



L'ARC-EN-CIEL

October 2021

Newsletter number 56

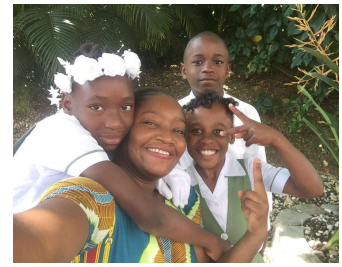
The future of children who become adults

By Alfred Rioux, administrator and co-founder of the Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel foundation for Haiti.

This year, La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti is celebrating 25 years of existence: 25 years of supporting children and shining in the community through innovative projects and fighting prejudice against HIV/AIDS.



A former resident of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti joins the ranks of employees thanks to his motivation.



From the start of its creation, co-founders Danielle Reid and Robert Pénette have developed a real family spirit. Health and education gained remarkable momentum.

Our foundation has always contributed to providing the necessary elements for the continuation of the training of young people: the presence of educators, qualified staff, appropriate medicines, school materials, clothing, shoes and school attendance. In addition, the promotion of different talents such as: sewing, painting, market gardening, introduction to the computer, carpentry, cabinet making, etc, remains a great victory.

Our 18-year-old young adults who have left home can pursue higher education (see page 3 of the newsletter). Thus, they prepare themselves to face life when they enter the community while maintaining a link with the great Arc-en-Ciel family. For some of them, they come back to lend a hand, on a voluntary basis, for various projects.

Dear donors, we can be very proud of this achievement, these young people are now ready to face thick and thin. You generously contributed to this success of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti.

All of this development would not have been possible without your repeated support. Together we made a difference.

Cordially thanking each and everyone of you !

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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 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

Ont collaboré à ce numéro

Renald Grégoire
Claude Marineau
Mica Orme

Secretariat

1275, College avenue, Laval
(Qc) Canada H7C 1W8
Tél. : 450-975-7151
E-Mail : info@maisonlarcenciel.org
<http://www.maisonlarcenciel.org/>
Facebook : La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel,
Haïti

DONATION FROM THE FOUNDATION TO THE MAEC

by Diane Mainville, secretary

Thanks to the help of Mr. Sylvain Marineau, and his employer *Pepinière Jasmin in St-Laurent, Quebec*, the foundation benefited from a discount, allowing the purchase of equipment of professional quality for the MAEC in Haiti. The shipment included:

- 5 garden hoses of 100 feet
- 5 adjustable flow spray guns
- 10 rolls of geotextile 3 feet x 50 feet.

All these items will be very useful for the vegetable garden, an essential activity for the production of food for the children.

The Jasmin family cares about the well-being of the children and we are thankful for their generosity.



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

The Children: Who are we ?

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



Neilla is a very cute 9 year old girl. She was born on October 20, 2011. After the death of her mother, she was taken care of by her mother's older sister who welcomed her into her family in Delmas 32, in the Haitian capital. Due to their precarious socio-economic situation and Neilla's state of health, she was transferred to La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel on May 3, 2013.

Since kindergarten, Neilla attended the Saint-Vincent de Paul presbyteral school and did very well in class. She is currently in 4th year and is being promoted to 5th year. She is cheerful, kind, affectionate, intelligent, helpful and respectful. She is very active, and like boys, no task scares her.

Neilla also enjoys participating in the household, recreational and community service activities. On a spiritual level, she takes advantage of moments of prayer with the staff and those in the dormitories. Neilla is always happy and attentive when telling Bible stories. Sometimes, she invites herself to awareness sessions for the youngest, aged 5 to 7, participating and providing her advice. She is a child who promises to succeed in her life thanks to her character, her curiosity and her will to move forward.

A GREAT STORY OF MUTUAL AID

By Claude Marineau, treasurer



At the beginning of June, Mrs. Danielle Reid Pénette, General Director of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti asked the administrators of our foundation if we could find a laptop for a former resident of shelter. His name is Fritz, he is now an adult, who kept in touch with the MAEC and who wants to take a computer course.

My wife, who passed away last year, had a laptop that I didn't use and that worked very well. At the beginning of July, I gave it to Madame Pénette, during a visit in Quebec, who brought it to Fritz. He emailed me this picture to thank me and to tell me how happy he was to have this essential computer for his courses. I wish him all the best and all the desired success in his studies.

Report of the annual general meeting

By Diane Mainville, secretary

The general meeting of September 20, 2021 was held by video conference. This meeting allowed us to see, despite the postponement of all our activities following the COVID-19 pandemic, that you were still and always by our side. Your donations have helped ensure the well-being of the children. All this is recorded in a report, available on request. In addition, the president, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Méhu, underlined the arrival of a new member to the board of directors, Mr. Renald Grégoire.

Please note that the General Assembly is open to all donors and one person took advantage of this opportunity offered by video conferencing.

In order to support the actions of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, all members of the Foundation's board of directors agree, for the next year, to continue in their respective functions.

Thank you to everyone for their exceptional dedication.

A STORY OF THE HEART

By Renald Grégoire, director

Early in my career as a Foreign Service Officer, colleagues told me that my first posting abroad would be the most memorable one. In my case, that first assignment was to the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in September 1990. Yes, this posting was one of my most memorable. Despite political turmoil, socio-economic problems and natural disasters, I fell in love with the Haitian people. Many beautiful memories come to mind when I think back to my two years spent in the Pearl of the Antilles.

Among these beautiful memories, there are friendships that were created and still exist, including that of Danielle and Robert Pénette. At the time La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel did not exist and both had careers in other fields. However, they were already talking about their dreams of becoming more actively involved in helping the people of this dear country. So, it was no surprise when, a few years after I left, I learned that they had founded La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel (MAEC).



Since the start of this great project, I have tried to support them financially.

But it was not enough and I felt the need to go back to see the accomplishments of Danielle and Robert. In the spring of 2003, I took a trip to Haiti.

What struck me when visiting the Arc-en-Ciel House was to see that there was a family atmosphere in the orphanage. Also, I had the chance to see the day services that were offered in what was their residence in the early 1990s. For me, La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel really helps young people find hope.

It is therefore with great happiness that I accepted, a few months ago, to join the board of directors of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel Foundation of Haiti, in order to contribute a little more to the realization of this beautiful dream.

Highlights

Novembre 2021

- Launch of the annual fundraising campaign

October/November 2021

- Sale of soup pots (cancelled)
- Shipment of barrels of clothes and shoes for the children

April 2022

- Bowling-O-Thon (if possible)

Current projects

- Dorval-Jean XXIII high school

**June 30th 2022
End of the financial year**