



# L'ARC-EN-CIEL

October 2020

Bulletin No 53

## Donation by our Foundation and the Honey for Haiti charity in the United States

*Claude Marineau, treasurer*



Thanks to this donation, Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel has acquired a new generator. This equipment will support the first generator that shows signs of wear after ten (10) years, it will allow:

- To ensure the cold chain for the freezers in the event of a failure of the main generator,
- To compensate for the lack of electricity supplied by the State (a few hours per week),
- To recharge the UPS batteries,
- To provide light for the children in the evening.



## Fundraising campaign 2020-2021

*Jean-Baptiste E. Mehu, president*

### Support the Momentum

For 2020-2021, the Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel d'Haiti Foundation continues to financially support Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti according to its needs. The foundation is always concerned with ensuring the sustainability of income-generating projects and exceptional support, including training and continuous monitoring activities to improve the quality of life of the children. The Foundation hopes that this annual fundraising, which will begin in November 2020, will finance new projects and operating services.

We aim to:

- 1) Develop new learning tools.
- 2) Promote recycling habits and sport activities.
- 3) Increase the hours of physical activity for the children.
- 4) Invest in organic banana cultivation.
- 5) Develop the plantain cultivation (vegetable).
- 6) Finalize the construction of the 76,000 gallons water basin.
- 7) Invest in the training of social workers.

***Thanking you in advance for your unwavering support!***

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## 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: raffle, garage sale, bowling-a-thon, parish quests, etc..

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Board

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

### Directors

Alfred Rioux  
Andre Roussel

## Drafting committee

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Diane Mainville  
Jean-Baptiste E. Mehu

### Contributed to this issue

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## Secretariat

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Haïti

## Report from the Annual General Meeting

By Diane Mainville, secretary

The general meeting of September 21th, 2020 was held by video conference. This meeting enabled us to highlight the difficulties encountered following the pandemic as well as the postponement of most of our activities. All this is recorded in a report available upon request.

In order to support the actions of Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, all members of the Foundation's board of directors agreed to continue for the next year, despite the difficulties announced. Mrs. Carmen Lauzon will act as vice-president and Mr. Stephane Deschamps as coordinator.

Thank you to everyone for this exceptional dedication.

## Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) in the United States donated food supplies.



This project funded by CCO, and Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel (MAEC), aimed to help three groups of people, namely: the children of the household, the reintegrated, these young people having reached the age of 18, and 3 delegated mothers (from the old community program). As for the MAEC employees, they benefited from a discount on the basket of food provisions.



## OUR AFFILIATION TO THE MARIST MISSIONS FOUNDATION

This affiliation allows our donors to receive tax receipts.

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

## At the dawn of the twentieth year!

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



Jean-Baptiste Mehu  
( President )



Carmen Lauzon  
( Vice-President )



Diane Mainville  
( Secretary )



Claude Marineau  
( Treasurer )



Stephane Deschamps  
( Coordinator )



Andre Roussel  
( Director )



Alfred Rioux  
( Director )

I salute the Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel Foundation team, a family, I should rather write, of committed and philanthropic members in the service of our children and young people; commitment renewed despite a particularly difficult year for each of them, shaken by the vagaries of the Covid-19 pandemic and its share of tribulations.

Nineteen years of sustained collaboration, individual and collective motivation, committed support to improving the quality of life of our children and young people. Nineteen years in which we have planted, sowed and reaped together. From childhood most of our proteges have passed into adolescence and from this period of great upheaval that it universally represents, they have come of age and are now on the path to maturity. This first flagship generation which, despite the disease, poverty, stigmatization, lack of prospects of the country in which they were born, persists in wanting to succeed, is the fruit of education, supervision, love and union of these two great families that are the Foundation and Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel.

This 20th year of fundraising to support our initiatives for the sustainability of our social activities comes against a backdrop of uncertainties and concerns, as we remain in the era of this pandemic which restricts our individual and collective freedoms.

2020-2021 will therefore be part of the Maison in a process of consolidating current activities, especially in terms of income-generating activities in order to compensate for the probable lack of funds.

The cultivation of organic bananas will also be prioritized in order to increase this source of vitamins and minerals for children, but also with the aim of its commercialization which is becoming more and more lucrative. We will introduce the plantain (vegetables) and put into practice new multiplication techniques for a faster and better yield in association with the current market gardening.

The community reintegration of two young people, one of whom is an orphan, without an extended family, will also bring its share of challenges in a context marked by growing insecurity and an unprecedented economic crisis.

The end of the 2019-2020 school year extended until October and strongly compromised due to the Covid and the insecurity that preceded it and which significantly cut the school calendar, will call on the social service which will also have to respond quickly to the needs of a new school year starting in November.

The absence of leisure and the possible partnership for carrying out personal development activities for children and young people will continue to be a source of reflection and discussion, an objective to be developed and achieved if health measures are not once again established.

We remain confident that 2020-2021 will bring us its share of happiness, achievements and satisfaction although political turbulence is foreseeable from the start of 2021.

Thank you to the readers, friends, donors and the L'Arc-en-Ciel (Rainbow House) family.

## The transmission of knowledge...the DNA of MAEC.

by Mica Orme, social worker at Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel

A year ago, Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel (MAEC) was one of the winning organizations of the Digicel 2019 campaign. The project presented had to be meaningful and meet the needs of the community in order to improve its self-sufficiency. MAEC, having developed the technique of composting which is based on the work of earthworms (vermicompost), was able to transmit its knowledge to certain beneficiaries in order to promote the increase in market gardening production without adding chemicals. The technique of rearing worms has been used by MAEC since 2017 for its agricultural production to feed its children.

Today, we present to you Mr. Sterling, one of the community leaders recruited by MAEC, who was able to benefit from the vermicompost project, a project co-funded by the organization Cross Catholic Outreach and the Digicel Foundation. Mr. Sterling lives in the locality of Thomassin 32 located ten minutes from the MAEC home. He is an influential person in his community. He lives with his wife and five children on a piece of land estimated at 13,885 square feet.

Mr. Sterling is a farmer, but also a scrap dealer. He owns oxen, chickens and pigs and grows beans, carrots, beets, etc. He is one of the farmers who used only chemical fertilizers. Before joining the project, he and his family knew nothing about vermicompost like all the families recruited and beneficiaries of the program.

As a result of his training, he was able to discover the benefits of this type of organic fertilizer. He is very grateful that he was able to take advantage of the support of MAEC to build a small site allowing him to start breeding earthworms. Thanks to the knowledge acquired, he now understands the process and believes he will be able to share his new knowledge with members of his community in a few months.

He already foresees a better profitability of his market gardening activities and above all a better quality of his products. This type of organic fertilizer will bring him a kind of fullness while knowing its positive impact on the health of his family members, but also an effect on the environment. To be frank, Mr. Sterling is already thinking of the profits he made from avoiding the purchase of chemical fertilizers he used to use and the investment he will make of the money he saved.

Mr. Sterling considers himself fortunate to have been eligible for the project despite the difficulties encountered due to Covid-19, one of those being the delayed delivery of the earthworms. He is eager to begin his experience and is satisfied so far with the construction of the sites in his community. For him becoming a benchmark for progress has always been important and this new leaning is part of this sustainable development approach.

**Picture on the right, Mr. Sterling, his wife and three of their children.**

## Highlights

### November 2020

- Launch of the annual fundraising campaign

### October/November 2020

- Sale of soup pots (post-poned)

### Spring/Summer 2021

- Fundraising in the parishes

### April 2021

- Bowling-O-Thon

## Current projects

- Dorval-Jean XXIII High school

**June 30th, 2021**

**End of the financial year**

