



L'ARC-EN-CIEL

June 2022

Bulletin No 58

By Diane Mainville, secretary

**Brother Fabien Landry,
fms.**

***An important figure for our
Foundation and La Maison
l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti.***



It is in order to underline his exceptional contribution that Mrs. Danielle Reid-Pénette and Mr. Robert Pénette have chosen to name the multifunctional room of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in honor of Brother Fabien Landry, fms. (Fondation Missions Maristes)

Last May, a delegation went to Château-Richer near Quebec City to unveil the honorary plaque.

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An important figure for our
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Recognized here and elsewhere for his social involvement, Brother Fabien Landry, fms. was one of the founding members of our organization. The work he accomplished for more than 16 years as secretary as well as his exceptional contribution to the development of projects to help the children of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, deserve to be underlined.

An educator with an intelligence of the heart, the true and the beautiful. He has always known how to enhance the culture of knowledge, know-how and life skills of our youth.

(Quote from Mr. Jean-Baptiste Méhu, president of the foundation)

OUR GOALS

- Spiritual, moral, material and financial support to Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel, a Haitian NGO founded in 1996 in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince.

OUR CONCRETE ACTIONS

- An annual fundraising campaign.
- Other annual fundraising activities such as bowling-a-thon, parish quests, etc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Executive Board**

J.-Baptiste E. Méhu, president
 Carmen Lauzon, vice-president
 Diane Mainville, secretary
 Claude Marineau, treasurer
 Stephane Deschamps, coordinator

Directors

Renald Grégoire
 Alfred Rioux
 André Roussel

Drafting committee

Alfred Rioux
 Diane Mainville
 Jean-Baptiste E. Méhu

Has also collaborated to this number

Danielle Reid-Pénette

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SOLAR ENERGY... a step towards greater autonomy.

by Danielle-Reid Pénette, co-founder of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel

A major self-sufficiency project has just begun with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with a service provider for the installation of 48 solar panels that will provide 24 kW of electricity.



The project has begun and is expected to be completed by the end of May. This will allow the institution to be less dependent on electricity supplied by the city, to reduce its fuel consumption for the operation of its generators, to make substantial savings in terms of fixed costs for city electricity, fuel and maintenance services for the generators.

It is important to know that city electricity is provided on average only a few hours per week and often not at all. Electricity is used to light the house and poultry houses, to bring rainwater up from the tanks on the roof for storage and use by gravity (showers, toilets, poultry houses, etc.) and to ensure the cold chain of poultry activities in addition to all common household tasks.

YOU ARE MOVING OR CHANGING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS !

In order to continue RECEIVING your newsletter and to keep in touch with you, please remember to inform us of any changes, either by e-mail, phone or mail, using the information in the **SECRETARIAT** section on the left.

OUR AFFILIATION WITH THE MARIST MISSIONS FOUNDATION

This affiliation allows our donors to receive tax receipts.

This foundation has nearly thirty-five years of experience in Marist missions in Haiti and in various third world countries.

Who are we ?

By Mica Orne, social worker at La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti

In this section, we introduce you to one of the children you have helped over the years.



Fedeline is an orphan. She has a younger sister who also lives at the shelter. They lived in the slum of Cité Soleil, known for its violence, raped and kidnappings. At a very young age, she had a terrible accident. She received a projectile in the stomach from which she recovered, but was traumatized for a while.

Unable to care for the sisters, their maternal aunt asked La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel to save their lives by taking them into care. Fedeline and her sister Williana were admitted when they were 8 and 9 years old respectively.

Today, Fedeline is 12 years old. Since her arrival, she has been in the third grade of preschool. She has attended three different schools and now attends Pyron National High School and is in her fourth year of elementary school. She works hard to succeed.

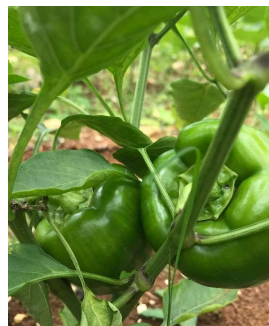
Intelligent, kind, smiling, she is a very interesting girl. She prefers to play with the "gadgets" of the boys and sometimes dress like them. She likes to dance, participate in all activities and share her ideas.

Thanks to the necessary support: intellectual, spiritual and social, as well as to the family environment at her disposal, her behavior has changed a lot since her arrival at La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel. She is no longer angry as she used to be, she is no longer afraid, she tries every time to make an effort to respect the rules. She is respectful and is sometimes taken as a model. She still needs to improve her attitude, but with the psycho-social awareness sessions and the spiritual component of teaching the children how to love, help, share and serve others through the love of Jesus, we hope that she will go through her teenage years serenely. To date, Fedeline is progressing very well.

Kombit (the soul of the Haitian peasantry).

By Danielle Reid-Pénette, co-founder of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti

Once again this year, we organized a day of Kombit, a traditional form of work organization built around a philosophy based on mutual aid and living together. The staff, a few reintegrated people and members of the community planted peas to the delight of the gardeners. The rainy season started earlier this year, at the beginning of February instead of April, to the satisfaction of our bell pepper gardens.



Year in review

By Claude Marineau, treasurer.

First of all, we would like to thank you for your great generosity. During the last fiscal year, from July 1, 2021 to May 30, 2022, we raised 40,375 \$.

As in past years, your donations have been used to support the efforts of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, namely: a part of the employees salaries, support for different activities such as poultry farming and beekeeping, seeds for the gardens, school fees, maintenance of the vehicle and buildings, sending Christmas gifts and clothing, etc. The needs are many and varied, but your donations are always essential. (Please note that this list is not exhaustive).

In addition, the context of the pandemic has greatly changed the nature of our activities. Parish collections are not possible at this time. Churches have suffered from a lack of financial support and they, in turn, must review their priorities. However, next year we hope to return to the annual Bowl-A-Thon.

Another improvement

By Danielle Reid-Pénette, co-founder of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel en Haiti

Thanks to the financial support of the Foundation, we have carried out and completed the construction of a concrete slab which now allows us to secure the storage and food rations and to facilitate their maintenance. In addition, the realization of the project allows us to foresee in the longer term the development of additional spaces for the children such as an indoor dining room, a room for the transformation of market garden products and others.



Highlights

November 2021

- Launch of the annual fundraising campaign.

October/november 2022

- Sale of soup pots (if possible).

April 2023

- Bowling-O-Thon (if possible).

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Dorval-Jean XXIII high school.

June 30th 2022
Financial year end

Annual General Meeting

Our meeting will be held on **September 19 at 7:00 pm**, at **1274 College Avenue** (across from Collège Laval), in the St-Vincent-de-Paul district of Laval.

However, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and depending on the evolution of the situation, our general assembly could take place via Zoom.

In such a case, you will be informed by e-mail in early September