



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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An Update on the Situation in Haiti

by Colby Bowker (THP Vice President and Chief Communications Officer)

By now, most people have heard about the difficulties in Haiti. And if not, they don't need to look far. Even in a world full of challenges, the already dire situation in Haiti has deteriorated enough in recent months to become a regular fixture in the U.S. media.

There is no doubt that Haiti is currently dealing with one of the most difficult periods in its recent history. Gang violence has exploded since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse last summer and is feeding in part on the crisis of legitimacy created by the failure to hold elections since 2016.

The breakdown of rule of law in Haiti has had a severe impact on all Haitians. Kidnapping and violence are rampant, and the insecurity has taken its toll on an economy already suffering from global

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Louverturians Forming Louverturians

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

In Haiti, women and mothers are often called the *poto mitan*, the central pillar of society.

At Louverture Cleary School, our *poto mitan* is the team of professionals in various roles, dedicated to the mission and community that make housing, educating, and forming 360 students each day possible. And now this amazing team is looking to the future and what it will take to replicate the program as we expand to add more schools.

Led by the head of school and overseen by the leadership of The Haitian



LCS Director of Outreach Daëlle E. (standing center) and newly-appointed Assistant Director of Outreach Carolande L. with Junior Staff Medical Student Jean Michel P. (left) facilitate a community support program to respond to the ongoing instability and outbreak of cholera in Haiti.

Project's partner foundations in Haiti, LCS faculty and staff work in one of two departments: Academic and Operations. The Academic Department is led by the principal and includes the dean of students, dean of academics, teachers, office assistants, medical staff, and junior

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THP Highlights

Turning Economic Theory into Economic Growth: A decade ago, LCS was one of the first secondary schools in Haiti to teach economics, thanks to a donation from Harvard Prof. of Economics N. Gregory Mankiw of his first-year college textbook, *Principles of Economics*. When the Ministry of Education mandated the addition of economics across the four-year secondary curriculum in 2017, the well-used textbooks had to be shared with additional classes. Recently, Prof. Mankiw and his publisher, Cengage, made another generous donation, this time of 170 textbooks to ensure that every student—from *Twazyem* (U.S. 9th grade) to *Philo* (U.S. 12th grade + 1)—has their own book.

Many Thanks to The Madeleine: THP is blessed with many wonderful supporting parishes. Among these, The Madeleine in Portland, OR, has been a shining example of support for over two decades. This past summer marked another successful Madeleine Parish Garage Sale (the largest of its kind in Portland!), whose crew of hard-working and dedicated volunteers raised over \$26,000! Additionally, last month The Madeleine and Portland Board Member Dave Albertine hosted THP for its quarterly board meeting, giving the Project the opportunity to speak with parishioners, and meet with and thank this stalwart community of supporters who champion LCS and its mission of transforming education in Haiti.

Improving for the Future: Over the years, the St. Francis and St. Clare Missionary/Staff houses at LCS have seen many improvements. The buildings were solarized over a decade ago, and last year the LCS maintenance staff partnered with local Haitian company Energy Central to re-wire the St. Francis house with new circuits and surface mounted devices. This past summer, both houses received new solar batteries. Most recently, the kitchen in the St. Francis house has been updated, including new tile on the walls and countertop, a new sink, new cabinet doors, and a polished cement floor—all improvements which will be appreciated for years to come!

U.S. Community

Most Appreciated Community,

While recently in Portland, Oregon, for our fourth quarter board meeting, Fr. Mike Biewend of The Madeleine Parish shared something about Catholic education that stuck with me and, I know, with the rest of the staff and board as well.

At The Haitian Project, we frequently stress the unique ability of Catholic education to change not just individual lives, but to help transform an entire nation. As Fr. Mike explained, it is the marriage of the Eucharist and service that makes Catholic education what it is. And the fruit of that marriage is justice.

As you know, things have been incredibly difficult in Haiti. And justice has never been more important.

For centuries, Catholic education has been a powerful tool in the fight against poverty and injustice. This is one reason we can continue to see the light even in challenging times. Our mission is part of something that is far bigger than what happens in any one day, or any one year.

Our confidence comes from nearly 40 years of continuous service, and we have faith that The Haitian Project will continue to succeed and grow. And as has always been the case, when circumstances get tough, our team and our community work harder and with even more purpose.

But please don't ever forget: YOU, through your support and your prayers, are what allow us to keep going.

Amidst the challenges in the country, it has been remarkable to see many of you increase your support this year, sometimes doubling or even quadrupling your existing giving.

We are also inspired by your continued giving: for a second year in a row, for a fifth year, or even for two decades or more.

All of this matters to our mission and to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. And we are grateful to all of you for appreciating the challenges, while continuing to see the hope our mission provides for the future.

During this season of Advent—the season of giving—please remember The Haitian Project and the good that your support makes possible in Haiti.

We are working very hard to meet our increased fundraising goal this year so that we can be there for our community in Haiti AND continue developing our second campus in the Diocese of Gonaïves. But, frankly, it's getting late in the year and we still don't know where roughly \$100,000 will come from.

So please continue to give. And if you happen to be in the position to make an additional gift, or a larger year-end gift than usual, please do so. All of your support will be put to excellent and immediate use in service of our current students, graduates, and the development of more Louverture Cleary Schools.

Thank you again. And from all of us at The Haitian Project, have a blessed Advent!



Reese Grondin,
President, The Haitian Project

Update on Haiti

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economic conditions. Prices of food and fuel have skyrocketed at a time when many people cannot work. Nearly half of the country is dealing with food insecurity, and commerce has been severely impeded.

As a result of the insecurity, the start of the 2022-23 school year has been delayed. The Haitian Project is constantly monitoring the situation and, as this newsletter goes to print, anticipates Louverture Cleary School being able to welcome students back within the coming weeks. Meanwhile, Louverture Cleary School staff continue to make the most of this time by working on a number of management and facilities projects that are more difficult to tackle when students are on campus. These include things like making repairs to

the residence buildings, improving standard operating procedures, and continuing to develop the staffing plans for LCS 2.

Most importantly, The Haitian Project and Louverture Cleary School remain committed to being a source of stability and support for our community. Right now, this means providing fresh water to the neighborhood (powered by the school's solar installation), taking steps to ensure that the school's 125 faculty and staff continue to receive their paychecks in order to support their families, and deploying a community outreach initiative to provide food, education, and additional resources to help prevent the spread of cholera and provide essential support to the local community.

The current situation has led Haiti's acting leadership to appeal for foreign military assistance in the country, which is under active consideration by the U.N. To be clear, Haiti absolutely deserves the

chance to chart its own future, and there is a legitimate basis for concerns related to any foreign intervention. Yet it is equally true that Haitians, including the members of the LCS community, have suffered far too much and deserve the chance to see some semblance of peace return to their lives.

Ultimately, it will be what follows the restoration of security that is most important. Using the breathing room to resolve the country's political impasse and address the structural factors underpinning the current crisis will be critical to putting Haiti on the path to justice and prosperity.

Through everything, The Haitian Project is committed to doing ALL it possibly can, for as long as possible. Because when working on a 20-year plan and vision for a brighter future in Haiti, the key is to never stop. It is to adapt and keep moving forward.

Building on the Project's Roots

by Angela Mascena, THP Director of Institutional Advancement

Thursday, October 20th, was a day years in the making. After having to postpone twice due to the pandemic, four of The Haitian Project's early board members hosted a special "friendraising" event where THP's past, present, and future converged.

The reception took place at the University Club near Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where many of THP's earliest board members, staff, volunteers, and donors are alumni. It's no coincidence that just a few minutes up the road is the parish where the Project originated in the early 1980s.

Having served on THP's board in the 1990s and 2000s, honorary trustees Joan Sorensen, J. Richard Ratcliffe, Sheila McDonald, and Douglas Gray know firsthand the importance of finding new people to support a growing mission. Between 1990 and 2010, Louverture Cleary School grew from educating 60 students per year to its current capacity of 360 students.

More than a decade later, these core community members are spreading the word about THP as the program expands once again. In order to open the second LCS in 2024, THP's Annual Fund needs to increase considerably each year. This increased need was what motivated Joan—an accomplished fundraising professional herself—to ask a few fellow board members from the old guard to co-host an event to introduce new people to the Project. Richard, Sheila, and Doug generously agreed.

Richard said, "My wife Margaret and I have contributed to THP for over thirty years. We decided to cohost the University Club event to introduce our friends to the Project. Hopefully, they left the event with an understanding of the impact the school is making and decide to provide financial support."

Together, the four hosts and their spouses brought about 40 friends and colleagues to the event for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a presentation. THP founder, mentor, and cheerleader Charlie Wharton came by to enthusiastically encourage guests to welcome THP into their lives and onto their "philanthropic list." Also in attendance was THP's current Board Chair Tom Pesce, a Brown alumnus who discovered THP about six years ago from a poster hung in the back of his parish.

During a time when the challenges in Haiti have been a fixture in the U.S. media, one of the greatest achievements of the night was that attendees left feeling hopeful about Haiti and the positive impact that the LCS Network can spread across the country.

"While the current conditions in Haiti are alarming and disheartening at best, amongst all of us at the reception in October there was a great sense of pride and hope," Sheila shared. "I was thrilled by the outpouring of engagement and support expressed by everyone who attended."

Today, The Haitian Project is a national-



THP Honorary Trustee Joan Sorensen (left) with attendees and THP Director of Institutional Advancement Angela Mascena (right) at the "friendraising" event.

ly supported organization whose board spans coast to coast and in between—from Providence to Portland, Oregon; to San Diego, California; to Rockford, Illinois. One thing that hasn't changed since its founding is the Project's commitment to creating lasting change in Haiti through education.

"At LCS in 1997, I witnessed a vibrant community of young men and women, thirsty for knowledge and appreciative of the first-class education they receive," said Richard. "In a country where there is little hope, our students leave Louverture Cleary with the confidence to follow their dreams and the compassion to help others."

For Sheila, re-engaging with THP for this event back where it all began was both gratifying and exciting. "Knowing that Louverture Cleary School still thrives after more than three decades and has affected the lives of so many students, their families, and Haiti itself helps renew everyone's commitment to the Project."

Did you know there are many ways to support The Haitian Project?

- **Donate online** at HaitianProject.org where it is easy (and very helpful!) to set up a recurring donation
- Give through an **IRA** with a **tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution**
- Make a legacy contribution through **Planned Giving**
- Give the gift of **Stock** or **Mutual Funds**
- Give the **Gift of Education** in honor or in memory of a loved one
- Participate in your employer's **Corporate Matching Gifts Program** (THP can help you check if your company has a Matching Gifts Program)
- Shop and give through **AmazonSmile**
- **Donations can also be mailed** to The Haitian Project at PO Box 6891, Providence, RI 02940

Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate for more information on these various options.

Standing Out as Campus Caretakers

by Jimi Grondin, THP Director of New School Construction

On any given school day, over 500 people circulate through the 1.6-acre campus of Louverture Cleary School outside of Port-au-Prince. The fact that LCS is a boarding school also means that 80 percent of them stay overnight on campus. Additions, improvements, and repairs abound, especially in a school filled with teenagers. Walls must be painted and corrugated steel roofs replaced; PVC valves get worn out and electrical devices fail; new desks must be milled and bed frames welded; solar panels need to be cleaned and battery electrolyte levels checked.

Though the campus is self-sustaining in terms of energy and water production, it is far from self-maintaining. Enter the LCS Maintenance Team. In a community full of heroes all working to educate and form good citizens ready to rebuild Haiti, this team stands out in their role as campus caretakers.

Over the course of 35 years at LCS, the maintenance department has grown to allow repairs and work to be done "in-house." Only two decades ago, the maintenance facility at the school was just a small concrete block shed with no electricity. Today, the LCS Maintenance Team has a proper depot and office, with a computer to aid in research and to communicate reports and needs. Soon, a solar-powered workshop will be ready to use at the headquarters of Fondation Haitian Project, THP's partner foundation in Haiti, which is located a few miles from the school. This remote shop will allow

the maintenance craftsmen to produce furniture, make repairs, and stock material away from the everyday bustle of campus life.

Just as important as taking care of the physical plant is laying the groundwork for the future. The team now has a maintenance manual that spells out its goals and responsibilities for the upkeep of the campus. Standardized forms for project estimates and weekly reports have been created in accordance with THP's compliance standards. Standard operating procedures have been recorded for routine maintenance and preparations before storms or long-term campus shut-downs. The process of documenting the campus infrastructure in maps and plans is currently underway.

The team is also forming a model to be deployed at each LCS Network location. The know-how, systems, and community spirit that have been developed at the flagship Louverture Cleary School will prove to be the core of LCS Maintenance Teams throughout the LCS Network. Similarly, although the maintenance manual is



The LCS Maintenance Team from left: Ganiel L. (Head of Facilities), Odson Jean F. (FHP Construction Engineer), Junior R. (Plumbing), Emanus S. (Asst. Maintenance Shop Manager), Ketty D. (Maintenance Shop Manager), Alex A. (Asst. Head of Facilities), and Dupency L. (Groundskeeping).

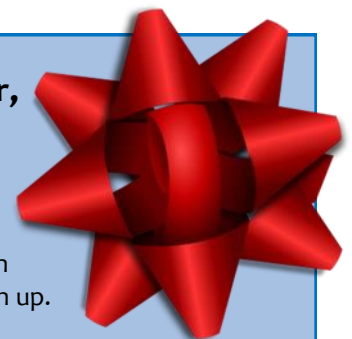
written specifically for the original LCS, its structure will be present in manuals tailored for each new school. Included in the manual are several Kreyòl sayings which serve to frame the objectives of the maintenance team. A particularly poignant one is this: *Se lakizin ki di'm ki jan lakay ye.* (The kitchen will tell me what the rest of the house is like.) The kitchen is the heart of a home; if the kitchen is a mess, the rest of the house will be, too.

Similarly, the LCS campus is the heart of our community. A clean, well-maintained campus allows for a well-maintained community ready to rebuild Haiti. The whole of THP extends a *gwo mesi* (huge thanks) to the knowledgeable and dedicated LCS Maintenance Team for keeping the heart of the campus community in great health.

Looking for a thoughtful gift for a teacher, friend, family member, or just about anyone else this holiday season? Give the Gift of Education, it is the gift that never stops giving!

Make a donation in any amount to The Haitian Project in honor of a friend or family member this holiday season, and THP will send your loved one a Christmas card notifying them of the gift given in their honor. Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate, or fill out and return the enclosed form to sign up.

**CONTACT THE HAITIAN PROJECT FOR
MORE INFORMATION AT:
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Louverturians

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staff (recent LCS graduates on work study through the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement's university scholarship program). The Operations Department, led by the director of operations, encompasses accountants, cooks, security, maintenance, the Community Outreach Program and the *Koukouy Sen Klè* Early Childhood Development Program.

Many staff members, by design, are LCS alumni, exemplifying the Charism, culture, and values of the school each day, driven to give back to the community in which they were formed. While others from the U.S. and around the world have contributed in many valuable ways—especially the Missionaries and staff who have served as teachers and more—LCS is truly a Haitian school run by, and for, Haitians.

The team at LCS remains focused on operating the flagship school while looking forward to opening the next campus—the second in what will become the 10-school Louverture Cleary Schools Network. And it is clear that the key to replicating the academically-rigorous, formative, and service-oriented environment that defines a Louverture Cleary School will be the people involved. Looking inward, the LCS leadership is identifying needs, potential for growth, and new opportunities that will support the current school while forming the leaders of the next. Planning for the 2022-2023 school year included a number of new positions, along with promotions that allowed dedicated staff to grow in their areas of expertise.

New assistant director positions were added to offices such as Operations, Security, Maintenance, Campus Ministry, Student Life, and Outreach in order to train additional leadership and better attend to the needs of the community, especially in the midst of ongoing challenges in the country. For example, the new assistant director of operations will provide day-to-day support while training staff to run a new school. The new assistant campus minister will be an increased pastoral presence to the students and staff, and will further develop Charism-focused and liturgical activities in preparation for replicating that important depart-

A Profile of LCS Director of Outreach Daëlle E.

by HPN Staff

The LCS community's impact on Haiti goes far beyond the Louverturians within the school, but through and beyond them to the surrounding community. Much of the legacy of family missionary Christina Moynihan's 20-plus years in Haiti is the Community Outreach Program, born in response to the needs of the neighborhood surrounding LCS.

Today, the Community Outreach Program is capably led by Daëlle E., who oversees various important initiatives. The *Koukouy Sen Klè* Early Childhood Development Center has been giving parents a safe place to send their children for education, meals, showers, and structured play time during the day since 2010. The *Lekòl Ankourajman* after-school tutoring program welcomes neighborhood children and young adults to receive academic assistance from LCS students, who choose to spend their play time providing this service to the community. Students also keep the neighborhood clean using the school's waste management practices. And, during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic, unrest, and cholera, the Community Outreach Program provides other essential support to the community as well.

"Haiti is now in a fragile and sensitive phase, and the most vulnerable are those who are weakest," commented Daëlle. "It is important that we invest a lot in the area around LCS, which means providing tutoring and resources to the population in the zone (neighborhood). We want to

apply our motto, 'what we receive for free, we must give for free [Matthew 10:8],' in every way possible. And we always want to contribute to the change we want to see in Haiti."

Daëlle's care and attention to the neighborhood is tireless. Especially during ongoing challenges, she remains present to our neighbors and responds to their needs. Most recently, in response to cholera and severe inflation, Daëlle worked with the school's administration to allocate resources to support families. With the help of her outreach team and LCS medical staff, she facilitated the distribution of food and cholera kits with items like soap, bleach, and water treatment products, while also providing education about how to prevent cholera and respond in case of illness.

"One thing that really speaks to our staff's commitment to providing services to the community is their exploration of the most appropriate ways to safely provide immediate support," noted THP Chief Program Officer Aimée Maier. "The development of the support program to provide food and cholera prevention kits by Director of Outreach Daëlle and Assistant Director of Outreach Carolande in the face of recent difficulties demonstrates that. We know that the LCS staff aim to be far reaching and understand the importance of providing education and empowering the community with the tools they need during difficult times."

ment. The assistant outreach manager will increase the capacity to serve the neighborhood while enhancing community educational programs so they are ready to be deployed at future schools. Additionally, having more junior staff will provide the opportunity for younger LCS alumni to assume leadership roles, grow in professionalism, and impact student formation through their example as Louverturians themselves.

Director of Operations Esther P. (LCS '02), a Louverturian herself, supports the expansion and development of these new roles. "I think this process is a great

opportunity for people to grow professionally and for personal achievement. It will also be more successful for the opening and growth of other schools if we duplicate our community and have people who already know our mission. It will be more possible to spread our Charism and culture in those schools with them."

Whether the staff filling these roles move on to the new schools or remain at the flagship LCS to train the next generation of LCS leadership, Louverturians forming Louverturians will continue to be the key to Haiti's brighter future.

A Perfect Fit

by Carly McGee, THP Advancement Associate

Many things can be said of long-time THP supporter Pat Newell: enthusiastic, positive, and lively are among them. Last month reaffirmed two more: loyal and dedicated. Pat has now officially been a supporter of the Project for twenty years!

Pat was first introduced to the Project through her parish, St. Bernard Church in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. A fellow parishioner, former THP Board Member Marco Barbesta, had been to Haiti multiple times and often spoke of his experiences when he returned. Looking forward to hearing about Marco's experiences in Haiti, Pat decided she wanted to help out as well. "One day, [Marco] mentioned a mission trip and I sat there on the edge of my pew, eager to hear more because I always wanted to do a mission trip. Especially because it involved a school, and I was teaching at the time. It was a perfect fit."

Pat's first experience with THP was indeed a perfect fit, and the beginning of a long commitment to education in Haiti as well as in the U.S. After her first mission trip in 2002, she returned to Haiti another seven times and has bountiful engaging stories of her experiences there. When asked about her most memorable moment, she shared that it occurred during her first trip to Haiti while "witnessing, first-hand, the response the students had to [now THP President Emeritus] Patrick Moynihan. His energy and determination to developing the school with his untiring dedication and commitment was so inspiring to me."

Energetic and determined are also perfect words to describe Pat. She is renowned for staying active and involved with THP throughout Rhode Island, and her pride and enthusiasm about LCS shines through in almost every statement she makes. She enjoys talking to "just about anyone" about THP's mission. With a breezy "Sak pase?" (What's going on?), which she laughingly admits is one of the few phrases she knows in Kreyòl, she has been known to talk to people in grocery store lines, in phone stores, and on airplanes. Her efforts have recruited almost 100 THP community members over the years, and she counts them all as friends.

Her dedication is apparent in her



(Left to right) St. Bernard parishioners Peggy Daluz, Gerry Grabowski, Lisbeth O'Brien, Pat Newell, and Marry Gormally on campus during their 2002 mission trip to LCS.

service to THP. She was first elected to the Project's board of directors in 2005. After serving the maximum term, she was re-elected to the board in 2016. She stepped down again this year after a total of 16 years on the board and serving her final two years as board chair. Now, THP counts Pat as one of its honorary trustees alongside others who have made an enduring impact on the Project over its long history.

Pat has served as chair of several committees, which is where she feels she "contributes the most," including the Development Committee and what was then called the Academic Committee. In 2008, the Academic Committee organized LCS's first self-evaluation under Pat's leadership, reviewing the academic, spiritual, demographic, and leadership programs the school had to offer. She remains a member of the Development Committee today and recently joined the Project's Board Orientation Taskforce.

Over the years, Pat has worn too many hats to count, including unofficial office staff member (volunteering to stuff and address newsletters and other mailings—and often recruiting others to help), community host, fundraiser, and tireless advocate. She has been, and remains, an invaluable resource completing a wide variety of tasks with cheerfulness, energy, and an omnipresent bag of snacks.

Recently, THP Board Member Tim Scordato expressed his appreciation for one of THP's most enthusiastic community members. "Pat has always been a breath of fresh air to me. I am so glad she is still involved, even if on 'retired' status right now. It makes me smile just thinking about her and her unshaken optimism and laughter. She can make a cold mountain trek feel like a sunny walk in the park."

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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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The Haitian Project

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