

Children of the Promise: Solar Project



The year 2010 has already been an incredibly significant year in Haiti. The quake and world response have had huge implications on Haiti. We have seen such a high amount of support poured out on the Haitian people and on the organizations that work in Haiti. Children of the Promise has been overwhelmed by the support we have received since the quake as well, and it is truly remarkable the impact we have been able to make through that support.

As we continue to move forward with our work in Haiti, we seek to constantly examine our organization in order to make sure we are being responsible with the resources God has entrusted to us. One of the big areas we have been examining is our budget and expenses in Haiti. We want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to ensure that donations are being spent wisely and according to the mission of COTP in Haiti.

One area where we believe there is room for improvement is energy consumption. As many of you know, we generate our own power with our diesel generator. Recently, deteriorating equipment had forced us to upgrade parts of our system. New batteries and a new inverter now allow us to operate our system more efficiently. However, since we do not have another power source, we are restricted to having to pay large amounts each year for diesel fuel. In order to have power, we need to run our generator **10 hours a day**. At this rate, we end up **paying \$1,000 a month for fuel, and over \$12,000 dollars a year**. This amounts to a significant chunk of our budget each month.

Our **solution** to this problem, is to pursue the use of **solar energy**. Our goal is to install a solar system, which will significantly offset the use of our generator. Conservative estimates show that it will cut our usage to a 1/4 of what we were using before, **saving us roughly 9,000 a year**.

The sun's rays are free, but using them to provide energy is not. In the long run, solar power will be cleaner, quieter, and far less expensive. However, the start up cost for the system is quite significant. Children of the Promise has already made a large investment in new inverters and batteries, which are compatible to a solar system and are an expensive component.

Children of the Promise: Solar Project

Here is where we ask for your help. In order for us to make this a reality, we will need to raise **\$35,000**. This amount includes all the panels and equipment to mount and operate the system. We realize that donating to this project is not a direct donation to the people of Haiti. However, this project will allow us to allocate more of our funds toward the children in our care and surrounding community for many years to come. We ask that you prayerfully consider partnering with us on this project in one of the following ways:

Adopt a Panel: We will need 32 solar panels to complete our system. The panels generate 205 watts each and have an expected lifespan of 25 years. Each panel, with installation included, will cost \$1,000. If you can be one of 32 people to sponsor a panel, we can make this project a reality.

Sponsor the Project: The project will cost slightly more than the cost of the panels alone. If you decide not to sponsor a panel, please consider a donation to help raise the remainder of these funds.

Here is a projection of what we will save over the next 10 years:

	Generator Fuel Costs	Gen. Fuel Costs W/ Solar	Savings
Per Day	\$33.33	\$8.00	\$25.33
Per Month	\$1,000.00	\$240.00	\$760.00
Per Year	\$12,000.00	\$2,880.00	\$9,120.00
2 Years	\$24,000.00	\$5,760.00	\$18,240.00
Four Years	\$48,000.00	\$8,640.00	\$39,360.00
Ten Years	\$120,000.00	\$28,800.00	\$91,200.00

Our goal is to complete the project **before the start of 2011**. If you would like to partner with us in this project, you can send a donations to:

**Children of the Promise
PO Box 123
Prinsburg, MN 56281**

We welcome any questions or input that you might have relative to this project. Please contact Jamie Groen directly at jamjengroen@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

P.S. The cover pictures were taken last winter. It is normal practice for our kids when the weather gets cold to find any bit of sunshine they can and huddle in the rays of sun. To our knowledge, no one ever encouraged them to do it. Maybe they were trying to tell us something all along.