



L'ARC-EN-CIEL

October 2022

Bulletin number 59



The expression of joy in these smiles and eyes sparkling with life are a reflection of the confidence and hope that these children have placed in us. Thank you to all our supporters for their assistance and generosity.

(Danielle Reid-Pénette)

DANS CE NUMÉRO

- 1 ❖ Together towards the path of hope...
- 2 ❖ The end of a partnership with Fondation Missions Maristes, but a great recognition.
❖ Our affiliation with Terre Sans Frontières
❖ Who to write your check to
- 3 ❖ Who we are
❖ A production that takes off
❖ Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
- 4 ❖ A look into the future
❖ Tribute to Mr. André Roussel

Together towards the path of hope ...

By Jean-Baptiste E Méhu, president

The vicissitudes that have hit our lives for the past two years, impose restrictions on us (e.g., confinement) and its negative effects travel through time and space to reach the natural and social environment of our children/youth sheltered at La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti. In the face of these hardships, we have an obligation to strengthen our alliance with our donors and partners in order to bring the essentials of life- hope- to the most needy. Our social and spiritual commitments inspire us to take up the challenge to participate in our 2022-2023 capital campaign. We need to give these children the desire to exist and thrive.

In the coming weeks, the Foundation's fundraising campaign will be launched and your involvement will be essential. We believe that social commitment is a family tradition and more too. I invite you to build with us a coherent social universe by highlighting our love and benevolence for the children/youth of la Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti.

By giving more, we strengthen the chain of hope and recovery for these children.

Help us with your contributions to make a difference in their lives. It is also a concrete way to express your caring, your faith and your gratitude towards them.

The Foundation thanks in advance the donors, partners and volunteers who will allow us to bring beauty and wonder to this vibrant community (La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel shelter in Haiti) where nearly 30 vulnerable children/youth, infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, are housed.

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
Renald Grégoire, vice president
Diane Mainville, secretary
Claude Marineau, treasurer
Stéphane Deschamps, coordinator

Directors

Carmen Lauzon
Alfred Rioux

Drafting committee

Alfred Rioux
Diane Mainville
Jean-Baptiste E. Méhu

Collaborated to this number

Danielle Reid-Pénette

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Haïti

The end of a partnership with Fondation Missions Maristes, but a great recognition.

By Claude Marineau, treasurer

A request from Brother Fabien Landry fms, to the Fondation Missions Maristes was the starting point of a collaboration that will end shortly.

Fifteen years ago, our foundation was looking for a partner to issue tax receipts at a reasonable cost, a partner whose international organization would give our donors confidence, a partner with expertise in aid to developing countries. The presence of the Marist Brothers and Missionaries, established in Haiti since 1985, proved to be a wise choice for us.

During all these years, we had the chance to work in collaboration with the brothers Yvon Bédard and Roger Guertin, now deceased, as well as Léopold Robert and Félix Roldan who are still at work to ensure the continuity of their activities.

However, lacking a new generation, the Fondation Missions Maristes must make difficult choices such as concentrating on its own projects. This is why our association will soon come to an end.

In my name and in the name of all the members of the Fondation Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel d'Haiti, in Quebec and in the name of the Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, in Haiti, a big thank you to the entire team of the Fondation Missions Maristes for their invaluable support.

OUR AFFILIATION WITH TERRE SANS FRONTIÈRES

Replacing the Fondation Missions Maristes, this affiliation will allow our donors to receive tax receipts. **Please note that these receipts will be sent to you once a year in late January or early February.**

This organization works with communities in developing countries and in emergency aid to ensure sustainable access to education, health and a decent income for all.

For more information, please visit their website :

<https://terresansfrontieres.ca/en/>

WHO TO WRITE YOUR CHECK TO

Since we are now associated with Terre Sans Frontières for the issuance of official receipts, from now on, make your check payable to:

TERRE SANS FRONTIÈRES by mentioning in the subject line :

For La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti

Who we are ?

By Mica Orme, social worker



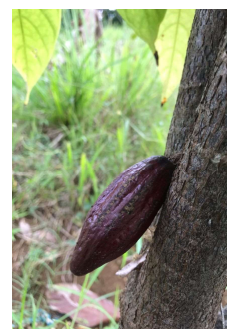
Dave arrived at La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti on June 6, 2016 at the age of 5. He was a beautiful, intelligent, very shy, kind, smiling and respectful little boy. He came from a family of 9 and was orphaned by both parents. He was taken care of by his older brother at their aunt's house in the countryside (Torbeck), far from the medical services required by his serological status. For economic reasons and to ensure a good medical follow-up of Dave, his older brother and the family asked La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel for his placement. Upon his arrival, he was enrolled in the Maternelle section of St-Vincent-de-Paul school where he is currently completing his 4th year of elementary school. He is working hard to succeed despite great challenges such as the growing insecurity near the foster home and his school. Dave enjoys competition and has ambitions. He goes to church, participates in our spiritual meeting and prayer routine with the other kids and moms. He has good manners, doesn't like to fight and likes to read stories.

Thanks to the compassion and support of a mother from a previous community program (delegate mother), Dave was able to go on vacation in July, at this generous delegate mother's house, along with 2 other orphaned children/youth without extended family.

A production that takes off...

By Danielle-Reid Pénette, cofounder Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti

We had received 5 cocoa pods from the south of the country where a very good variety of cocoa is grown. Thanks to our technician in agronomy, the germination of the seeds succeeded and the plantation of 60 small cocoa trees was carried out during the rainy period last August. This plantation follows a pilot project realized 2 years ago (photo on the right of our first pods). With sufficient quantities, we could develop this culture and produce a chocolate powder very appreciated by the children.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

By Diane Mainville, secretary

The General Assembly of September 19, 2022 was held by videoconference. This meeting highlighted, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, that donors are still with us. Your donations have ensured the continuity of our mission in a difficult geopolitical climate.

Moreover, the president Mr. Jean-Baptiste Méhu underlined the qualities and the good work of each one with a common objective...the well-being of the children.

Also, in order to support the actions of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, all the members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation agreed, for the next year, to continue the work begun. However, Mrs. Carmen Lauzon resigned from her position of vice president and proposed Mr. Renald Gregoire as a replacement. He accepted the position. Mrs. Carmen Lauzon will remain as one of the Directors. All members of the Foundation thanked them for their sustained involvement and commitment.

All this is recorded in a report, available upon request.

A look into the future

By *Diane Mainville, secretary*

Over these 25 years, together, we have done great things for La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti. The newsletter regularly testifies to this.

It is certain that the years to come will offer great challenges and we thought we would inform you about them. Here are the activities that we will support with your help in the short/medium/long term.

Short term

- *Maintain the sustainability of the shelter (expenses related to the shelter's activities);*
- *Set up the children's dining room;*
- *Secure the perimeter of the field (one section damaged due to vandalism and the other section damaged due to torrential rains);*
- *Build a stable for the oxen.*

Medium and long term

- *Renewal of rolling stock and equipment (van, generator, etc.);*
- *Construction of the upper floor of the home.*

TRIBUTE TO MR. ANDRÉ ROUSSEL



Dear friend André, it is with regret that we accept your resignation for health reasons.

All our colleagues at the Foundation will never forget your generous dedication. A man of heart and passion, your 25 years on the Board, including 10 years as President (2000-2010), will leave an indelible mark on us.

André, remember the first beds that arrived at the Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti (MAEC), donated by the Ste-Justine Hospital, in Montreal, this was one of your most useful finds, not to mention you many other efforts.

Remember also your visit in 2012 to the shelter in Haiti with our colleague Claude Marineau, both at your expense: a balm for the founder Danielle Reid-Pénette and her husband Robert Pénette co-founder of MAEC.

Dear friend, we will always remember your precious collaboration. Thank you to your wife Yvonne who has always encouraged and supported you in your commitment to our children in Haiti.

André and Yvonne receive my sincere greetings and my precious friendship.
Your friend from the beginning.

Alfred Rioux

Founder of Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel d'Haïti, Quebec

Highlights

Novembre 2022

- Launch of the annual fundraising campaign.

April 2023

- Bowling-O-Thon (if possible).

Current Projects

- Dorval-Jean XXIII high school.

June 30th 2023

Financial year end

To visit our website : <https://maisonlarcenciel.org/la-maec-en>