

CREATING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN HAITI

ST Engineering iDirect and LBiSat help the village of Kay Anj Village in Haiti come online.

The Challenge

The Kay Anj Village School in Cap-Haitien, Haiti is part of the Kay Anj Village, which sits on 40 acres of land in the small village of Dekle. The village provides homes, schools, playing fields and a church for orphaned and abandoned children in the Kay Anj D'ayiti (Angel House of Haiti).

The project was the vision of Debbie and Bill Harvey. The couple founded Helping Haitian Angels (HHA), a non-profit organization, in 2008 to provide medical care, shelter, food and clean water for the children of Cap-Haitien. The Kay Anj Village School will provide 121 children from

prekindergarten through sixth grade, the opportunity for education—and for a promising future.

"For the children of Haiti, education doesn't just mean opportunity, it also means freedom. Having access to the Internet opens up a world that never before existed – to future job and entrepreneurial opportunities to healthcare and more."

Debbie Harvey
Founder
Helping Haitian Angels

But being able to provide the opportunity associated with education requires resources—resources that are not so easily at their disposal as to the rest of the world. Foremost, that means overcoming one fundamental challenge: the fact that only 10.6% of the Haitian population had access to the Internet, according to the ITU.

Access to quality education is essential to both the social and economic development of Haiti. Yet, the majority of schools in Haiti receive minimal government support, lack qualified instructors and are a significant financial burden on low-income families. Furthermore, according to statistics from USAid:

- Haitians aged 25 years and older receive on average only 4.9 years of education and only 29% attend secondary school
- More than 80% of primary schools are privately managed with minimal government oversight
- Half of public sector teachers in Haiti lack basic qualifications and almost 80% of teachers have not received any pre-service training

This introduces the risk that a generation of Haitian youth will not have the necessary knowledge and basic skills to succeed in the work force.

The Solution

In this region of Cap-Haitien, fiber and cellular connections are scarce at best. In areas where they are available, the time and costs associated with installation can be

prohibitive. Satellite is a key enabler for this region since it is easily deployable, provides a reliable connection and is cost-effective when compared with other access technologies.

For the children of Kay Anj Village, access to the Internet not only means hope for education, but hope for a more successful future. According to the Center for Global Development, in developing, low-income countries, every additional year of education can increase a person's future income by an average of 10%.

To help bring the Internet to the children of Kay Anj Village, HHA partnered with satellite technology providers ST Engineering iDirect and LBiSat to deliver broadband connectivity to the Kay Anj Village. Combining an Evolution® satellite modem from with Ku- band bandwidth from LBiSat, Debbie and Bill Harvey have taken a major step in providing the children of Kay Anj Village with the value of distance-learning, which includes:

- The ability to access world-class educators and collaborate with other students, all of whom are located around the world, via teleconference
- Real-time access to the latest learning resources and capabilities made available via the Internet
- The benefit of tapping into social networks and other digital resources that enable them to advance their communications skills, both personally and professionally
- The opportunity to learn and develop reading and writing skills that can be passed down to next generations, as well as previous generations



The Kay Anj Village School is part of the first phase of development for the Kay Anj Village, which sits on 40 acres of land in the small village of Dekle in Haiti.

"Providing education not only changes the lives of this current generation of the Haitian population, but future generations to come," says Debbie Harvey. "Parents of students of the Kay Anj Village School, who themselves were never taught to read and write, have come up to us to tell us that their children can now educate them, too. That is a true generational impact."

When iDirect and LBiSat first arrived in Kay Anj D'ayiti, priority number one was getting power to the buildings in the village. Historically, the challenge for Cap-Haitien was that residents typically only experienced one or two hours of electricity per day. That is slowly changing as a local power facility is providing immediate and ongoing power—critical to the big plans that Debbie and Bill Harvey have for the 40 acres of land that comprise the Kay Anj Village.

Following the work of a master electrician who wired up the buildings in the village, iDirect personnel worked alongside local villagers to assemble the VSAT equipment and prepared for connection. Power was finally turned on at 4 p.m. on the last day that the group was on the ground. One hour later, connectivity was live.

From there, LBiSat worked from the LBiSat network operation center to commission the Evolution remote. The team trained a local Haitian on details of the system. This would allow him to help with any issues that may arise with the system in the future—essentially putting the power and control of the connection into the hands of the community of Kay Anj D'ayiti.

"The power of connectivity comes not only in the technology being provided, but in the form of knowledge that we can leave behind with the community. In essence, this is a whole new opportunity for information," says Darren Ludington, regional vice president of sales, Americas, ST Engineering iDirect. "The more power we put into the hands of the people of Kay Anj D'ayiti, the better their ability to leverage this powerful connection for generations to come."

Changing Lives

Technology holds the power to change lives and truly make a difference for those who previously had no access to information. The day that connectivity was turned on at Kay Anj D'ayiti was one that marked a major turning point—not only for this small region of Haiti, but for the entire country.

"The day we opened the doors to Kay Anj Village School was a day that changed the lives for hundreds of individuals in Cap-Haitien. The dedication and generosity of both iDirect and LBiSat cannot be understated in helping HHA build a brighter future in Haiti," says Debbie Harvey.

"The more power we put into the hands of the people of Kay Anj D'ayiti, the better for their ability to continue to leverage this powerful connection for generations to come."

Darren Ludington
Regional Vice President of Sales, Americas
ST Engineering iDirect

