



## **Suggestions for Writing Support Letters for Haiti**

- 1) **Don't be afraid to ask!** Build a list of family, friends, and contacts to ask. To raise \$600, it would require 24 gifts of \$25. Or 1 gift of \$200, 2 gifts of \$100, 2 gifts of \$50, and 4 gifts of \$25 (9 total gifts). Make a large enough list- not everyone is going to donate.
  - Family members (extended families – grandparents, great aunts and uncles, etc)
  - Local businesses you and your family may know or have a connection to.
  - Family friends
- 2) **Social Media:** You can post your request on Facebook and twitter, but a general post on social media likely won't raise the funding you need. Send communication directly to your list.
- 3) **Make it personal.** Send a personal letter. Make the letter no more than 1 page.
  - Write several handwritten sentences on your letter – it will help make it much more personal and will increase the chances your letter is read.
- 4) **Envelopes:** Hand address the outer (carrier) envelope. This increases the chance it's opened and read. With your letter, include an addressed return envelope with a stamp on it.
- 5) **Prayer Team:** Along with asking for \$ for your trip, consider asking for prayer team members. Make sure to keep your prayer team informed as you prepare for the trip and inform them of how they can pray for you while you are in Haiti. **\*\*Provide a way for them to join your prayer team (a reply form, an email address, or another way).**
- 6) **Explain the mission and work clearly in your letter.** Let them know you are going with your youth group from CRBC and partnering with Mission of Hope Haiti (share their web address). Remember, you are not requesting donations to fund your Spring Break vacation, and you are not going to Haiti as a tourist. As you ask for a gift, clearly communicate the ways you will be serving children, people in the community, and how you and the team will share the Gospel.
- 7) **Follow up.** Make a follow-up phone call a week after the letter is mailed or send a follow-up email or facebook message. You can say something to the effect: "I'm calling (or writing) just to make sure you received my letter about my upcoming mission trip to Haiti. Do you have any questions about the trip and the ways we'll be serving there? Thank you so much for considering supporting this mission."
- 8) **Thank You's:** Thank those who donate and those who join your prayer team. Buy a box of thank you cards, and send them a thank you as soon as you receive their gift. After you return from your trip, send a one or two page report from your trip, include a couple of pictures, and make sure to thank them again for their support.
- 9) **The Ask:** "Would you consider a gift of \$200, \$100, \$50, or another amount the Lord might lead you to give? To make your gift, please write your check out to Council Road Baptist Church and return using the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of supporting my mission trip to Haiti!"
- 10) **Workin' for it:** Some people would love to have you baby-sit or do other sorts of labor. Include that if you have something to offer! (Most people would pay you more if they know it's going towards your trip!)