



HANWASH

Haiti National Water, Sanitation
and Hygiene Initiative

A personal note from Haitian Board Member Marlene Gay Rotary Club of Pétion-Ville

When I reflect on the progress we are making together, I return again and again to a simple truth: *we move forward by celebrating small victories*. These moments remind us that transformation does not always arrive in grand gestures, but through steady, persistent steps taken by committed people working toward a shared vision.

Cavaillon is a powerful example of this. Home to nearly 49,000 residents, the commune stretches across farmland, rural villages, and a vibrant town center that comes alive during its bi-weekly market days. Life there is community-centered, but it is also shaped by long distances, difficult roads, and limited access to safe water. These challenges have been made even greater by earthquakes and hurricanes in recent years.



And yet, in Cavaillon, small victories are taking root.

- Local leaders are partnering with OREPA South, the Mayor's office, and Rotarians through three global grants that provide thousands of families with access to new wells, rehabilitated water supply systems, and sustainable WASH services.

- Financial reports for September and October 2025 indicate that the water system operator in the city of Cavaillon paid its 30% commercial fees to DINEPA, OREPA, and FRER (Water System Renewal and Maintenance Funds) required by law to ensure system sustainability through regular payment of water bills by customers.
- One hundred and ten (110) water meters for Global Grant #2 are about to be installed in the city of Cavaillon to better protect water resources and the “pay-for-service” system, thanks to collaboration with the Rotary Club of Pétion Ville.
- We have 8 out of 9 community wells operational, representing a functionality rate of 88.89%. Having rural water points within a 500-meter radius inside villages allows residents to spend less time collecting drinking water. Having rural water points within a 500-meter radius inside villages allows residents to spend less time collecting drinking water. Six of the 8 wells functioning have a recovery cost rate between 12.80% and 38.46%.
- Plans to extend access to five rural villages (3 for GG3 and 2 from Adopt-a-Water Point) are underway.
- Calls for proposals for the construction of two water points with solar systems and chlorination systems in the communities of Macrapo and Kafou Chat have been published.
- The completion of Global Grant #2 will be inaugurated during the first quarter of next year.

These improvements may seem incremental, but for families who once spent hours each day searching for clean water, they represent restored time, health, dignity, and possibility, in other words, they are small victories that’s worth celebrating. We will continue to improve; we will continue to go forward, we will continue to look at the “glass half full”, as we apply lessons learned from challenges and obstacles met in Ferrier, Pignon, Terre Neuve and Leogane during the pilot years of Hanwash.

These victories speak to something essential about Haitian philanthropy: it is grounded in *family and faith*. We support one another not out of charity, but out of conviction! We believe in our communities and in the strength that emerges when we work together. HANWASH’s model honors this philosophy by keeping Haitian leadership at the center, ensuring that capacity-building, governance, and local ownership guide every step of the process.

In this season of gratitude and generosity, I invite you to join us in recognizing the quiet but meaningful progress unfolding in Cavaillon and across Haiti. Each step, each well, each repaired pipeline, each community meeting *brings us closer to a future where safe water and sanitation are not distant hopes, but daily realities*. Thank you for walking alongside us, for believing in the power of community-led change, and for supporting the victories that build toward lasting transformation.

With warmest Holiday wishes, and appreciation. PP Marlene Gay HANWASH