



## Stories of our Faith in Action

This bulletin insert tells you the story of an organization that benefitted from Together in Action in 2015. Funds from this year's campaign will benefit similar causes.

**Thank you for your support!**

Recipient Organization: Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Project Funded: Addressing the root causes of poverty through international development

Tell us about how your grant impacted your organization and/or your clients:



### **Development & Peace is the Church's organization in Canada for international solidarity.**

It offers us concrete ways to respond to the Pope's invitations by working together to build a world that is more just and more in keeping with human dignity. What it accomplishes in its work is an experience of the Church's long-standing tradition of referring to the "corporal works of mercy," which point to the explicit commands of Jesus Christ: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; visit the imprisoned – including those caught in unjust economic and social structures, as the Pope reminds us with the Jubilee Year of Mercy and through his encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

### **Create a Climate of Change with Adonis Medjine**

With support from Development and Peace, the Haitian organization Fanm Deside has created the social enterprise BON POUL, which specializes in raising and marketing broiler chickens. The profits from this enterprise help to finance Fanm Deside's activities amongst the most poor and vulnerable women in Haiti. The chicken coop is located in Jacmel in the south of the country, and is the only one in the community.

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The creation of the chicken coop has meant steady employment for the community, especially for women. The chickens are sold to shopkeepers who are members of Fanm Deside, as well as at local markets and to hotels located in the capital Port-au-Prince.

Adonis is one of three people recruited to help run the coop. With her job, she is able to provide for her family. Thanks to this job and the wages I receive, I can take care of my family, send my children to school and complete a few projects.”

### **Create a Climate of Change with Liz Benítez**

In Paraguay, small family farmers are victims of huge inequalities when it comes to access to land. One percent of landowners hold 77 percent of fertile land. Liz Benítez’ community lived on land whose ownership was contested by a company. After years of struggle, the government granted the community only a small fraction of the land it once occupied and the entire community was forced to move onto a minuscule parcel.

Since moving, Liz, 13, can no longer go to school. The closest high school is 20 kms away. “The school is very far, and I had to go there on my own. It scared me! I love learning but it’s just not possible at the moment.”

Her father, like many other members of the community, is part of the Paraguayan Peasant Movement. This Development and Peace partner is helping peasants defend their land rights. The people of the community, like many other peasant leaders in the country. Ricardo Nuñez, a member of the Paraguayan Peasant Movement is thankful for Development and Peace’s support. “We need Development and Peace so that the movement can grow, provide training, hold assemblies and be rooted at the national and local levels. Several people have no protection, and they need the movement to help them defend their rights.”

