

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH JOINS THE 3LEGS PILOT PROJECT

*Haitians Transforming Haiti One Community at a Time.*

Long-term self-sufficiency and prosperity in a poor area depends on finding ways for community members to create wealth. Haitian Spiritan priest Father Joseph Philippe developed the 3Legs Program (<http://raisinghaiti.org/threelegs.html>) to create wealth in rural Haitian communities. The motto of 3Legs is “Haitians Transforming Haiti One Community at a Time.” The program relies on three equally important “legs”—Community Organization, Human Resource Development, and Creating Economic Opportunity.

The Haiti Committee at OLQP learned about the 3Legs Program through its connection with Spiritan priests and Father Joseph. This connection facilitated the addition of St. Joseph parish to the 3Legs Program pilot.

The first leg is **Community Organization**. An Animator (Community Organizer) is identified, hired, and receives training. The community forms a Local Development Committee (LDC) of community leaders. The Animator and LDC meet with community members to discuss community assets, problems, and solutions.

The second leg is **Human Resource Development**. The community’s LDC chooses secondary school graduates to compete for admission to the University of Fondwa, (uFondwa), also founded by Father Joseph. uFondwa, Haiti's rural university, trains and mentors young Haitian men and women to create economic, environmental, and intellectual wealth. uFondwa accepts three students from each community participating in 3Legs, based on their test scores and academic excellence: one to study agronomy, one to study veterinary medicine, and one to study business management. Each field is vital for rural community development. Students promise to return to their home communities for at least three years after they graduate to work with their Animator and LDC to create wealth for the community.

The third leg represents the ultimate goal: the **Creation of Economic Opportunity**. The participating community’s Animator, LDC, and uFondwa students, in consultation with uFondwa business professors, develop a business plan for their community. The Raising Haiti Foundation will fund plans with a high likelihood of success for implementation in the community that developed the plan.

The 3Legs Pilot Project for six rural communities, including Medor, is currently underway. Each has an Animator, an LDC, and students studying at uFondwa in agronomy, veterinary medicine, and business.

The 3Legs Pilot Project will help achieve sustainable development in Medor by developing leaders who can assess the community's assets, identify problems and solutions, and develop strategies to create wealth in the area.

Père Luckson Chery, the previous pastor of St. Joseph parish in Medor, said the following about the Medor's inclusion in the 3Legs Pilot Project: "I want to thank OLQP for supporting our schools, the clean water and sanitation programs, and the agro-forestry program. Now I want to thank you for enrolling us in 3Legs, which will empower us to sustainably help ourselves."

Links to videos of the 4 Medor students attending UFondwa and also a video of Father Joseph discussing UFondwa are below.

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