

A stand out person | Louinel

When Louinel was a small boy in Haiti, managers of the Salvatorian-led Haiti Project took him under their wing. They found him a sponsor, which, in turn, opened the door for Louinel to attend the recently opened school in the village of Garcin. "Louinel was always friendly. As we started to spend extended periods of time in Haiti, he would come and visit us regularly," said Denise Snyder SDS. "He would help me practice my Creole, share meals with us and play dominos in the evenings."



Louinel has become a resource to help students with reading and homework.

"His father once worked for us so we have come to know his family well," said Bob Snyder SDS. "He didn't have regular work, and there was often not enough food at home." As a very good student, upon completion of his studies at the primary school Louinel was accepted to the Catholic high school in town. Through the work of the Haiti Project, Louinel was matched with another sponsor and is in now in his third year of high school. His English continues to improve. He has developed computer skills and stays in touch with the Snyder's even after they return home to the USA, keeping them informed of events and sending pictures of the financial reports generated at the Father Jim Bretl Agricultural Center, which is named after one of our Salvatorian fathers who had been instrumental in getting the Haiti Project off the ground almost 20 years ago. He has become very active at Church through the years

and recently expressed interest in becoming a priest.

"One evening while visiting he mentioned he was having difficulty at school. When we asked him what was wrong, he shared his struggles at home and that there was no food," said Denise. "He attends two sessions of school each day and without having nutrition, it was difficult for him to study."

"There are so many hungry people in Haiti and there simply are not enough resources to be able to feed the many," said Denise. A plan was put in place to open the small library at the school on Saturday mornings. Louinel, in turn, was offered a small stipend to be the librarian. He has been a faithful worker opening the library on time each Saturday morning, helping children both select books and complete their homework. He teaches basic skills where they are lacking and even has had adults seek him out for help at the library.

"Louinel has become a natural and confident leader in Haiti," said Denise. "We've been blessed to help him on his journey and can see a bright future for him. He plans to attend a University; the Haiti Project and its supporters hope to help him with that dream."



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