

Quixote Center



Promoting Justice, Seeking Peace

Summer 2026

Filling in the Gaps: Quixote Center Launches New Entrepreneurship Program

Quixote Center's work in Haiti is transformational. Our current partnerships aim to restore entire villages so that families have the means to sustain themselves without permanent outside help.

There is one at-risk group left out of this idea: young people. Many young people do not have the means to complete their education, and even if they did, there are few jobs. Criminal gangs recruit desperate young people who do not see other options for resolving their lives.

We aim to interrupt this grim cycle with a program to elevate youth. With support from Project Redwood and in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Haiti (UNDH) Les Cayes Campus, this initiative will:

- Provide intensive entrepreneurship training to 25 young people in the first year;
- Provide mentoring for development of business plans;
- Provide small grants to launch viable business plans;
- Provide peer support throughout the business launch period.

This program complements the work we already do in the South which offers microfinance loans to entrepreneurs to expand their small commercial businesses. So far this year that program has provided an average loan of \$245 to 66 small business owners, 44 of whom are women. The Haiti Youth Enterprise Initiative envisions seeding larger businesses with larger grant amounts available, up to \$5000.

We are grateful to Project Redwood for providing the seed money to launch this program.



Fostering a Solidarity Economy in Rural Haiti

With 5.8 million Haitians facing acute hunger, decades of rural neglect, and ongoing political and social crises have left the country increasingly dependent on imported food. But lasting solutions can grow from within Haiti's rural communities. Through its partnership with DCCCH (Developpement Communautaire Chretien Haitien), Quixote Center is investing in farming families so they can produce more food by strengthening the solidarity economy model in southern Haiti.

Following a successful 2025 pilot with 100 farming families in Gouin and Saint-Helene, the program expanded in 2026 to 100 additional families in Tricon and Archambeau. Participants receive training in sustainable agriculture, leadership, conflict resolution, seed saving, and Mutual Solidarity groups. Corn, beans, plantains, coconuts, and yams are being distributed alongside goats, pigs, and cows through a revolving loan model that multiplies benefits from one family to the next.

Mutual Solidarity Groups (MUSOs) are also transforming access to finance. Six groups now include 186 members, more than half being women, and 66 members have received affordable loans to diversify their livelihoods and withstand economic and climate shocks.

This is more than a development project. It is an investment in Haiti's farmers, communities, and future. It proves that solidarity, shared responsibility, and local leadership can create lasting change. With continued support, these communities can grow stronger, feed their families, and build a stronger nation.



Participant next to her animal enclosure



Distribution of cows



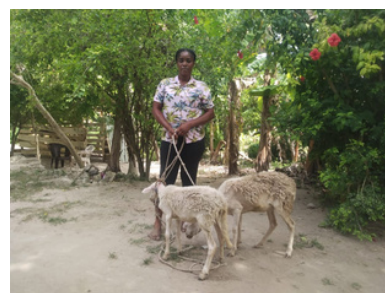
Distribution of animal enclosure material



MUSO meeting



Distribution of yam seedlings



Distribution of sheep

Responding to the Growing Migrant Crisis in Panama

Panama, at the crossroads of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, remains a critical migration route. After temporarily closing the Darién Gap in 2024, Panama has seen migration through the dangerous jungle route increase again, with people fleeing primarily from Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador. While numbers remain well below 2023 levels, Panama's National Service on Migration reported a 30% increase in crossings in August alone.

With support from the Quixote Center, the Franciscan Network for Migrants (RFM) Panama is helping Claretian missionaries provide humanitarian assistance and spiritual accompaniment to migrants arriving in the Darién. The parish visits the government reception center in San Vicente and welcomes migrants at its parish in Aguas Frías, where it receives roughly 500 people each month. RFM has also expanded its response to Paso Canoas on the Costa Rican border and the Hogar Medalla Milagrosa shelter, providing meals, healthcare, psychosocial support, humanitarian aid, and accompaniment to vulnerable migrants. As migration routes shift and needs grow, RFM's presence remains an essential lifeline, made possible by continued support from the Quixote Center donors.



Migrants receiving hygiene kits



Preparing hygiene kits



Distributing hygiene kits

Mexico Visit in May-June 2026

Quixote Center's visit to southern Mexico revealed a growing humanitarian crisis linked to increasingly aggressive US immigration enforcement and deportations. Thousands of people are arriving in Mexico with little support, leaving many homeless and vulnerable. Mexico's limited shelters and lengthy asylum process are overwhelmed and funding cuts further strain resources. At La72 migrant shelter in Tenosique, we met mostly young Honduran men fleeing violence and poverty, many seeking safety and work in Mexico rather than entering the US. At El Ceibo in Guatemala, we witnessed migrants, families and children, facing difficult choices and separation.

Meanwhile Tapachula, Chiapas, has become a major migration hub. Nearly half of Mexico's asylum applications are filed in Tapachula, where severe backlogs can force applicants to wait up to two years without legal employment or permission to leave Chiapas.



Walking with Franciscans and Migrants



Amparito Shelter Chapel



H&S Shelter Tapachula

Summer of Action

774 letters + emails to Congress to
protect TPS for Haiti + phone calls

petition signers opposed 4
proposed ATF rule changes

744

+ dozens of public comments
submitted to ATF directly

This summer, Quixote Center supporters took action to protect TPS for Haitians and to oppose dangerous changes to Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) rules that would make it easier to traffic weapons to Latin America and Caribbean. Thank you to everyone who took the time to make calls, write emails, send letters, sign petitions, and make public comments.

Camp Caritas in Gros Morne, Haiti

This July, Quixote Center supported the Caritas Committee of Lachandle Parish in organizing a three-week summer camp for children in the community, many who have been displaced by armed gang violence. The plan was for 100 children, but by the end of camp that number had grown to 153.

Local community leaders created a safe, caring and fun place for the children to spend their days learning, playing and spending time together. They shared two meals and a snack each day, learned new skills, and importantly... had time to just be kids. Camp Caritas also put money back into the local community, buying food from people who came to the camp each day to sell what they had grown or made and employing local trainers, cooks and drivers.

At the end of the three weeks, the kids were asking if they could keep coming in August and parents were asking to sign up for next year!



Camp community meeting



Learning and playing
in the forest



Soapmaking

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