International. We say it all the time and we're saying it again. Thank you for your trust, your generosity, your prayers and your willingness to join us in cultivating independence and self-sufficiency for our brothers and sisters in southern Haiti. Your support is appreciated every minute of every day.

And to our **incredible teammates in Haiti, we recognize YOU**. From social workers to medical staff to teachers and beyond, there's no question our dedicated team makes up the very heartbeat of our mission. Without each of you, our work does not exist. And without the genuine love and service and sacrifice you offer your fellow Haitians, our work means nothing. Thank you for inspiring us daily to do more.

We are energized by the stories of growth and progress we've witnessed these first six months of the year. Our Social Support Model continues to guide all of our work in southern Haiti, and the communities we serve are being strengthened as a result. Their commitment to this model is ever so present! We could easily fill this newsletter with impressive impact numbers and performance metrics, but instead, we're choosing to focus the next seven pages on **the people and the stories** behind the numbers. A story about a social worker who is passionate about empowering his neighbors. A story about a family who recently received a newly built home. A story about a young adult who now possesses the skills needed to excel in a career. **Real-life stories with real-life impact**. Because nothing is more powerful.



Lisa Hyatt
Executive Director

We hope you enjoy taking a deeper dive into the WHY and the WHO behind our work. TOGETHER, we have achieved more in the last six months than we ever thought possible, and the Lord has opened doors that only He Himself could open. We have no doubt that **with your continued support**, the next six months of this year will be even greater than the first. And we're looking forward to the journey!

God bless you and keep you.

VISION

We envision a Haiti transformed by strong, independent, self-sufficient Haitian communities.

MISSION

We empower Haitian families and their communities to be active and engaged in building full, hopeful and independent lives.

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Mark your calendars!

Two sessions down. Two to go. If you're interested in learning more about the importance of human development and social support in Haiti, make sure to mark your calendars for the last two sessions of our **2022 Stronger Series**.

Register online at www.overture.international/information-sessions



SESSION 3

The Importance of Human Development



SESSION 4

Overture's Proven Social Support Model

Milestones from January to June 2022.

01



Launched *The Stronger Series*

In March, after Executive Director Lisa Hyatt wrote an opinion piece for Philanthropy Journal challenging fellow NGOs to either “Stay Out of Haiti” or be “part of the solution empowering Haitians for independence and self-sufficiency,” we launched our **Stronger Series educational initiative** focused on the importance of human development and social support in Haiti. So far, the response has been incredibly positive! Learn more and read the full article at www.overture.international/information-sessions.

02



Awarded \$1 Million for New Homes

One of our most ambitious goals for 2022 was to continue recovery efforts by building **100 new disaster-resilient homes** within our priority communities. We established this goal on the heels of building 90 new homes and repairing 50 damaged homes in the immediate months following last year’s earthquake. And thanks to the overwhelming generosity of long-time supporter Cross Catholic Outreach, we’ve been graciously awarded \$1,000,000 to build 100 new homes by year-end. Praise God!

03



Recruited Full-Time Medical Staff

Spearheaded by both the overwhelming medical needs of those we serve (especially in the aftermath of last August’s 7.2 magnitude earthquake) and the formalization of our Overture Social Support Model in late 2021, we have **prioritized our Healthcare pillar** by recruiting three full-time licensed physicians and two full-time registered nurses to manage our ESPWA clinic and oversee our ongoing community outreach mobile clinics. And we have a network of medical professionals contracted to be available as needed.

04



Organized *Box of Joy* Events

Cross Catholic Outreach showered their generosity again in April and May by giving us the opportunity to hold eight *Box of Joy* events for seven communities in southern Haiti. Overture staff distributed shoe boxes filled with toys and hygiene supplies to a total of **1,000 children** in need while leveraging face time with both parents and children to share God’s love and to train parents on child protection and children’s rights.



Empowerment

In Haiti, families lack access to basic social services to help them overcome the challenges created by generational poverty and dependency. That's why we believe EMPOWERMENT is the most important pillar of our Social Support Model. **Social empowerment provides hope and a vision for the future**, empowering individuals to be effective role models and community members contributing to building Haiti Stronger.

Social support provided by licensed Haitian social workers improves

the wellbeing of families through assessments, counseling, workshops and the facilitation of services to individuals of all ages. They act as educators, mediators, and advocates to help community members realize opportunities and become the main actors in their journey to self-sufficiency.

For example, one of the programs we offer under Empowerment is our **Young Adult Empowerment Program**. Young adults are offered a broad range of services to prepare and guide emerging



generations to achieve financial independence, emotional balance and meaningful social connections.

Our Young Adult Empowerment Program is fully designed and delivered by Haitian social workers, educators and professionals who understand the unique needs and challenges the young adults face every day.

FEATURE STORY

meet Love.

Love Yodne, age 20, will graduate from our Young Adult Empowerment Program (YAEP) in July. He was born into a family of seven in the southern department of Haiti and was placed in the ESPWA orphanage at the age of four because his parents were unable to provide for his education, nutrition and healthcare. In 2020, he was reunited with his family at the age of 18 and entered into the YAEP to help him develop skills for the workforce.

In his first year, Love Yodne developed personal skills – both behavioral and social – that will help him in his interactions with people and society. In his second year, as with all youth in our program, Love Yodne learned about

business and entrepreneurship and worked closely alongside a social worker and job coach. And now, he's finishing up his last business project and is then planning to launch a sewing shop in his community. Thanks to the money that the program has saved for him over the last two years, he'll be able to finance and launch his business project independently. The shop will not only provide him with an income but also provide jobs to other youth in his community.

Love Yodne is grateful for this program and knows it has impacted the rest of his life. His parents are also grateful for this program and have committed to helping their son set up and maintain his sewing shop.



SPOTLIGHT

Social Support systems can transform the poverty/dependence mindset and empower individuals and communities in Haiti when led by Haitians themselves. They hold the position, agency and influence to move their families, friends and neighbors to action. **Meet Peronneau, Overture's social support program manager.** He and his team of talented social workers are leading major change in the communities we serve:



"I am Pierre Richard Peronneau. I grew up in a rural community in the mountains of Jacmel, Haiti and am the third of four children. My mother is a former teacher, and my father was a tailor and farmer before he passed away when I was 13 years old. He was a wonderful and loving father. He was my friend.

I grew up in a family who couldn't buy me the bicycle or ball I always dreamed of having as a child because our income was very limited. However, my family gave me everything! They gave me love, affection and most importantly, they gave me a family.

After finishing my classical studies, I was accepted by the faculty of humanities at the State University of Haiti where I chose to study social work. This decision was not an insignificant one. At a young age, I dreamed of one day working in remote communities where I could impact the lives of those less fortunate. I watched my mother push herself for years and years for a meager salary of 5,000 gdes (approx. \$5 USD), which was not enough to provide for a family. This opened my eyes to poverty, and it's why I chose social work.

Today I am a social worker at Overture International doing more than just a job. I am fulfilling my dream of working with families in remote and vulnerable communities. Doing so gives my life meaning and allows me to experience true happiness."

Casting a vision.

If we've learned nothing else from this latest 7.2 magnitude earthquake, we've learned that the communities we serve in southern Haiti have got to be better prepared for the NEXT earthquake, hurricane, flooding or other disaster. And realistically, the next disaster could be tomorrow. ***It's not if but when!***

We have learned that the **dome structures** at our ESPWA campus and in Tiburon have been critical to the earthquake recovery efforts over the last year. This is why we have proposed a **project to build dome community centers in six vulnerable locations in the South Department of Haiti.** Each community center will consist of building two domes (32 ft. and 20 ft.) for a total of twelve domes in this particular initiative. We believe that the dome community centers will have the ability to more effectively and consistently facilitate the execution of each pillar of our Social Support Model in innumerable ways, such as being a hub for providing access to food, counseling, medical care, parenting and job training, schooling and even emergency housing.

Overture International is honored and excited to announce that **Domes for the World** has officially partnered with us to launch a dome community center in Dory.

It's an understatement to say that these domes are a critical component of Overture's success in equipping our friends in southern Haiti to move from generational dependence to independence and self-sufficiency.



Will you join us in this project to provide strong infrastructure to communities where families can access critical services?



Nutrition

Of the almost 11 million people living in Haiti, 4.4 million of them are at significant risk of hunger. According to The World Food Programme, the country has one of the highest levels of chronic food insecurity in the world, with more than half of its total population chronically food insecure and 22 percent of children chronically malnourished.

Our approach to addressing the issues of food insecurity is to focus on **equipping each community to develop its own sustainable, reliable food production infrastructure**. Our initial work in this area focused on building out a community farming program at the ESPWA campus. This program has

helped hundreds of community members become working farmers, enabling them to not only supply food for their own families, but also secure income selling farm products and contribute to building the economic infrastructure of their communities.

And thanks to our generous donors, Overture has been able to develop and support 14 community schools with much-needed lunch programs including ESPWA's main campus schools and its campus at Camp Perrin. This means at least **2,975 children across all schools now have access to nutritious foods**, enabling them to focus on their education, not their empty stomachs.

"The community farming program allows me to take care of my family. I'm able to now pay their school fees and to support them in everything they need. And with our work, we support many people, especially the small traders. At harvest time, for example, many people come to buy in order to resell. That's something big in our community."

— JEAN DENORD, Community Farmer, ESPWA campus

Casting a vision.

We're now building on the success of the work at the ESPWA community farm by launching one of our most ambitious projects to date - developing a food packaging program. Together with **Midwest Food Bank**, we will soon launch a **pilot project for food packaging** using the recipe of their packaged meal called *Tender Mercies*. Designed by dietitians to provide critical nutrition, the foundation of this recipe consists of savory rice and beans, spices, vitamins and minerals.

Rice and beans will be purchased from the farmers in the communities we serve to launch the packaging project and will be the model for developing similar programs in other communities, enabling us to exponentially increase production with each expansion. Not only does this increase our production capabilities, but it will also create a **stronger infrastructure for building food security in our communities**. When this pilot project proves to be successful as we predict, the expansion of food packaging will:

- ▶ ensure the nutritional needs for school lunch programs
- ▶ provide wage-earning jobs to community members
- ▶ equip farmers with the necessary resources to increase their production

To read more about this project, visit www.overture.international/post/food-security-is-possible.



Midwest
FOOD BANK.

FEATURE STORY



Since 2017, the Evangelical School of Tapio, a community in the commune of Chantal, has not been able to provide nutritious meals, or meals of any kind to their students. This means the children whose families can afford to send them to the school would not have access to a meal while there. That's where you and Overture enter the picture. The funding you've invested in our work has enabled us to build a school meal program that is feeding more than 150 children each school day in Tapio!



We're thrilled to share that since August 2021, we have completed **68 new homes of the 90 funded in the 15 communities** most affected by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake. The remaining 22 new homes are currently under construction and should be completed by June 30. We have worked with community members to repair nearly 50 additional homes, rebuilding and strengthening the existing structures to increase their resilience to future disasters.

While this is great news, unfortunately, the earthquake left **thousands** of families homeless and in need of humanitarian support in southern Haiti. **It is critical to continue financially investing in our home-building efforts** in order to equip communities to build homes and infrastructure that are able to withstand the next earthquake or hurricane that is certain to come. And like all of our projects, each home built means the opportunity to employ and train locals to help them gain marketable skills and provide for their families.



Housing

FEATURE STORY

meet Marlene & Joseph.

Marlene and her husband **Joseph** are on their way toward social and economic independence. They are parents to four children and live in Madame Combe, a community surrounding our ESPWA campus. Neither finished school as children, nor can either read or write. Nonetheless, they've worked hard and done their best to provide a good education for their children. These parents are passionate about their kids breaking through the family's cycle of generational poverty.

To say their situation was critical before the earthquake is an understatement. As with most Haitian families, Marlene and Joseph live a daily fight to survive and feed their children. Joseph is a farmer, but his plot

of land to farm is very small. He's unable to produce enough crop to feed his entire family and he barely makes 4,000 gourdes per month (approx. \$40 USD). Marlene sells food supplies that generate an income of 1,500 gourdes per month (\$13 USD). Their combined income simply isn't enough to provide food, tuition and school supplies for their children. Then add a devastating earthquake to the mix. Their home was completely destroyed last August and they fled to our ESPWA campus for emergency shelter.

Because we prioritize the most vulnerable families (those with young children), our team intervened immediately and has since taken the necessary steps to provide this family with a new home. As a requirement of



FEATURE STORY (CONT.)

Overture International, all families we support with a new home must participate in the building process. This approach empowers families to take ownership and gives them dignity in knowing they played a part in such a great achievement. Marlene and Joseph dug the entire foundation for their new home after which Overture provided the materials and local crew members to complete construction on the new home. Today, this family is living in a safe, disaster-resilient home.

Marlene explains her joy: *“Our situation was so desperate after the earthquake. When we heard that Overture was helping us with a new home, we couldn’t believe it. So often organizations come to Haiti and make promises they don’t fulfill. It didn’t take long for us to realize that Overture was serious, and once we did, we put everything into helping with our new home. We provided the land, we dug the foundation, we prepared the road for the trucks to deliver materials and we cooked for the building team. This house means so much to us. We have a decent place to sleep peacefully and comfortably, we can receive family when they visit and our kids are proud to show their friends their new home.”*

Helping Marlene and Joseph build a new home is only the first step in our commitment to helping this family reach independence and self-sufficiency. We will continue to support them with social support, counseling and business training.



SHOUTout!

We wanted to give a special thank you to our **friends in Minnesota** who held a recent plant sale fundraiser. Their success will meet the gap cost for nine homes funded in the Cross Catholic grant! Without these kinds of ambassador activities, Overture would be far less effective in our mission to equip Haitians to live independent, self-sufficient lives.

Casting a vision.

Overture has received a new grant from Cross Catholic Outreach to build 100 new homes beginning July 1, 2022. And while this is exciting news, the cost of supplies for home building has been significantly impacted by political instability, gang violence, difficulty of transportation and inflation. This impact means the cost of building our homes in Haiti is now \$10,850. Cross Catholic has agreed to fund \$10k for each home, which means we will need your help to cover the additional costs (\$850 per home) associated with inflation. **We invite you to help us and Cross Catholic raise the remaining \$85,000 to complete 100 new disaster-resilient homes.**



Healthcare

After the earthquake in August 2021, we partnered with emergency response organizations to respond to medical needs in some of the most vulnerable communities through mobile medical clinics. These mobile clinics provided critical healthcare services during an especially tenuous time for our communities. However, as with all emergency aid partners, they are only able to provide services for a limited time.

Because medical care is such a necessity for developing independent communities, with your support we have recruited a medical team that can serve full time at our ESPWA clinic and continue the mobile clinics in our priority communities. The team is composed

of all Haitian doctors and nurses to serve their families, neighbors and the surrounding community.

There are many challenges to maintaining healthcare services. One of the most persistent problems is gang activity plaguing the region. These gangs prevent access to medical facilities and supplies, while increasing the need for help through ongoing warfare. This means our security teams play a critical role not only protecting our clinic at ESPWA, but they also accompany our staff as they travel to remote communities.

In the first five months of 2022, we've conducted seven, three-day mobile clinics providing 2,600 individuals (including 1,253 children) with needed medical care and public health training!

SHOUTout!

Where would we be without our supporters? We'd like to say a special thank you to our:

- ▶ ambassadors at **Shepherd of the Hills Parish** in Wisconsin for raising more than **\$22,000** during Lent to support our mobile medical clinics and education programs
- ▶ faithful friends at **Cross Catholic Outreach** for their support of funding and medications for at least six mobile clinics
- ▶ supporters at the **Arizona Rotary** for awarding us a grant of **\$4,000** toward medical care

SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Full-Time Medical Team:



Dr. Johnny

Licensed Physician and
Medical Program Manager



Dr. Julie

Licensed Physician



Dr. Gaspard

Licensed Physician



Nurse Nadage

Registered Nurse



Nurse Marlene

Registered Nurse and Public
Health Educator

Whenever we host a mobile clinic, additional doctors and nurses join our teams. Our mobile medical teams include contracted medical professionals who work at other clinics in the southern region and consists of: six doctors, six nurses, a pharmacist, a lab technician, a driver, a security officer, one to two social workers, a photographer and an optional psychologist and/or medical specialist (such as an ophthalmologist). Generally, there are 18-22 team members per clinic.

Casting a vision.

Our goal is to continue to offer and grow the reach of our mobile clinics and our permanent medical clinic at the ESPWA campus. We are striving to offer one mobile clinic per quarter in each of the communities we serve so we're able to treat the same patients at least four times per year. But this will only be possible with your support.

Help us keep healthcare going strong! Give today!



Education

Overture believes that *Education means Life* in Haiti and that education is the key to building Haiti Stronger. And that's why **education is at the heart of our Social Support Model**. But in Haiti, access to education is not guaranteed for every child and **100% of the cost falls on the parents – the majority of whom are struggling to merely survive**. In many cases, families must spend as much as 70% of their annual income on education, which is not only overwhelming, but impossible.

For generations, there has been limited opportunity for families to move beyond a life of poverty and hopelessness that is so pervasive in southern Haiti. This poverty leads parents to make the heart-wrenching decision to hand off the care of their children to an orphanage believing that it is the only alternative and best option for the child and the family. This separation perpetuates the cycle of poverty that is ultimately driven by a lack of education and training for all

members in the family. **But with your help, we are providing education to children and their parents** to open the door to more opportunities that will lead to stable homes and stronger communities. **Education impacts every member of a family**. With a desire to equip parents and children to stay and grow stronger together as a family, we have created programs that strengthen families in their own communities with a focused emphasis on education.

It's critical we provide opportunities for families to grow beyond their circumstances. Our workshops, self-improvement courses and vocational and business training provide valuable information, support and skills that equip parents and adults to provide for their families, be role models for their children and become an active and engaged member of the community.

For children, we invest in **schools and sponsor scholarships** that



reinforce the power of education from an early age. This means we equip communities to build schools, train local adults to be teachers and staff, provide hot meals and offer social support to help the family address situations that may impact their ability to participate in the education of their children.

For example, at our **ESPWA school in Les Cayes, 927 students from the surrounding communities are able to attend school and receive a hot, nutritious meal** regardless of their family's ability to pay tuition or provide a uniform and supplies. And we offer the full scale of educational levels for students to

complete their schooling. We even offer **two classes of Philo (the 13th year of education required for students to enter a university)**. This is especially important because Philo programs are generally very expensive and only offered by private schools. Many students finishing their education are unable to afford this program and thus fail to excel in higher education.

Education is the heart of our mission and Haiti's future hinges on its youth of today. Monthly donations, no matter the size, fuel our ability to meet the need for scholarships, teacher training and more. **Please prayerfully consider a monthly donation today!**

FEATURE STORY

meet Stevens.

Stevens is 22 years old and is a student in our Philo program at our ESPWA school. Philo is a university prep class and is a requirement in Haiti in order to apply to a university. He is one of seven children, all of whom his mother, Marie Jinette, is miraculously raising alone as their father passed away when he was younger and she has no means of generating any income.

Clearly, providing an education for her kids is not possible because Marie Jinette is unable to pay for tuition or school supplies. It is for this reason that Overture, after an extensive evaluation, has accepted this family into our scholarship program. Without these full

scholarships to our ESPWA school, none of the children would have the opportunity to attend school. Marie Jinette sees these scholarships for her children as the only true hope for her family to survive.

"With these scholarships, I am not scared anymore that Stevens and my other kids will drop school because I can't pay the tuition. The scholarships also allow me to use any extra income I am able to generate harvesting peanuts a few times a year on food for my family. I am really thankful for Overture and the great work they are doing in the community, because education is the only thing that can help youth have a better future."



Continue on this
journey with us!



SPREAD THE WORD



PRAY



DONATE