



# Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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## Focusing on the Big Picture

by Jimi Grondin (THP Director of New School Construction)

In order to enhance the stability and productivity of the Model Campus and the community in which it is embedded, a team of experts in architecture, construction, solar energy, agriculture, water systems and logistics lend their expertise to The Haitian Project's Site Evaluation and Advisory Team (SEAT).

SEAT is focused on developing the individualized plans that will ensure each school in the Louverture Cleary Schools Network (LCS Network) meets the specific needs of its students and will be a significant positive contributor to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the local community and the nation of Haiti.

Here are just some of the ways Louverture Cleary Schools will serve

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## Becoming a Louverturian

by Amanda Haluga  
(THP Director of Charism and Missionary Program)

Louverture Cleary School (LCS) is well known in Haiti for educating and forming excellent students, employees, leaders, and citizens. Louverturians (the name given to LCS students and alumni) stand out, both during their seven years at the school and after graduation. When they return to their home communities, they bring with them an increased sense of service and responsibility, newfound waste management and environmental stewardship habits, and a clearer objective for their own future and that of their country.



*A rigorous multi-step process takes place each year to select those who will become Louverturians.*

Louverturians live differently because of their formation at LCS, and others want to know how they can be a part of it. This is abundantly clear each spring, when hundreds of families visit the school to register their children for the chance at

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## THP Highlights

**A Celebration of Haiti:** Every year on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Haitian Independence Day, Haitians everywhere celebrate with traditional pumpkin soup, or soup joumou. Before Haiti became a free nation, soup joumou was reserved for slave owners; others were forbidden from eating it. When the Haitian Revolution officially ended on Jan. 1, 1804, the soup became a symbol for freedom. In Dec. 2021, UNESCO added soup joumou to its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. Some THP community members have shared their recipes which are available on the Community Updates page at [HaitianProject.org](http://HaitianProject.org). Email [development@haitianproject.org](mailto:development@haitianproject.org) to include your recipe too!

**It Began with a Great In-CENT-ive.** Starting with a Penny Campaign in 2001, Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, VA has been a longtime supporter of THP's mission, raising \$256,000 over two decades and sending nine mission trips to LCS. Although THP would ideally be present at the school during their annual Catholic Schools Week celebration, this year was complicated by COVID-19. THP President Reese Grondin sent a video message, encouraging and thanking the school community for their generous support. The school raised an amazing \$3,000 to add to its impressive donation total! Thank you, Cardinals!

**Sharing with the LCS Community:** Junior staff members are graduates who work in the LCS community while in university as part of the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement's work-study scholarship program. Recently, Jean Michel P.F. (LCS '17) assumed the role of junior staff medical assistant as he pursues a medical degree. Thrilled to tend to the needs of the community alongside the school's physician and nurse, Jean Michel notes, "Returning to LCS is like coming back to family. LCS has fully contributed to who I am, and it will always please me to share what I have in this community."

## LCS Community

### Becoming a Louverturian

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one of the 60 spots in the incoming *Sizyèm* (U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> grade) class.

LCS Principal Marjorie M. (LCS '07) has participated in the selection of new students for many years. "We are looking for smart, respectful and serious students," Marjorie reflects. "A lot of families would like to send their students to LCS because we are unique. We are giving a strong education for free. Our students speak four languages [Kreyòl, French, English, and Spanish]. And, LCS is a safe environment. Our students continue their work outside of classes, eat three times daily, have water and electricity to study at night, and don't need to travel every day to go to school."

A rigorous multi-step process of exams, interviews, home visits, and orientation carried out by a team of seasoned LCS administration and staff takes place each year to select those who will become Louverturians. Applicants must meet two crucial criteria: academic aptitude and financial need. They must also be prepared to live in a structured community steeped in service to others. Life at LCS is no small undertaking for an eleven or twelve-year-old, but they are willing to step up to the challenge know-

ing the transformative change the school offers them and their families.

After registering, prospective students then sit for a pre-examination. Those who pass are invited back to sit for the entrance exam, which evaluates core subjects like math and French. The top 100 scorers then sit for a round of interviews during which the Admissions Team learns about the applicants, their motivations, and their potential to take on the school's specific culture and charism. The top 80 are selected for home visits, and members of the team assess the family's financial situation to ensure that they are unable to afford the cost of their children's education. Once all criteria are met, the final 60 applicants are selected to attend orientation in August where, led by staff and older students, they live at LCS and become familiar with the routine, work, values, and classmates in preparation for joining the school community in September.

"The new student admissions process requires a tremendous amount of oversight by the LCS administration and the Admissions Team," notes THP Chief Program Officer Aimée Maier.



Hundreds of families visit LCS each spring to register their children for the chance for an incoming spot.

"Team members understand the significance of a change-making, life-giving LCS education and take extremely seriously the responsibility of ensuring that applicants meet the admission criteria and that there is transparency in the process. The Admissions Team, many of whom are LCS graduates themselves, is well-equipped to steer this process."

It is incredible to see the enthusiasm and hope that each year's admissions process brings to the community. New students recognize what the chance to become a Louverturian means for them, their family, and Haiti. The LCS community stands ready to welcome them!

## A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to all of the volunteers of The Haitian Project (THP) community whose belief in the mission enables Louverture Cleary School graduates to use their education to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families.

Whether you are a Missionary Volunteer alum, serve on the board of directors or a committee, stuff newsletters or host community events to help spread the word of how an LCS education can transform lives in Haiti, your efforts are invaluable. By supporting one of the very best education programs in Haiti, you are giving hope and purpose to a new generation of servant-leaders.

Because of you, 90 percent of LCS graduates are in Haiti working, attending university, or both. They are in professional careers as teachers, accountants, doctors, and lawyers. They are earning an average of \$12,000 per year just several years into their careers—having come from families who struggle to get by on \$1,000 per year.

They are able to send their own children to school, buy their own homes, pay for their own medical care, and support their extended families.

Thank you for believing in them and in the work of The Haitian Project. With your support, Louverturians will build a brighter future for their country!

## Celebrating Louverturian Success

by HPN Staff

In the fall of 2021, Haiti's *Commission Nationale des Marchés Publics* (National Public Procurement Commission, or CNMP) held a national essay contest for final year and graduating university students. Entrants were invited to write three to five pages on the topic "Public procurement: an effective tool for the implementation of public policies."

When the top ten finalists were announced in November, not one, but TWO Louverture Cleary School alumni were among them: Jothsaïna P. (LCS '14) and Jacob K. (LCS '15)! Jothsaïna went on to be among the final three competitors and, at a December ceremony commemorating the 17th anniversary of CNMP, was named the winner of the contest and the J.F.R. Marcello Prize!

Jothsaïna, who attended law school in Haiti with help from a scholarship from LCS's Dulcich Center for Career Advancement (DCCA), was preparing her thesis on public contract law in the final year of her degree when she learned of the opportunity to use that knowledge in the contest. "The most important thing to make clear was transparency in contracts," Jothsaïna reflects on her winning essay. "The public administration has to put the information out to the public. What is the state doing, does it have a result, is it efficient? Money

should be used to serve the general interest. Contracts need to be transparent."

Additionally, Jothsaïna was recently awarded the Pauline Parris Scholarship that will send her to Ireland to pursue a master's degree in international peace studies. She plans to bring what she learns back to Haiti to support a brighter future for her country. Speaking to a Haitian news outlet about the award, Jothsaïna said: "Currently there are many conflicts in Haiti, whether at the level of the gangs or the public authorities. In applying for this scholarship, I thought to myself that it could really help me in this area. It would allow me to analyze and understand the mechanisms of conflict management."

Jothsaïna and Jacob are both excellent examples of how Louverturians continue to excel both professionally and when it comes to giving back to their community. While studying law at Quisqueya University, Jothsaïna returned to LCS to teach *Education Citoyenne* (Citizenship) class. She also serves as a debate coach with the organization FOKAL—a way for her to give back to the same debate program in which she and her fellow students participated while at LCS. Now working as a licensed lawyer, she and her colleagues support and encourage women to increase their participation in fields like politics and other social interests.

"I was thrilled to learn the news of one of our alumni distinguishing herself for her remarkable achievements,"



Jothsaïna P. (center) at the awards ceremony for the *Commission Nationale des Marchés Publics'* national essay contest.

remarked Fondation Haitian Project Executive Director Stéphanie B. "I am extremely proud of all Jothsaïna has accomplished and all she will continue to do in the future. Jothsaïna is excelling in a male-dominated field here in Haiti, and it is such a pleasure to witness. She is positioning herself to be of great use to Haiti."

For his part, Jacob earned a highly sought-after spot in the State University of Haiti's medical school after graduating from LCS. While pursuing his degree, he joined other LCS alumni in the medical field and volunteered his time at free medical clinics for the community around LCS. Through the DCCA's junior staff work-study scholarship program, he served as the medical assistant at LCS, helping the school and local community as they weathered the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reflecting on the impact of LCS on his work and on Haiti, Jacob says, "Rare are the institutions in the country that teach us to be good students but also engaged citizens. In addition to academic values, LCS instills moral and patriotic values in us. LCS is a valuable social actor whose mission is to rebuild Haiti."

Congratulations to Jothsaïna and Jacob, and to all our LCS alumni who continue to work hard in their own lives and for a brighter, more transparent and just future for their country!



Jacob K. (left) volunteering at a free community clinic with other LCS alumni in the medical field.

### LCS Student Views

Jenny Joovica J., Rhéto student (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

My name is Jenny Joovica. I am seventeen years old, and I am in Rhéto (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade). I live with my mother, my father, my sister, two brothers and two cousins. My parents had a friend whose child attended Louverture Cleary School, and they explained how LCS was different from other schools, so that was the starting point of this great discovery.

For me, an LCS education is a body of knowledge, virtues, and values, such as fraternity, love for work, respect and morality. It helps us to be a better person and to be a better citizen of tomorrow. It is an experience that personally will impact my life forever.

My favorite things about LCS are the mutual respect for everyone, whatever the unit of the hierarchy, and the fraternity—we belong to each other and the concern of one is for the other. I love our specific values of love for each other, respect, and physical and mental work, and the way we are supported.

My favorite classes are chemistry and math. I like playing basketball, and I like participating in the Debate Club at school. I am a part of the Sports Committee (student group that organizes games and activities during play hour), and the Language Club (which encourages the school to practice the four languages: Kreyòl, French, English and Spanish).

My hope for the future is to have a better Haiti with peace, love, fraternity as at LCS, and I want to be an excellent doctor to take care of people and to improve people's health.

Lensky S., Sizyèm student (U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> grade)

I am Lensky, and I am 11 years old.

My family has five people. I have one brother and one sister, but we are not living together. I am living with my father and my mother at home. I have a friend who told me about the school. His parents encouraged my mother to come for the registration and fortunately, I entered school, and once again, my friend and I are reunited.

After entering LCS, I really enjoy the environment, like the trees. I love the school because of what they are teaching us and how they are doing it. I really like the opportunity that they give us to learn four languages and to become a better person.

Being a Louverturian gives me the opportunity to become a better version of myself. Some of my favorite classes are math and English. English is everywhere in the school, and I like how good my teacher is at English and how he teaches



LCS Rhéto student Jenny Joovica J., left, and Sizyèm student Lensky S., right

his class.

LCS is important to me because this education is preparing me to become a leader, a good one to save my lovely country, Haiti. It gives me the capacity to be fluent in four languages and prepares me to succeed in my future life.

As LCS is preparing me to rebuild Haiti, I have several plans for the future. After *Philo* (U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade +1), I would like to become a good doctor, to help people in need and to save people's lives. As LCS is teaching me to love others, to help them when I can, I would like to study medicine, to serve my people as I can, no matter their origins.

In the upcoming years, I would like to see a new Haiti: a country where there will be security, where people will be able to eat and to go to school, and I am preparing myself to participate in this change.

### Big Picture

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as anchor institutions that amplify the stability and success of local communities:

- Generating 100 percent of the schools' electrical needs through solar power and encouraging the development of micro-grids throughout Haiti
- Composting, recycling, incinerating, or burying all waste on-site
- Maintaining a robust oasis of plants

on and around the campus

- Creating a "live fence" surrounding the campus, providing fruits (e.g., blueberries, cocoplum, West Indian cherry, passion vine) for campus consumption and fodder (e.g., Napier grass) for livestock
- Maintaining extensive gardens to supplement the school kitchen
- Operating a tree nursery (e.g., breadfruit, avocado, mango, etc.) to foster reforestation and orchard interests in the community
- Providing a public tap for filtered water

- Providing weekday preschool like the *Koukouy Sen Kle* (Fireflies of St. Clare) Early Childhood Development Program at LCS Santo 5

The LCS Network approach is multi-dimensional and cross-disciplinary to foster the integration of the physical plant with both the self-contained internal school community and the larger external public community. Education is the big picture, but peripheral fields like the environment, energy, employment, agriculture, health, and recreation all focus the image into a cohesive and vibrant composition.

## Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Continues Haiti and Greece's Legacy of Support

by Angela Mascena (THP Director of Institutional Advancement)

At a glance, it might seem like Haiti and Greece do not have much in common other than miles of beautiful coastline. What is little known to non-historians is that the two countries have a shared history.

On March 25, 2021, Greece celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence from the Ottoman Empire, commemorating the date when the War for Greek Independence began. Less than a year later, another milestone occurred: January 15, 2022 marked 200 years since Haiti became the first country to officially recognize Greece as a sovereign nation.

At the time, Haiti itself had recently achieved independence from French rule in 1804, after a brutal 12-year war that was the only successful slave-led revolution in history.

Eager to stand with its fellow nation in the fight for freedom, then Haitian

President Jean-Pierre Boyer wrote the following in a letter to the prominent Greek scholar and political figure Adamantios Korais: *"We, like the Hellenes, were for a long time subjected to a dishonorable slavery and finally, with our own chains, broke the head of tyranny... Convey to your co-patriots the warm wishes that the people of Haiti send on the behalf of your liberation."*

Today, The Haitian Project is proud to be part of the legacy of support between Haiti and Greece through a partnership with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), one of the world's leading private, international philanthropic organizations, supporting arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare in Greece and around the world. In the spring of 2021, SNF awarded THP a significant two-year grant to help support Louverture Cleary School in Port-au-Prince and to increase THP's capacity to build its

second school—the Model Campus in the Diocese of Gonaïves, which will be replicated across Haiti to create the 10-school Louverture Cleary Schools Network.

SNF Program Officer Casey Russo shared, "For decades, The Haitian Project has shown an unwavering commitment to educational opportunity, regardless of students' means. SNF is proud to partner with THP in its efforts to expand its reach, creating more opportunities for students to grow into citizen-leaders and increasing university access across the country."

It is through the generosity of SNF and all supporters standing with THP during this difficult time in Haiti's recent history that allows Louverture Cleary Schools to be a continued beacon of hope and opportunity in Haiti.

## "I Have Seen the Lord": An Easter Reflection

by Betsy Bowman (THP Volunteer '09-'10)

Mary Magdalene announces the good news to the terrified twelve Apostles as they hide from reality, huddled behind locked doors in a closed room on that first Easter morning. All four Gospels name her by name as the one to whom the Risen Christ appears first. It is she whom Jesus calls by name. It is she who embodies the whole Church on earth in those first hours, on that first day: the Apostle to the Apostles.

Why Mary? Perhaps, because she's the one who never gave up. She bore witness to Jesus' passion and his violent crucifixion, and she kept vigil at his burial. Then she came back to the tomb on the third day—or maybe she had never left?

In the face of so much pain, terror, sadness, and violence, Mary's faith did not fail. She knew—or she hoped—that Jesus' promises were true.

In our times, we behold the fear and suffering of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, and the hopelessness of our neighbors battling addiction, and the persistent chaos and violence surrounding our friends in Haiti. As we offer encouragement

to have faith, and to not lose hope, and to trust in God, we may begin to worry that our words ring false, like platitudes. Do we actually believe all this resurrection stuff?

And yet—we do. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are an invitation to wild and radical hope. They are the blueprint for all of human history.

Meanwhile, Mary reminds us that we are called to action, not simply to elegant statements of belief. She invites us to join her on a path of accompaniment, of witness, of love, of showing up and never giving in to the fear and cynicism that surround us.

As we celebrate this Easter mystery of radical love, may we, like Mary Magdalene, embody unshakable faith and hope in the face of fear and suffering. May we, like her, commit ourselves to show up and act with love even when violence and chaos seems to swirl around us. And like her, may our faithfulness and hope bring us to experience the very real presence of Christ in our midst, so that we may have the courage to share with everyone we meet, "I have seen the Lord!"

# Focused on the Future

by Thomas Cody (THP Volunteer '13-'14)

As progress continues on the Model Campus and work on the first phase of the Louverture Cleary Schools Network is forging successfully ahead, financial compliance and oversight will be critical to ensuring the LCS Network's long-term success. Continuing in its efforts to gear up for the Network expansion, The Haitian Project is excited to welcome Timothy Moynihan (LCS '14) as its new chief financial officer (CFO).

As CFO, Tim will be responsible for confirming the proper dispensing and recording of revenue and expenses related to the building of additional schools in the LCS Network, along with providing oversight and assistance to THP's partner foundations and local accounting staff in Haiti. Additionally, his role in the U.S. includes reviewing and enhancing financial policies, reporting, and the annual budget.

For Tim, an LCS graduate and son of THP President Emeritus Deacon Patrick Moynihan and long-time community member and missionary Christina Moynihan, the opportunity to help the Project begin a new chapter is a privilege and a prime example of what he learned about non-profit work as an LCS student and during his time connected with THP. "One of the pitfalls of philanthropy is that people have a way they want to help," he said, "but to truly contribute, you need to ask what is needed first." That courage to ask and then answer the call is exactly why Tim agreed to join THP President Reese Grondin's leadership team at this critical juncture.

Prior to joining THP, Tim worked in audit and compliance at Citizens Bank. A graduate of Providence College (MS '18, MBA '19), he is looking forward to leveraging his professional and personal experience in his new role, but is quick to point out that he is focused on the future and enacting change. "Sure, the idea of coming back to Haiti and building new schools is kind of a poetic thing, but that is not really the point of what THP stands for," he reflected. "We are trying to build



THP CFO Timothy Moynihan

schools that are self-sustaining. The reason I am here is for expansion and progress."

As Tim stressed, ensuring sustainable growth is critical to the Network Plan's success. Since he joined THP at the beginning of 2022, he has worked with Reese to develop and strengthen controls for financial oversight that will enhance stability and uniformity in procedures. "THP has always had a comprehensive governance policy, but it needs to grow with the Network and become even more robust," Tim said.

"Not only does Tim have a deep, first-hand understanding of LCS, THP, and our communities in both Haiti and the U.S., he also brings tremendous enthusiasm and knowledge to this position," said Reese.

As Tim starts his new role, he is confident in the Project and its experience in tackling the complexities of operating in Haiti. Although he foresees new challenges as the LCS Network grows, he is confident in his ability and the support of THP's U.S. and Haitian teams to embrace and build upon an already strong fiscal foundation to meet the needs of the Network.

Contact The Haitian Project to learn how the options of **planned giving, corporate matched gifts, recurring gifts, and gifts of stocks or mutual funds** can provide talented young men and women at LCS with a top-notch, tuition-free, secondary education steeped in service and civic-mindedness!

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### Mission Statement

*The Haitian Project through its support of Louverture Cleary Schools, a national network of tuition-free, Catholic, co-educational secondary boarding schools in Haiti, provides for the education of academically-talented and motivated students from Haitian families who cannot afford the cost of their children's education in order to maximize their potential and enable them to work toward building a Haiti where justice and peace thrive.*

### To donate, visit

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