# About Hope for Haitians 22nd Annual

*An evening in the*

# TROPICS

For 22 years, Rockford based Hope for Haitians has been providing secure homes and safe water to Haitian families living in desperate poverty. The 2023 "Evening in the Tropics" will raise funds for the second phase of Hope for Haitians' 18th Village project in rural Haiti. This phase will provide:

- 40 additional families with secure homes
- 2 water treatment facilities to provide safe water for the entire community
- 8 additional solar street lights to enhance safety

This initiative builds on work currently underway, providing homes for 35 families, a community center for the entire village and 7 solar street lights.

While the United States is the wealthiest country in the western hemisphere, our near neighbor Haiti is the poorest. Situated just 700 miles off the coast of Florida, Haiti has endured more than its fair share of suffering. Devastating earthquakes, tropical storms, civil disorder, and pervasive gang violence make Haiti a challenging place to live and work. In spite of these challenges, Hope for Haitians has transformed the lives of families living in desperate poverty every year for the past 22 years.

***Here are three ways you can change lives this year:***

**Become an Event Sponsor:** There are sponsorship levels for all types of individuals and businesses. Each comes with its own perks, benefits, and exposure. Details attached or online at https://hopeforhaitians.org/tropics-sponsor/

**Donate an Auction Item:** Attendees at the event are always excited about the items in our auction. This is a great way to step out as a business and show influential community members your generous spirit and the unique character of your business.

**Attend the Evening in the Tropics Event:** The Evening in the Tropics features a sit-down plated dinner, silent auction with fantastic items, and an informative program on the changes being made in the lives of Haitian families. Registration opens July 1st. You can make reservations online at https://hopeforhaitians.org/tropics-tickets/ or call 815-847-0656 to make a reservation.

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## EVENT DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

Radisson Conference Center, Rockford, IL

# HOPE FOR HAITIANS

## *Hope one Village at a Time*

St. Joseph Village Project, the 18th initiative by Hope for Haitians, is set in Acul Samedi, Haiti – a small farming community. The villagers, who mostly grow crops like manioc and peanuts, face a host of challenges with housing, water, community space, and safety being paramount.

**Housing:**

The current housing scenario in Acul Samedi is abysmal, with many homes constructed from mud and sticks, providing scant protection from harsh weather. The situation gets perilous during inclement weather when people can't sleep due to the water seeping into their homes. This project aims to change this by providing 75 families (375 individuals) with new, well-equipped homes, marking their first step towards sustainable livelihoods.

**Water:**

Clean drinking water is another major issue. At present, people rely on two wells or direct river water, exposing them to waterborne diseases. Waterborne ailments like typhoid, cholera, and chronic diarrhea account for over half of Haiti's annual deaths. This project will mitigate this problem by creating two new wells and water treatment systems, ensuring safe drinking water for all.

**Community Space:**

The absence of a community center hampers the organization of important events and gatherings. As part of the project, a new community center will provide a shared space for various activities, contributing to the community's growth.

**Safety:**

In Acul Samedi, unlit roads at night raise security issues. Lack of lighting also affects children's study hours. St. Joseph Village project plans to address this by providing a solar-powered light in each of the 75 homes, enhancing evening study and work hours. Moreover, 15 solar-powered streetlights will illuminate the roads, enhancing overall community safety.

*My name is Marie Merona Meronville. As an old age woman, I can no longer work the land to survive, so I must rely on others to bring food home. My situation is complicated.*

*My husband and I have lived in this community for over 40 years. We have raised our children and grandchildren here and have even built our house with the means at our disposal. However, unfortunately, the house cannot withstand the water.*

*When it rains, the house leaks and in no way can ensure my family's safety. We throw rags on the floor to keep it dry...we are forced to stay awake to remove the pieces of mud that fall on the floor and replace them on the wood. At our age, this is becoming more and more difficult.*

*I would be more than happy to possess my own well-built home so I can live with my family without stressing on being invaded by the water from the torrential rains.*

*Home and food, these are what I desperately pray for!*

**Hope for Haitians**
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