

Gratitude 50/50 Giving Challenge

This year, Tim and I both turn 50. As we consider the last 50 years, we are filled with a sense of gratitude for all the blessings of health, family, friends and all the opportunities we have had for education, good jobs, etc. Realizing that these opportunities don't exist in many places in the world, we wanted to mark this milestone by giving the gift of opportunity. In the theme of 50, we are encouraging our friends, family and co-workers to join us in providing opportunity to others. **We will match up to \$50,000** that is given through the [Gratitude 50/50 Giving Challenge](#) in 2014.

There are two organizations that we have a particular connection with and are excited to tell you about. We invite you to give to one or both of these organizations that provide sustainable educational and economic opportunity.

Investing in Education for Haiti

Matthew 28 is an organization that shares the good news by feeding the hungry, providing a home and care for orphans and helping Haitians gain sustainable skills.

Last year, they began a teacher training program designed to train 12 of the brightest young Haitian adults to be able to teach in a way that focuses on creative problem-solving and understanding, which is very different than the rote memorization used in Haitian schools.

The next step is to build a new school near the orphanage that the orphans and other poor children in the Bohoc community can attend.

When I was in Haiti last year, I met Stephen, a young man in his late 20s who is in this teacher training program. He walks ten miles to the orphanage each day to study and practice his new skills by tutoring the children there. He also earns the only income to support his mother, father, brothers, sisters and other relatives.

Education changes the whole community. Help us to give this opportunity to the awesome children of Bohoc, Haiti.

I will be running my first Marathon in October and have chosen this as my fundraiser. You can give to the Matthew 28 School for Haiti at <http://matthew28.org/page28.php> and identify it for Gratitude 50/50 Challenge or <https://www.crowdrise.com/Gratitude50/fundraiser/deboracard>

Matthew 28 is a 501 (c) 3 organization so your donations are tax-deductable in the U.S.

Investing in Women Entrepreneurs

After reading "Half the Sky," I was inspired to make a difference for women who didn't have the same opportunities as me. [Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#) is a passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Research has shown that giving these women economic opportunity is the most sustainable way to fight oppression, poverty and terrorism.

Opportunity International provides small business loans, savings, insurance and training to over two million people working their way out of poverty in the developing world. Clients in over 20 countries use these financial services to start or expand a business, provide for their families, create jobs for their neighbors and build a safety net for the future.

We believe that [microfinance](#) is a sustainable means of poverty alleviation leading to lasting, holistic development. Financial tools and training empower entrepreneurs to build businesses, support their families and transform their communities. 98% of all loans are repaid and the ROI is 600%. As these women earn income, they tend to invest in educating their children, and in bettering their communities.

Opportunity International enables giving in local currency from the US, UK, Germany and India at <http://us.opportunity.org/fundraisers/gratitude-50>.