

# Back to School

Keeping families together – one scholarship at a time.



Dear Friends,

August 2024

**A**s Overture International continues the vital work of reuniting and placing hundreds of children released from harmful orphanages, it is critical to remember that **the primary reason Haitian children are turned over to orphanages is because their parents lack the funds for education.** And since keeping families together is at the heart of all we do, funding school scholarships is of *utmost* importance. When you invest in Overture scholarships, you're funding more than education; you're also protecting children, strengthening families and creating local employment opportunities for educators, administrators and staff. **Scholarships keep families together, sustain schools and build stronger communities.**

**That's why, as a new school year quickly approaches, we're launching our annual back-to-school campaign aimed at funding 100+ school scholarships between now and September 30th for the many children from orphanages recently reunited with their families.**

Our community schools and our main school in Les Cayes serve hundreds of students each year. **These students are the future of southern Haiti, and their education and success are critical to advancing self-reliance and ending generational poverty.** They represent the next generation of leaders who will — one day — guide Haiti into a brighter future where children are safe and families are strong.

**The average Haitian earns less than \$2 per day.** And because there are no free education options in Haiti, it is impossible for parents to afford tuition costs. This inability ultimately leads parents to relinquish their children to the orphanages that are promising their children an education. The reality, however, is a stark one that rarely includes any schooling, and is almost certain to present children with trauma, neglect and abuse. **Children like Samson, whose story is featured in the enclosed insert.**

It is undeniable that the consequences of sending a child to the orphanage are destructive and ineffective at all levels, for both the child and the family. **Your back-to-school support will help to drastically decrease the likelihood of family separation for 100 children in southern Haiti by providing them with full scholarships for their upcoming school year.**

**Join us today — and together — we will build a stronger Haiti, one school scholarship at a time.**

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

God bless you and keep you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Hyatt".

Lisa Hyatt  
Executive Director, Overture International

“Since keeping families together is at the heart of all we do, funding school scholarships is of utmost importance.”

# School Scholarships — The Overture Difference.

The schools we support at Overture are all staffed by local Haitians, which means our school scholarships not only provide education to a child but also empower teachers, administrators and staff with living-wage employment opportunities in the communities we serve. **Your investment in school scholarships has a double impact — strengthening two of the *Five Pillars* in our Overture Social Support Model.** Together, we continue to efficiently make progress towards our mission to equip our friends in southern Haiti toward independence and self-reliance.

In addition, when Overture extends a scholarship to a child, we include a family visit by one of our licensed social workers to assess whether additional supports like family counseling or parental training are needed. Additionally, our education support extends to the community through information awareness events for community members and leadership training for community leaders. Ultimately, our intention is to strengthen and empower the economic capacity of the whole family and community. **Your investment in an Overture scholarship has a profound impact.**



## While there are many reasons to support education in southern Haiti, HERE ARE OUR TOP FIVE REASONS TO INVEST IN OVERTURE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- 1. STRONGER FAMILIES:** Scholarships offset a parent's inability to pay for their child's education, which is the primary reason Haitian parents relinquish their children to the orphanage.
- 2. EMPOWERMENT AND INDEPENDENCE:** Education empowers children and increases their likelihood of becoming independent, self-sufficient and contributing members of society.
- 3. ECONOMIC GROWTH:** Educated children are far more likely to be employed or start their own businesses, which stimulates the local economy and moves families out of generational poverty.
- 4. REDUCTION IN HARM TO CHILDREN:** When children are in school, child labor is reduced and the risk of falling prey to trafficking, exploitation and gang involvement decreases, giving them the freedom to dream.
- 5. ENHANCED SOCIAL SKILLS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Educated children demonstrate strong interpersonal skills and community engagement, as well as a sense of belonging and civic responsibility.



## Keep families together by keeping children in school.

It costs **\$500 per child, per year for a school scholarship.** Your back-to-school support ensures that Haitian children have the opportunity to receive an education, remain in their homes with their families and mature into independent, self-sufficient adults who will ultimately lead Haiti towards a brighter future. **Together, we can make a lasting impact.**

**100 CHILDREN. 100 SCHOLARSHIPS. INVEST TODAY!**



To donate, scan the QR code or visit [www.overtureinternational/back-to-school](http://www.overtureinternational/back-to-school)