



MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE

An occasional bulletin to report progress of the children's orphanage in Hinche, Haiti. It is also available on the internet: www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti

April 2009

2009-2010 OPERATING BUDGET ADOPTED

At its Annual Meeting last month the Foundation's Board of Directors approved a budget for the operations of the orphanage next fiscal year. Based on the expectation of there being 150 boys and girls in residence, and the addition of sixteen more boys moving to the secondary education level (with the tuition and other costs this entails), the budget calls for a 13% increase over the current year's income and expenses.

The budget does not increase the number of staff, but it does give the teachers and support staff well-deserved salary increases.

The new bottom line—**\$229,320.00**, of which we and you need to raise **\$136,320.00** (\$9,000.00 more than this year!). Daunting, to be sure, given the current economic situation in both the US and Haiti, but doable, we trust! Much of that trust is in you, of course, but you've been with us for the past nine years, and we are confident you'll get us through the tenth!

Maison Fortuné is still a bargain (in more ways than one)—next year's per child cost: only **\$4.00** a day!

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE VISIT

In our last newsletter we had a brief article about the visit of a group from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, to Maison Fortuné to offer a week-long computer workshop at the orphanage elementary school. Here, Prof. Chuck Leska, part of the team, gives his reflection on the visit.

During our 2009 January term travel course to Haiti we spent eight eventful days at the Maison Fortuné Orphanage in Hinche. During our stay we were treated to extraordinary culinary delights, had road trips to Pandiassou and Bassin Zim, attended a soccer match, participated with Brothers Harry and Mike in their Saturday class which teaches English to interested young men and women from Hinche, attended Mass at the orphanage, and made numerous trips to the Azil to play with the children. One evening we had the delightful experience of doing the hokey-pokey with a good-sized group of the boys.

This year our teaching goal was to introduce the 4th,

5th, and 6th grade students to the Scratch programming language. To teach our five classes (the 4th and 5th grade were divided into two sections) we used the computer lab; we had 10 workstations available which included two of our group's laptops - so a number of students worked two per machine. Over the course of the week the students developed and refined their mouse and keyboarding skills in addition to developing some facility in programming in Scratch. Scratch is a visual programming environment where the program elements are blocks which are fitted together like pieces of a puzzle. The programs create animations. The actions take place on a stage with "actors" (sprites) that are programmed to take actions (jump, walk, speak, appear, disappear...) on the stage. In addition to developing some programming skills, the students worked with sound, text, and painting tools. Teaching five hours a day was a new experience for all of us; it was an exhausting but an exciting, fun, and educational week!



Left to right: Ben Burrell, Daniel Prevôt, Chuck Leska, Andrea Gonzalez

It gets more difficult each year to say goodbye to everyone. The trip was a wonderful experience in no small part due to the gracious hospitality and friendship we received from Brothers Harry and Mike and Jean-Louis - we all felt as if we were coming home! In addition we have the special privilege of enjoying the company of the guests who were staying at the guest house; Chip Wirth and his family, Brother Cosmas Rubencamp, and Leo Blumle. Each of them added so much to the quality of our visit. We would be remiss if we didn't thank the young men and women that reside and study at the orphanage. We will miss them and their smiling faces; we return so very impressed with their thirst for knowledge, en-

thusiastic participation in our activities, and sharing smiles and laughter, and friendship with us. We returned home with so many wonderful memories and in anticipation of a return next year.

SOLAR PANEL PROJECT

Joe DiRenzo, a third year Coast Guard Academy cadet and son of Board President Karen DiRenzo, is working on a an engineering project which aims at solarizing Maison Fortuné. He is collaborating on the project with Sam Hafensteiner, a fourth year cadet studying civil engineering at the Academy. They are doing a directed study whose aim is to help solve the energy needs at the orphanage. Joe reports “Sam and I both went through the gritty engineering aspects of designing the energy system. He and I bounce ideas off each other and help walk each other through the design process. He is incredibly dedicated to the project and was ready to go to the orphanage himself until he learned that he would be receiving surgery on his leg. Most of all we keep each other motivated and focused when we run into nasty and complex problems with the design and coordination.”

This project to provide a steady, low-cost and environmentally-friendly source of power is of great importance to the Foundation and to the folks at the orphanage, but the Foundation has to come up with the funds! The total cost of the project is approximately \$40,000.

Already, the Men of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Tallahassee, Florida, have made a very generous contribution, thanks to the work of parishioners Jim Luten and Kenol Saint-Fort. We invite others to help—and please let us know if you are aware of sources of significant funding for projects like these. Copies of the proposal are available from the Foundation Secretary, at crubencamp@comcast.net.

FACIAL SURGERY FOR ONE OF THE BOYS

Bejman Pierre, a 10-year old Maison Fortuné resident, had facial surgery to repair the damage he suffered when he fell from a mango tree prior to his arrival at the orphanage in 2007. The injury was so severe that he lost the sight in his eye, and his orbital bones sustained numerous fractures causing the eye to shift backward and downward. He was seen last month at the Zanmi Lasante hospital in Cange, Haiti, by Dr. Stephen Sullivan, visiting from Boston Children's Hospital, and Dr. Reginald Chery, a Haitian ophthalmologist.

Susan Pleasants, RN, was visiting at the time and gave us this account of the surgery which took place

at Zanmi Lasante Sociomedical Complex in Cange:

Dr. Sullivan, who is donating two weeks each month for a year to come to Cange to provide free surgical services to children and adults, wanted to perform a scar revision on Bejman's face and also insert an orbital implant to his right eye socket. He felt that he could revise the scars and perhaps implant a prosthesis to realign the eye. Arrangements were made to seize this opportunity for Bejman to repair his injuries and help him to regain confidence in his appearance.

During the day of surgery, Bejman bravely endured not eating or drinking 12 hours before surgery and receiving an intravenous line. Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Chery made a great team and spent 3½ hours working to repair the surgical scars. Dr. Sullivan was very meticulous in working on Bejman's eye and was able to surgically lift his lower eyelid in hope that the eye will close properly without the gap that it had prior to surgery. The nursing staff were wonderful



Bejman Pierre before his operation



Dr. Sullivan giving Bejman post-operative care

and very supportive. They immediately provided relief for Bejman's post-operative pain and patiently answered my questions as we went through the recovery process.

Bejman was scheduled for discharge in the morning and already we had received our post-operative instructions and instructions for eye care. Dr. Sullivan took an opportunity between his many serious surgeries to check in on us and give us words of support. The early indications are that the surgery is a success and that Bejman's life and self confidence will dramatically improve as a result of this.

There is no doubt that the care in Cange equals the best in the world. Many blessings came together with prayers and medical talent of a group of very dedicated medical professionals." Mèsi anpil" to all!

NEW WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE GIRLS

Everyone knows that having clean water to drink is essential to good health. Even though Haitian kids build up antibodies against water-borne diseases that make it dangerous for non-Haitians to drink the water they can drink, nevertheless, children as young as our girls have not had the time to build up those antibodies.

The boys have been carrying clean water over to the girls' building, but we felt that since they have their own water-source they should have their own purification system. We got a good price from Aqua System, \$3200 plus \$800 shipping to Haiti, but didn't have the money to go ahead with the order.

Within a week of hearing about the need, former Xaverian Volunteer Ryan Kenrick and his friend Zach Crowe got nine of their friends to donate the \$4000—including matching funds from The Carlyle Group and Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund.

Thanks to them, the system is on order and should be installed soon—maybe by the time you read this!

NOW'S THE TIME

If you usually make an annual contribution to the operating budget and have not yet done so this year, **NOW** would be a great time to give—in July, in addition to our usual monthly payment to the orphanage, we will need to send down **\$28,000** for books, uniforms and secondary school tuition—we expect to have **44** boys in high school next year!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Recently Lefort Jean-Louis, orphanage director, received this letter from the director of the secondary school which 30 boys from Maison Fortuné attend:

Dear Lefort,

Greetings from the Collège Saint Martin de Porres, our Hinche diocesan high school. As you've already known, our diocesan schools welcome all students without any discrimination. This is why it is a real pleasure for us to welcome young students who come from your orphanage.

We still congratulate every year parents who give right education to their children, and I feel that you are doing good job in this orphanage. Your students are going well, they have good behavior in our school, they are good students, respectful of our rules, and they like studying.

I am pleased to congratulate you and to wish you to continue to do these efforts to help them to be good citizens and good Christians tomorrow so they can assure themselves their own future.

Go ahead Lefort!

Peace and love,

Msgr. Jethro NOEL
Vicar General of Diocese of Hinche
Principal of the Collège

BOARD ELECTIONS HELD

At this same Annual Meeting at which the budget was approved, the Board of Directors elected officers for the coming year.

Long-time director **Chip Wirth** was elected President of the Foundation and Chair of the Board, replacing Capt. **Karen DiRenzo** USN, who is now stationed in Rhode Island (though we are grateful that she will continue to serve as a director, commuting for meetings).

Rick Martin will serve as Vice President and Vice Chair. The current Secretary, **Br. Cosmas Rubencamp** CFX, and current Treasurer, **Craig Emerson** CPA, were reelected.

MOTHERS DAY PROJECT

In the next couple of weeks, you should receive a mailing from us explaining how you can honor your mother this Mothers Day, while helping a motherless child at Maison Fortuné. We hope you'll like the idea!

MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE FOUNDATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

You Can Help One Child at A Time

When you sponsor a child at Maison Fortuné, how are they helped?

Your monthly sponsorship contribution helps provide your sponsored child with the most basic needs: shelter, clothing, clean water, three meals daily, education (including uniforms and supplies), and health care.

How much of my sponsorship contribution is used for overhead?

NONE! Your designated gifts go directly to Maison Fortuné Orphanage to provide for the children's needs.

Does my contribution go directly to the child sponsored?

No. Your monthly contributions are combined with those of other sponsors so that all the children will benefit. We do not encourage gifts or packages directly to the children because the packages are subject to high customs duties, but also because if one child were to receive more than others, it might cause discord within the orphanage.

Are all children sponsored?

Not yet. While it is our goal to have all children sponsored, we are not there yet. That is why we want you to consider sponsoring a child.

What are the sponsorship levels?

Gold Sponsor: \$100 to \$150 per month

Silver Sponsor: \$ 50 to \$ 99 per month

Bronze Sponsor: \$ 25 to \$ 49 per month

Note that you can contribute on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

How can I begin sponsoring a child at the orphanage?

If you need more information before making a decision, please contact the Maison Fortuné Sponsorship Coordinator, Terry Allen at terry78allen@gmail.com.

If you are ready to begin sponsorship, chose your level of contribution and the frequency. Please send your first check to:

Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation, Inc.

c/o The Treasurer

P O Box 3092

Chesapeake, VA 23327-3092

Please note on your check that it is for your beginning sponsorship—and email Terry Allen to let her know that you have started. This will enable us to set you up and make sure you get future communications.

What happens next?

We do not send out invoices in our attempt to keep costs down. If you would like a reminder, let us know by email above and we will send you a reminder at the beginning of each month/quarter/year, etc.

MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE, HINCHE, HAITI

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP CONTRIBUTORS: 2008-2009

Listed below are the individuals & groups that contributed since July 1, 2008 to the day-to-day operating budget (food, clothing, salaries, furniture, etc.) or to the capital budget (for building construction), or the Endowment Fund. We are very grateful; the orphanage could not survive without them.

Terry & Maurice Allen	Milton & Agnes Ebbert	Julia Lintz	Benjamin & Jana Robbins
Adele Andrews	Pauline Eccles	Christopher Lippman	David & Rhea Robbins
Richard Antoline	ECR Software Corp.	Chris & Stephanie Lowman	Chris & Karen Roberson
Colleen Aucoin	Bonnie Elam, <i>The Haiti</i>	James Luten	John Rodgers
Nancy Azzaro	<i>Connection</i>	David & Elizabeth Luther	Br. Cosmas Rubencamp CFX
Charles Baker & Regina	Terry Elliott	Br. Daniel Lynch CFX	Mike & Laura Rubino
Dufresne	Craig & Mary Emerson	Kathleen Madigan	Timothy & Carolyn Ruck
James & Teresa Barich	Marcos & Isis Espinosa	Br. John Mahoney CFX	George Ruhlen
Shane Barnett	Tricia Everest	Br. Peter Mahoney CFX	Anthony & GERALYN Russo
Frances Beck	Bruce & Susan Everett	Jen Maslyn	Caroline & Timothy Ruck
Lynda & Kevin Bevilacqua	Karin & Bob Ewan	Greg & Elizabeth Mason	Kenol Saint-Fort
Alexander E. Blanchard	Nicholas Fall	Tom & Kathy Mason	Perry & Kathy Sassic
Mike & Cassie Boothe	Emily Fay	Dr. William McAveney	Barbara Ann Satmary
John & Debra Borcharadt	Susan Fay	Joseph & Sandra McCann	Lisa Scapellati
DJ Bradley	Joseph Fields	Scott & Kristen McCulloch	Thomas & Rebecca Schares
Susan Bradshaw	Fred & Carol Flach	Mitchell McDonald	Fred Schneider
Anthony Breen	Tom Furlong	Michael & Shelby McGeehin	John Schneider
Bernard Brennan	Karen Lynn Gdula	Thomas & Kathy McGeehin	Richard & MailyN Schroeder
John Brett	Mark & Mary Gediman	Marlene McGrath	Scottish International Relief
Thomas & Lynn Brown	Rev. James Gordon	Timothy McGuirk	John & Shannon Scureman
Maria Browning	Drew & Doris Grivna	George & Louise McInnis	Shaben Michael & Sons, Inc
James & Geneva Buckman	Roger & Bellie Guerrero	Donna Mehalko	Lorraine Sharp
Lindsay Burton	Richard & Eleanor Guertin	Christine & Charles Meier	JJ & Mary Rita Sheehan
Luis Carceres	Walter & Barbara Gulla	Men of Blessed Sacrament,	Lynn Simmeth
Carlyle Group Matching Fund	Haitian Health Care Found, Inc.	Tallahassee	Yvonne Smith-Phillips
Rev. Msgr. Thomas Caroluzza	Haiti-Not-Hilfe, Germany	Marina Sierra Mercer	Lucille Spivey
Ann Marie Carothers	Barbara Hanrahan	Rose Meyer	Frederick & Judith Stilwell
Mark & Charlet Carscallen	Tom & Sue Hanrahan	Emily Michael	St Francis in the Fields Episcopal
Virginia Cassidy	James Harb	Louis & Donna Michael	St John Christian Mothers
Laura Charette	Mary Ellen Harris	Margaret Montgomery	St Jude Circle-Ladies of Charity
Dee Christian	Laen Heberle	Art Mowbray & Kerry Mooney	St Patrick Catholic School
Margaret Christian	Greg & Juliana Henderson	Kevin & Mary Murphy	St Peter the Apostle
Jeanette Loretta Coffee	Lezlie Hierholzer	Diann Simons Naber	St Titus Christian Mothers
John & Donna Collins	Tim & Gayle Hinebaugh	Michael Naccarato	St Vincent de Paul Society
Mary Ann Collins	Marion Hooper	ND Basketball Services	St Vincent de Paul Society, Bea-
Troy & Karen Constance	Lorene Jacobsen	Timothy & Helen Nelligan	ver County Council
Joan Conway	Linda & Paul Jaglowski	Brian Nelsen	James & Pamela Sullivan
Richard and Gwen Costello	Zita Jobst	Cynthia Nelson	William & Jennifer Sullivan
Rev. George Cowan	Michael & Jessie Johnson	Sharon Neuhaus	David & Diane Swift
Bob Coyle	Betty Jones	Notre Dame Club of Cape Cod	Ralph & Erlinda Taguba
David Crowe	Marguerite Josaphat	Robert & Susan Nye	Valiant Tan
Zachary Crowe	John M. Joyce	Rev. John O'Hara	Patrick & Cecile Tedesco
Lloyd & Marie Cunningham	Alan & Cynthia Kahan	Old Dominion Athletic Club	The Mennonite Foundation
Michael & Kathryn Darroch	Robert & Mary Kantmann	Martin & Erica Ortiz	Rita Thomas
Ron & Shirley DeBacco	Adam Karr	Marie Claudette Paul-Senat	John & Ellen Thompson
Frank & Carla Delgado	George Kasper	Chris & Anne Peterson	Joseph & Suzanne Tofalo
Rina D'Eramo	Michael Kassel	Chad & Susan Piacenti	Thomas & Elena Trotter
Luce De Vitry-Maubrey	Gary & Patricia Kautzmann	Cynthia Piccirilli	Loren & Marcia Tschohl
Theodore Dickon	David Keeney	Guy Pilato	Bradley & Cheryl Van Buren
Chris Dickon	Kathleen Kenney & Dave Depp	Lois Podnar	Vanguard Charitable Endowment
Rachel & Charles Dickon	Ryan Kenrick	Susan Polce	Program, Boston
Engleton	Martha King	Kermit & Mary Pope	Andy & Kate Van Slyke
The Diehl Family	Tricia Remling Kinman	Portiuncula Fraternity	Lisabeth Venter
Daniel & Dolores Di Giovine	Anne Lambrecht	Portsmouth Cath Elem School	Catherine Wadley
John & Marilyn Dohanich	Philip & Sara Lanier	T. Rowe Price Program for	Richard & Patty Walls
Jonathan & Leanna Dohanich	Elizabeth Larson	Charitable Giving	James & Laurie Wheaton
John & Pamela Dragon	Matthew M. Lauria	Prince George High School	David & Sally Whiting
Anna Drake	Stephen Lavagnino	Pert & Lita Razon	Mark Williamson
Barbara Drass	James & Eleanor Leftwich	Br. William Reigel CFX	Daniel & Judith Wood
Joseph D'Silva	Earl & Carol Lienemann	Anne Repp	Celia Woodham
John & Carole Dudo	David & Lisa Linnell	Paul Ricciardi	Xaverian Brothers, USA

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____. I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage operating budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle replacement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Solarization project |

Name

Address

City State Zip

Please make checks payable to **Catholic Diocese of Richmond** and mail to:
Patrice Schwermer, Office of Justice & Peace, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond VA 23294

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____. I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
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