

## A Sponsor's Perspective

As a mom, I try hard to make sure my kids are happy, healthy, and thriving. Do they need new clothes or bigger shoes? Are they struggling with a subject in school? How do I teach them to love others as Christ loves us?

Our family is privileged to sponsor a young man named Itenor. When we joined the Hope for Kidz program, it was with the intention of teaching our children about another culture and how different life for Itenor was from our own. We picked him because he shares a birthday with one of us. I never imagined how much this child would change MY life also. We love watching him grow in the pictures we receive, and learning more about him from his letters.

As a family, we pray for Itenor and his family. He is one of five children. The more we pray for him, the more my momma's heart reaches out to his mother and connects with her. My questions for my kids are probably very similar to hers: Is he happy? Is he healthy? Does he need new clothes or shoes? In the US, it is easy to answer these questions and meet these needs. In Haiti, even the smallest need can seem like a huge hurdle to overcome.

In the beginning, our monthly sponsorship was an added line item in our budget, but it has become Itenor's education; his daily Hot Lunch; his hope for the future. We have been so blessed to be able to share a part of our lives with him and love on a child through this program.



Itenor when we first started sponsoring him



Itenor 3 years later

## Our Hope for Kidz Staff



Left to Right:  
Merry, Kerline, Tessa, Gardine, Isaac,  
Patrick, Frantz, Windy



Reciprocal Ministries International's (RMI) develops cross cultural church to church partnerships that are long-term, strategic, spiritually in-depth, reciprocal in ministry, culturally relevant, practical, and life transforming.

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Life Transforming.



  
**Hope for Kidz**  
"Hope today for Haiti's tomorrow."  
A MINISTRY OF RMI





## The Feeling of Hopelessness

In a country where over half of the population is under 25 years old, roughly one-third of young people ages 15-24 are illiterate and only 50% of children are able to go to school, one can understand how it is easy to feel hopeless. How can they expect to be able to raise themselves up out of poverty? A country looks to its youth for its next leaders. How will they develop leaders without education?

The cost of education in Haiti is very high and for the most part is highly inaccessible to the average Haitian. Due to a weak state provision of educational services, private and parochial schools account for over 85% of primary schools. These schools



must charge steep tuitions in order to cover their teachers' salaries and operating expenses. For low-income families, school expenses will account for approximately 40% of their annual income.

Reciprocal Ministries International's (RMI) Hope for Kidz Program provides the framework for sponsoring a child in Haiti to receive the education necessary to change their lives for the better.

## Providing Hope

RMI partners with the Evangelical Baptist Mission of Southern Haiti (MEBSH) to enable sponsorship of needy children through their Christian schools. MEBSH schools typically cover grades K-9. Children who need sponsorship are chosen based on financial need by the church's pastor and school administrator.

*providing hope...for Haiti's tomorrow*

## Hope Gives Man the Reason to Live

— Haitian proverb

## Benefits to a Sponsored Child

- Access to a quality Christian education
- All necessary uniforms and school supplies
- Continued expansion of the hot lunch program (now feeding over 12,000 children daily in 45 select schools)
- Annual De-Worming and Prevention Education Program in all Hope for Kidz schools (17,000+ receiving the medication)
- An Emergency Major Medical Needs Fund



## Benefits to Sponsors

- An annually updated picture and brief profile of your child
- The opportunity to send and receive 1-2 letters each year from your child
- Frequent visits from RMI staff to your child's school to check the facilities and curriculum, get updated pictures, confirm your child's attendance, and assess his or her academic performance

## Selecting your Child

If you are a part of an RMI C3 Partnership, contact your church's Hope for Kidz Coordinator to select a child and receive that child's picture and profile. If you are not in a C3 Partnership, contact RMI directly at [info@rmibridge.org](mailto:info@rmibridge.org) or 239-368-8390.

## Payment Options

**Sponsoring a child costs \$480 annually or \$40 monthly for 12 months.** The Haitian school year is September through June. Sponsorships are accepted at any time during the year.

- **Check**  
- payable to RMI. The memo line should note your child's ID number.
- **Online**  
- at [www.RMIbridge.org](http://www.RMIbridge.org) and click on "Sponsor a Child". Include your child's ID in the space provided.
- **Phone**  
- call RMI at 239-368-8390. Have your child's ID number and your credit card or banking information ready.

*"It was eye opening when I was able to visit my sponsored child and saw the conditions that she has to live in. I'm very happy that I'm sponsoring her. It will give her a chance to better herself later in life."*

*-Charlotte M. HFKz sponsor*

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