Hands for Haiti has been working in this mountainous part of Haiti for over 10 years. It has been active in agricultural programs, feeding for children, water filters, establishing a school in a very remote area and starting a clinic in Barbe, two hours away by road from any health facility in 2016. Our district and three clubs (Cadillac, Houghton Lake and Roscommon) were very involved with this helping provide an ambulance, solar energy and refrigeration in 2017, a most successful project that has had a profound impact on the area. The ambulance has been most helpful in reducing mortality from cholera.

Hands for Haiti will set up latrines in 5 villages each with a population of a few hundred where there are no latrines. Elimination of waste is done in the brush, and, especially during the rainy season, there is wide disbursement of the fecal material, contributing to dysentery, cholera and other similar diseases. Because the area mostly is situated on limestone, latrines are not easily placed and yet they can have a vital role in improving the health and sanitation of a village. Building a latrine there involved digging a huge opening at least ten feet deep into limestone prior to providing a modern latrine. A “tippy tap” cleaning station will be provided by Hands for Haiti adjacent to the latrine.

The latrines will be placed close to a church or school. The community leadership will also have involvement and Hands for Haiti will also supervise this process. Hands for Haiti personnel from the USA visit the area about 4 times a year, working with their Haitian staff. Hands for Haiti has much experience with these latrines and have two latrines in the town of Barbe mentioned above.