



VINCENTIAN FAMILY HAITI INITIATIVE
 INITIATIVE DE LA FAMILLE VINCENTIENNE EN HAÏTI
 INICIATIVA DE LA FAMILIA VICENCIANA EN HAITÍ

Newsletter

October 2015

Advancing the Quality of Education in our Partner Schools

Since October 2013, Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative’s (VFHI) Feeding Program has allowed 4,250 children from 17 schools in Port-au-Prince and Central Plateau, to receive a daily hot meal. Our program doesn’t just end there, as Vincentians, we have a commitment to systemic change. We have a second prong focused on assisting these schools to improve their overall educational level.



Children in School Feeding Program.

In January 2015, we launched the school improvement prong through a baseline survey to help them identify their strengths and define their vision of a better school. The baseline was measured against the criteria of the Department of Education in Haiti. This process included quantitative and qualitative surveys; interviews with principals, staff and students; workshops, and working meetings. It was a revealing experience for many school leaders and teachers. As a result, each school was able to develop a school improvement plan for the next 3 years, covering 4 areas: infrastructure and equipment, teaching and school administration, governance and leadership, and finance and operations. With your continued support, we can help these school realize their 3 year goals.



Teachers & Principals Work through Baseline.

The impact of Education Program in the last 2 years includes increased enrollment, beginnings of a culture of collaboration, and a sense of hope among participants. Starting this month, VFHI will support the schools as they implement their individual improvement plans. We will focus on reading skills, instructional supervision and support, school planning and financial administration. The long term goal is to foster sound administrative and pedagogical habits.

How You Can Help

Improve Reading, Provide Materials	\$ 10	Per Child
Instructional Supervision Training	\$ 25	Per Child
1 Year Training on Fiscal Management	\$ 3,800	Per School

Congratulations to Graduates, Farewell to Prof. Cean

Last year, 23 students from Centre de Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL) and 2 professors completed the construction of VFHI administrative building at our Fish Farm in Central Plateau of Haiti. CFFL agronomy students worked to test the agricultural feasibility of the soil at the farm. CFFL is one of our main partners and a vocational school in Central Plateau that teaches agriculture, construction, and wood-working. The center is connected with Partners in Health through their Partners in Agriculture program (Zanmi Agrikol in Kreyòl). VFHI was the-first client-based practical experience for these students. The first cohort of students graduated last summer.



Students Work on VFHI Building Foundation.

(continued page 2)



Agronomy Graduates with Prof. Reginald Cean (center) on Graduation Day.

(continued from page 1) Graduation was a day of celebration for the students, parents, and teachers who have seen them grow to become young and bright leaders for their communities.

It was also a bittersweet moment as students and school staff bid farewell to Reginald Cean— the agronomist who was not only a professor, but also a brother and a father for these students. In a moving speech, Reginald proved once again the value of his presence by offering this advice “No matter what, keep on investing in yourselves as you would invest in a successful business.” Reginald has been replaced by Dr. Joubert Fayette who studied at Earth University in Costa Rica and the US. He left his US career as a Senior Biological Scientist at University of Florida to return home to Haiti to contribute to Haiti’s future.

Farm Manager Yamileh Jean-Pierre Shares her Experience

When I first started working in Savane Perdue, I was a new graduate from Earth University in Costa Rica. I wanted to return home to Haiti, to use my agronomy degree to help develop the countryside. I didn’t learn about aquaculture in school. I was equipped with only two weeks of training at Caribbean Harvest our partner organization in Haiti. I had real on-the job training! The first few weeks in Savane Perdue were not an easy task. The farm is located at the end of a 5 mile rocky road. People living in the area are missing almost all the basics like electricity and potable water. I was in a new situation, and I hesitated about staying. Then, I realized how great the impact of the VFHI fish farm could be for job creation, economic development, and food security. I reasoned with myself and decided to make the commitment to adapt to this new life and make it work.



Agronomist Yamileh Jean-Pierre.



Workers Push Cages.

While preparing for the arrival of the fish on the farm, I began to make friends in the community and learn about the people’s life style. After all of our equipment was installed, finally, on June 2, 2015, the first batch of 10,000 baby Tilapia fish arrived. The other farm workers and I were very excited! Since then our fish have been growing. I am happy to say that we now have about 20,000 fish with 10,000 ready for the market this October. We’ve come a long way, and we could not be happier for this accomplishment. In the next year, we’ll grow production to 180,000lbs of fish — more fish means more jobs and more protein security!



Yes, I would like to support the work of the Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative: visit

<http://vfhi.org/donate> OR mail in below

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Circle Designated Project (s): Education Fish Farm General

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative

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