



L'ARC-EN-CIEL

February 2021

Bulletin number 54

Towards a harmonization of our strengths

Written by Jean-Baptiste E. Méhu, president

The pandemic (COVID-19) has crossed the year 2020 creating social turbulence and health insecurity on a planetary scale. At the beginning of 2021, it continues to spread but also give this latitude to create, to dream, to seize opportunities by developing innovative projects. For us, the managers and stakeholders of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel (MAEC) in Haiti we are all part of this dynamic.

The first bulletin of the year 2021 related the consistency of the actions of the members of our board of directors in connection with the managers of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti. Despite the moments of uncertainty, stress and anguish we increased our spirit of unity, permanent consultation and flexibility while covering a more human and more local approach despite social isolation.

Our goal is and still is to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable children in the foster home. Although certain stages of our canvassing actions in Laval, Quebec, Canada have been modified, postponed, slowed down or even canceled, some donors, partners and supporters have continued to support us in order to innovate small projects. *" Hope must be reborn said F. Mitterrand "*.

Let us make sure that by harmonizing our strengths, we will maintain our desire to continue supporting La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti in order to nurture this social commitment towards a more just, sustainable, secure and prosperous world.

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HAVE YOU SENT YOUR DONATION ?

Our annual fundraising campaign continues to meet the urgent needs of MAEC. You can donate by check, using the blue slip and return the envelope you received last November.

Or you can also make your donation, by credit card, through CanadaHelps, by going to the site.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/7203>

AVIS DE DÉCÈS



Bédard, Frère Yvon
(Frère Mariste)

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
1946 - 2021

The Brother Bédard was treasurer of the Mission Maristes Foundation with which we are associated for the issuance of receipts for tax purposes.

He has always been an efficient collaborator, in particular in meeting the financial needs of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel d'Haïti.

The members of the Foundation La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel in Haiti offer their condolences to his family as well as to the entire community of the Marist Brothers.

➤ 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
Stéphane Deschamps, coordinator

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Technology enables great things. A Christmas for the children of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel



By Diane Mainville, secretary

Last December, Nick Hunsaker and the organization Honey for Haiti in the United States launched a Facebook solicitation to offer a Christmas to the children of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel. Thus, several donors from everywhere have subscribed to this fundraising aimed at enhancing this very special day. Cross International organization, a loyal partner of the MAEC also contributed to the event. The result: in addition to the gifts, the funds raised will also be used to purchase school supplies.



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.

The pursuit of projects and more.....

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

La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel (MAEC) has already set up organic market gardening, the production of broilers, laying hens, beekeeping, vermicompost and is trying to add rabbit farming to its activities (rabbit breeding). She therefore joined forces with her agronomist consultant, Jhonny, whom we spoke about in a newsletter published in June 2020, to carry out an experiment on **rabbit feeding** as part of his final thesis for obtaining his agricultural engineering diploma. This collaboration will allow our institution to benefit from the training, expertise and donation of about thirty rabbits.



Other experiments have been initiated by MAEC and are currently being tested: a **small pilot project to breed insects, the banana weevil**, which is harmful to this crop, and which could be beneficial as a protein diet for chickens in breeding.



Palma Christi oil production

Palma Christi oil is extracted from the castor bean with **anti-inflammatory and antibacterial** properties, for **sprains**, engorgement and **stains** in **poultices**. It is rich in vitamin E. It is also used for the treatment of hair and skin in general. For the first time, MAEC was able to collect enough seeds to proceed with the long and tedious preparation of this oil, which requires experience, attention and patience according to a tradition passed down through generations, the oil will be used to rub children infected by the flu, or having pulmonary weakness and even in the event of Covid 19.



Collecting castor bean seeds



Peeling the seeds



Cooking

The pursuit of projects and more.. (continued)



Harvesting the congo peas

Juvenson, 11, harvests congo peas, also known as « Angole peas ».

He would like to become an agronomic technician.

Donations made to the Foundation are useful



New mattresses

Last fall following a request from La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel, the Foundation purchased with your donations 33 mattresses for the children.



Seeds purchases



On October 16, our treasurer, Mr. Claude Marineau, bought organic vegetable seeds at *Les Jardins de l'Écoumène* in Launaudière region in Quebec, in order to send them to the MAEC.

On December 12, la Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel sent us a picture of one of the plants a Chinese cabbage tatsoi with multiple virtues.

Its tender young shoots, with a mild flavor, give an interesting texture to salads and soups. In addition, it is rich in vitamins A, B1, B2, C, E and PP, phosphorus, calcium and iron.

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

Current projects

- Dorval-Jean XXIII high school

June 30th 2021

End of the financial year

A GIFT

With any donation of \$ 25.00 and more

This year marks the 25th anniversary of La Maison l'Arc-en-Ciel

To mark this event, The Foundation is offering, for a period of one year, the PDF **french version of the book** *Pour l'amour des enfants*

The MAEC success story through the eyes and heart of our founder Alfred Rioux and with the precious collaboration of Hélène Beaudry.

An internet link will be sent to those who provide their email address.