

Originally from East Hartford, CT, **Christina Moynihan** is a graduate of the University of Connecticut. She continued her studies in Mexico City and then went on to complete her Master's in Education at Central Connecticut State. Soon afterwards, Christina met Patrick Moynihan and they married in 1988. They moved to Chicago, IL where Christina continued teaching elementary school.



After a transfer to Memphis, TN in 1991, Christina and Patrick began to hear the call to live more deeply and deliberately the Gospels. Beginning with their involvement in *Cursillo*, a spiritual movement to form lay ministers in the Church and followed by some challenging interfaith conversations with friends on what it means to *live the Gospels*, Christina and Patrick discovered they were being called to live a different life. Within 18 months, the two cars, the house on the hill, and most of the furniture were sold. Christina resigned from her teaching job, Patrick left his job as a commodities trader, and, by 1996, they, along with their two children, ages 1 and 3, were living in Port- au- Prince, Haiti. They have lived in Haiti off and on ever since. Now with four children, Robert (25), Mikhaila (23), Timothy (21) and Marianna (18), the family has been working together to strengthen The Haitian Project's mission, which comes from Matthew 10:8: "What you receive as a gift, you must give as a gift."

The Haitian Project supports Louverture Cleary School (LCS), a Catholic co-educational boarding school, which educates and nurtures academically talented and motivated students from Haitian families who cannot afford the cost of their children's education. This education maximizes their potential and enables them to work toward building a Haiti where justice and peace thrive. It is at LCS that Christina and her family have dedicated their lives to service in Haiti. Christina has been integral in providing educational, social, and spiritual support to both the students on campus and the families in the surrounding neighborhood. In addition to teaching and heading the Office of Campus Ministry and Community Outreach, she quickly put in place *Ekol Ankourajman (School of Encouragement)*, an after-school literacy program for children from the neighborhood who could not attend the school. She also began and managed an industrial sewing training and employment program.

In response to the pressure added on parents in the local area after the earthquake, Christina devoted much time and energy to the expansion of the *Koukouy Sen Kle Program (Saint Clare's Fireflies)*, an early childhood developmental program that provides meals, structured classes in both Kreyol and French, and playtime in a safe environment for more than 50 children from the neighborhood.

Christina currently lives in Vero Beach, FL with her husband where she works as THP's Director of Community Development, spreading the word of THP's mission and continuing the work in which she and her family have so lovingly contributed to for over 20 years.