



L'ARC-EN-CIEL

June 2021

Bulletin No 55



Thanks to all « mothers » this child can smile despite a difficult past and fragile health.

Tribute to the staff of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti.

By Jean-Baptiste Méhu, president

On behalf of the members of the board of directors of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel d'Haïti Foundation, and on my own behalf, I would like to tell you how your presence has been beneficial for the most vulnerable children and young people during these twenty-five years. You are part of those people who enrich a welcoming environment with your personality, your gift of self and your enthusiasm. I say *Thank you*: a thank you full of admiration, consideration and respect.

My words are not intended to flaunt your accomplishments during all these years but to tell you how life at La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel is a cry from the heart. The shelter is a place of welcome, love, compassion and sensitivity to human development. Because of your humanity you have made life beautiful, filled with hope and expectation. You are the most present and meaningful people in the here and now to the children.

Through times of worry and turmoil, the boat has always maintained its course in order to provide integrated children and young adults who continue to frequent the home with educational training, psychological, spiritual and sometimes professional help. All of your interventions, revolve around prevention, school, learning, physical and mental health.

The two co-founders (Ms. Danielle Reid Pénette and Mr. Robert Pénette) are committed, responsible and visionary people. For twenty-five years, they have had the desire to make known the New Man: human existence in love, caring, sharing and respect.

I end by saying to you: I recognize that you are authentic witnesses of life. During these twenty-five years, you have made the generous gift of your person by consecrating your life to/ and for the children. Daily support and animation have been two ways of doing things that give convincing results in the shelter and lead children to fulfillment.

Dans ce numéro

- 1 ❖ Tribute to the staff of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti.
- 2 ❖ Notice of appointment to The Board of Directors
- ❖ You are moving or changing your email address !
- 3 ❖ News from La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel
- 4 ❖ 94% of your donations in direct aid
- ❖ Financial statement
- ❖ Annual General Meeting

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Directors

Renald Grégoire
Alfred Rioux
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The Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel d'Haiti Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Renald Grégoire to the Board of Directors.

We are convinced that his experience and skills as a former Canadian diplomat, including two years in Haiti, will be an important asset for our Foundation.

A warm welcome to you Mr. Grégoire !

DONATION FROM THE MATELEC S.A. COMPANY OF PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI.

The company Matelec S.A. donated twelve (12) batteries and cables to La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel last January.

In a context of energy shortage, this donation is of vital importance.

We remind you that La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel only has twenty (20) hours of electricity from the city, per week, and these batteries are used to store the electricity used and needed when the public network is down.



YOUR MOVING OR YOU HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS !

In order to continue to receive your newsletter and allow us to stay in touch with you, please remember to notify us of any changes, either by e-mail, photo or post, using the data in the **SECRETARIAT** section to your left.

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.

News from La Maison l'Arc-en-ciel

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



Beekeeping as a source of learning and income.

Two young men, Kelly and Andjou, one living at the shelter aged 17 and the other Andjou, aged 19, reintegrated into his extend family in 2020, and now residing in Côtes-de-Fer, a pretty little coastal town in the south of the country, had the chance, thanks to the support and collaboration of Honey for Haiti, Hives for Haiti and the contribution from the American beekeeping company Hilltop Apiaries in Connecticut, USA.

It was a great experience according to their testimonies. They learned new techniques and Andjou already sees himself treating his bees if they become ill and Kelly multiplying his hives. Both believe that this training will be useful to them in the future and perhaps a source of income.

Thanks to all the precious collaborators!



Each year, the staff hold two days of «kombit» (let's work together) to plant peas and corn.



This tradition established for several years, is carried out in an atmosphere of fraternity and community commitment.

It also makes it possible to seed a large part of the gardens for the needs of the children which contributes to the pride of the team during harvest and the meals preparation.



2 months later

New experiment in progress: Plantation with and without biochar

Biochar is a soil amendment resulting from the pyrolysis of biomass to increase soil quality and productivity (charcoal used as fertilizer rather than fuel). Traditionally farmers in Haiti burned the surface of land for cultivation (referred to as « slash-and-burn») as a means of clearing and fertilizing, but this technique contributes to the depletion and destruction of living organisms. We have noted a faster and healthier plant development.



Left : Red peas without biochar



Right: Same culture, with biochar, one month later



New production Chilli pepper

94% OF YOUR DONATION IN DIRECT AID

By Claude Marineau, treasurer

I know that some people wonder if their donations reach their destination and if so, what proportion of your donations go to La Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel!

Being treasurer of our Foundation, I have calculated that over the past 8 years

- 94 % of donations went to La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti.
- 6 % of donations covered administrative costs (stationery, printing, stamps, permits etc.) The directors of our Foundation do not receive any remuneration for their work, for attending meetings or for travel, in the exercise of their function.

The transfer of donations received is made directly from our branch account at Desjardins to the financial institution of MAEC in Haiti. There is no middleman.

Our Foundation depends almost 100% on your generosity. Any donation is therefore of great importance. To find out where your money is going you will find a summary of the use of your donations below.

Annual Financial Statement

First of all, we would like to thank you for your great generosity. During the last year of operations, from July 1st 2020 to May 31st 2021, we raised the sum of \$ 42 360.00

Your donations were used in particular to support the efforts of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, in particular for the children's school fees (school is not free in Haiti), the purchase of clothes, tailoring, of school uniforms, children's games, electricity, security services, building maintenance, part of employee salaries, purchase of seeds and purchase of 33 mattresses for the children's beds.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

In addition, the context of the pandemic has greatly slowed down our activities, which are postponed for the moment. So, we were unable to fundraise in some parishes, nor to hold our annual Bowl-O-Thon.



**Time is not measured by the
years that you live, but by
the deeds that you do and
the joy that you give !**

Helen Steiner Rice

Highlights

November 2020

- Launch of the annual fundraising campaign

October/November 2021

- Sale of soup pots

Spring/Summer 2021

- Fundraising in the parishes

April 2021

- Bowling-O-Thon (postponed)

Current projects

- Dorval-Jean XXIII high school

**30 juin 2021
End of the financial year**

Annual General Meeting

Our assembly will take place on **September 20th at 7:00 p.m. at 1274 College Ave** (opposite Laval College), in the St-Vincent-de-Paul district in Laval.

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 event, you will be informed by email at the beginning of September