

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FRIENDS OF BELLE-RIVIÈRE ✦ FBRHAITI.ORG

November, 2024

Dear Friends of Belle-Rivière supporters,

It is heartbreaking to watch life in Haiti go from bad to worse. Gangs have largely taken over more populated areas, the government is dysfunctional at best, and the international community seems to ignore the plight of the families who live there. If we aren't careful, it is easy to say "The problems are too big — there is nothing I can do to make a difference."

Nothing could be further from the truth — As Margaret Meade observed:

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."***

FBR is just such a small group that has been changing the world in Belle-Rivière for 20 years. Our resources may be limited and the challenges great, but we have proven time and again that by working together with local leaders, we can transform a community.

Folks in Belle-Rivière rarely journey outside of their community. This is even more true today as gangs threaten any kind of travel.

FBR's consistent long-term support counteracts the uncertainty brought by outside disasters, natural or political. Consistency builds stability. Stability builds cooperation and independence. In partnership with local leaders, your financial gifts to FBR have changed life in Belle-Rivière.

Here are some of our initiatives:

## **Continuous Projects**

- Public wells & in-home water filtration
- Public latrines
- Computer & Life Skills classes
- Internet access
- Solar lamps with phone chargers
- Food aid response to disasters
- Goat breeding & garden planting

## **Major Projects**

- Land for a public marketplace
- Community Center w/ solar power
- National School rebuilt after hurricane
- Multiple road and drainage improvements
- Community truck, for every need
- 50 meter pedestrian bridge across "big river"
- Main road paved across bed of "little river"

To see more about our work, visit [www.fbrhaiti.org](http://www.fbrhaiti.org). FBR Board members pay 100% of administrative and fund-raising costs. Our partners provide accountability of funds invested. Contributions made in 2024 will receive a 50% match from anonymous donors.

Please join our efforts to continue changing Belle Riviere in the coming year.

**Ansanm nou fò. — Together we are strong!**

Sincerely,



Don Miller

Chairman, Friends of Belle-Rivière, Inc.

**Board Members:** Krista Cable, Katie Dean, Yvel Guelcè, Ken Inskeep, Kathleen Lattimer, Oyama Romain, & Dave Van Mook

**Friends of Belle-Rivière, Inc.**



**Football Thank You:** Fifty members of the women's and men's Intramural football (soccer) teams gathered recently to sign their names to a note of thanks to FBR supporters for providing funds that made it possible for them to purchase balls and shoes for a new season. Balls will also be provided to 30 schools and recreation groups in the area.



**Road Construction:** The main road into B-R crosses the "little river," a tributary of the river which is spanned by the pedestrian bridge. Unfinished pavement and an unstable river bed created a big problem for motorized and foot traffic. This year community leaders finished paving the road on both sides of the river than across the river bed, a feat of engineering savey.

### Why Belle-Rivière:

- ❖ Your gift provides a marginalized community with the most basic of human needs.
- ❖ Local coordinators prioritize projects, manage resources, and verify expenditures.
- ❖ Projects engage local labor and stimulate the surrounding economy.
- ❖ Board members pay overhead. Your entire gift supports a project in Haiti.
- ❖ Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.
- ❖ Thanks to a 50% match, 150% of your gift supports the B-R community.