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LCM Celebrates 20 Years!

1998



2018



After our founding in 1998, Life Connection Mission opened the doors to the school in 2001 with only 4 classrooms. Students attended a half day of school and there was no feeding program. Flash forward to 2018 and our school now has 19 classrooms, a computer center offering on-line college classes, 3 preschool classrooms, and soon a vocational school! Most importantly, our students now benefit from a full day of school and a nutritious lunch each day.

Reflections from the Board Directors

Over the past year, LCM has reached out to you on many occasions, and you have generously and enthusiastically answered the call. With your continued support, Life Connection Mission has been able to serve some of the most vulnerable men, women, and children in the western hemisphere. From the bottom of our hearts, and from all the students, volunteers, and employees in Haiti— Thank you!

As we continue to reflect on the many accomplishments of LCM in 20 years, we are pleased to share that LCM is 100% run by Haitians. Naturally, the board of directors are all Americans and all the fundraising comes from the United States, but what this shows is that when we invest time and “teach” others how to do the right thing, the right way, there is potential for change and signs of hope for an improved country... The old adage of if you teach a man to fish. We also remind our supporters that we are all volunteers. We have committed to LCM almost as a second job.

Every penny donated in some way helps the mission of LCM. We, like you, are supporters of the Haitians who operate Life Connection Mission 24 hours a day 365 days a years for us. They make all we work for true realities, and all our success stories start with them!

We thank you, Pastor Moleus, Benoit Rebecca, Jean Rene Nore, Christopher Destinoble, Lubin Charles-Fils, Verguin Josue, Odvylls Ostane, Nurse Rebecca, Dr. Max, all the ladies who cook at the mission house and the school, our teachers, and medical clinic team for your love and commitment to Life Connection Mission and the children and families we serve.

Sincerest thanks on behalf of the board of directors,
Christie Anne Short, President

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Visitor Views



Written By:
Michelle Jackson

“All of the experiences, both good and difficult, are why I am passionate about my support for Life Connection Mission.”

I first became acquainted with Life Connection Mission through my brother. My brother, nephew, and mother returned from their first mission trip very enthusiastic about the great work that the mission was doing in Haiti. My brother's enthusiasm has an infectious quality and so shortly after his return, I was also sponsoring a child, and not long after that I allowed myself to be talked into going on a mission trip the next summer.

The poverty in Haiti is not something that words can accurately describe. The housing is makeshift and the infrastructure is non-existent. Simple things like obtaining safe drinking water are very difficult.

A trip to Haiti is filled with many life-changing experiences. Some of them are very sobering, like the time we served a meal to the children at the Haitian church. So many children were in attendance that day that we ran out of food before the last 30 or 40 kids got anything. Or, how everywhere you go there are children who are wearing rags or no clothing at all. The hardest thing for me is how there is never enough to help everyone that needs help. When you have resources to feed 100, there will be 100 more in need.

Many of the experiences in Haiti are very uplifting. Like how the kids that got a plate of food that day at the church shared their food with the others. Or how the woman and kids who were going to live in the house we built last year helped carry cinderblocks down a steep hill without any shoes or work gloves. Or how very simple things like a new t-shirt with an octopus on it or a matchbox car bring immense joy.

All of the experiences, both good and difficult, are why I am passionate about my support for Life Connection Mission. I'm passionate because thanks to the tireless work of volunteers, and generous donations of the community, there are better realities in the community of Montrouis. While there are still many children in rags, there are also many wearing donated clothes with familiar logos from home. The mission school is brightly painted and full of curious kids eager to learn. The school kitchen is steaming with the meal that each child receives as part of every school day. At the mission's medical clinic there is a line of people patiently waiting for much needed free care.

I am dedicated to LCM because in the 3 years I have been visiting, so much in Montrouis has gotten better. The school has more students and is larger. Fans diffuse stifling heat in the classrooms and are powered by the newly installed solar panels. Next door, construction has started on a trade school, which in time will provide jobs and industry in this community. The foundation has been poured for a new medical clinic adjoining the school. This will provide medical care to the students who come to school sick. New, safe, solid houses have been built for several in need in the community. These are just a few things LCM has done.

I am dedicated to LCM because it is empowering to work side by side by my family, and the LCM family, and the people of Montrouis. We are as proud of the brightly painted school as the students are because together we helped paint it. We know that every extra person that we can inspire to make a donation will support the cost of another child in school, or put supplies in the medical clinic. When the news reports bad weather in Haiti, we know that the growing handful of LCM built houses will provide safe shelter from the storms. We see the potential for our sponsor kids being the educated, compassionate voices of systemic future change in Haiti. We dream of the day when there will be enough to help everyone.

These two home were identified as needing repair after Hurricane Matthew in 2016. They had to wait until the summer of 2017 to be rebuilt, but very much worth the wait!

See adjacent page.





Above: The two homes seen above undergoing construction in June of 2017. A team from St. Patrick's Parish in Rockville, MD was able to finish both houses in one week!

Below: A finished home. No tarps for roofs or palm leaves for walls in these homes. We work with Haitian masons to ensure construction of the houses is top notch! Our teams from LCM provide the manual labor.



At Our School...

Kings & Queens of 64 Chess Club by: Odvylls Ostane

The *Kings & Queens of 64 Chess Club* and its staff took the opportunity to organize an evening activity for LCM students and their parents. They enjoyed popcorn and Fresco (Haitian version of Italian ice) during a movie night showing of *QUEEN OF KATWEE*. The movie night made a significant impact on the spectators. It seemed to increase curiosity about the game of chess.

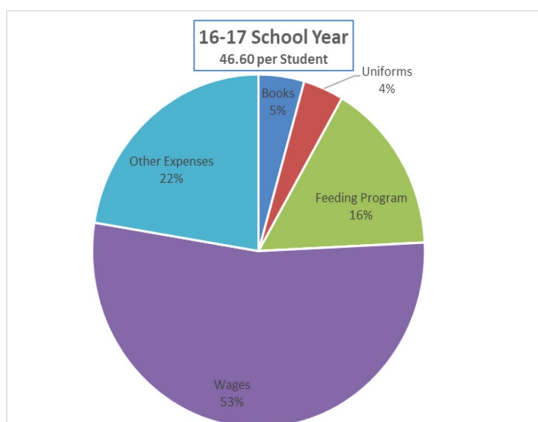
The next day, two parents who were at the program met with me to discuss our chess program. A key question was "What are the benefits of my child playing chess?" My response was that the results of chess and the impact on a youth's studies are spectacular. It has been shown that children who have taken chess lessons for at least two years increase their concentration capacity by 50%, their memory capacity by 22%, and their problem solving ability by 32%.

Moreover, by its playful aspect, the game of chess puts all players on the same plane of equality. Whether a child is struggling in school, comes from a background of poverty, or just believes that he or she cannot succeed in mathematics, they can learn to develop numerous skills without even thinking about it. This is a superior tool to reducing educational and socioeconomic inequalities! Chess is one of the few sports where children can compete with adults. Thus, it is not uncommon to see very young children challenging skillful adults during tournaments.

Following our event we found that the number of students wanting to join the club increased considerably. Club staff already sees that the game of chess has become a passion for many of the scholars at LCM, and will continue to expand to other scholars.



Fluery Scott-Billy (pictured with the big smile) won the First Kings and Queens of 64 Chess Club Fall Tournament



Financials at a Glance

Expenses

Books	
Uniforms	
Feeding Program	
Wages	
Other Expenses	
Total Expenses	
Cost per student per month	

Jul '16 - Jun '17	Jul '17 - Jun '18
Actual	Budget
\$11,713.46	\$12,000.00
\$10,344.14	\$10,400.00
\$41,887.87	\$46,230.00
\$140,823.36	\$141,042.10
\$59,183.74	\$63,050.00
\$263,952.57	\$272,722.10
\$46.60	\$48.15

2018 Plans

As LCM celebrates 20 years in Montrouis, you can look for a new and more modern look. You can see this in the newsletter design, our updated mission logo, and a new website to be launched in the upcoming weeks.

After 20 years, it was time for some change. Our new logo embodies the "CONNECTION" of our "MISSION" because with your help and love, LCM will change the whole trajectory of the lives of the children and people we love in Haiti.

LCM will open the doors to the St. Joseph Vocational school in September. St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers. A saint that will look upon our young men and women as they begin their journey to mastering a trade and providing greater independence and sustainability for themselves and their families.

At the school, the kitchen will be relocated to a new complex away from classrooms. This kitchen is more spacious with better prep space, ventilation, and equipment. Additionally, having moved the kitchen away from the classrooms, the heat from the charcoal/propane will not impact the students' learning. Our cooks will also have a private restroom and shower space to use after preparing lunch for over 500 students. The old kitchen will get a real makeover and hopefully before the end of 2018, become a library for our students and members of the community.

The clinic is moving adjacent to the school allowing better access to healthcare for both our students and community members. See more about our new clinic on pg. 6.

We pray the resources needed to complete these projects will be made available to us in 2018.

Accomplishments

Christmas in Haiti - Thank you!

Interview with Jean Rene

Aware that many people are not as blessed as others are, Life Connection Mission brought a smile to some of the world's neediest children and adults during the holiday season through a program called "Rice and Backpacks for Christmas". Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors each student received a bag of rice and a backpack filled with toys, clothes, school supplies, shoes and more.

A member of our Haitian staff, Jean Rene, gave his thoughts. "Working here is an opportunity to serve the people of my community and be part of their lives. The Rice and Backpack program is a blessing from God, for it affects the entire community. I was thrilled to see how much joy this program brought to the kids. When the LCM school kids receive their bags of rice and backpacks, they share their presents with their siblings, who are either in other schools or not in school at all. Then, following the tradition, Haitian people share their blessings with some other relatives and/or friends during the entire holiday season. Thus, a simple bag of rice affects not just a sponsor kid, but many other kids in needs during the entire holiday season. It allows people in the community to all be connected as an extended family.

Certainly, your kind support made a difference in the lives of people living in the community of Montrouis for the past years and we are expecting to do much more again this year. And some of our kids are still waiting in the line for sponsorship. For those of you who have not been yet in our supporters list, consider sponsoring one of our children in need and sending a smile in a bag of rice and a backpack for Christmas.



Look closely... you are looking at over 500 bags of rice. Maybe you prefer to think in feet, try this then, a pile of rice over 8 feet tall . Volunteers (pictured here) moved all these bags into the school court yard in less than an hour to prepare for the flood of children arriving and eager to receive their Christmas gift from YOU!



Sponsor Me!

Please help these children find a sponsor in 2018.

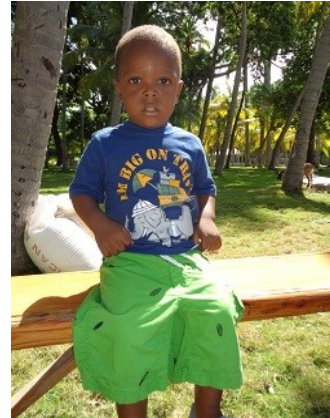
The sponsorship cost of \$40 per month is used to pay the tuition, books, and uniforms for one child to go to school. The child is also given lunch each school day and medical care if needed. Sponsors will receive at least one picture a year.



Zeph Ryliice
Preschool
Date of Birth: August 24, 2014



Marie Herly Magdalena Garcon
Preschool
Date of Birth: March 8, 2014



Doubrovsky Djourre Rene Lambert
Preschool
Date of Birth: August 11, 2014



Rode Merlin Petit-Frere
Preschool
Date of Birth: November 18,
2014



David Sainvil
Preschool
Date of Birth: January 6, 2014



Sara Eticia Saint-Hilaire
Preschool
Date of Birth: January 3, 2015

"It is in giving of oneself that one receives." - St. Francis of Assisi

Written By:
Megan Silk
LCM Board Member

Clinic Corner

Have you ever moved from one house to another? Long before the stress of boxing up all of your belongings and renting a moving van there is a period of excitement that comes just after picking a new place to live. You walk through the empty space and imagine what you'll do with each room, how you'll decorate, and what life will be like in the new space. At LCM, our clinic is in a period of immense excitement about our upcoming move.

In December, I was fortunate enough to tour the future home of our clinic. I ran through the empty rooms, in awe of how much bigger this space was in comparison to our current clinic. I envisioned what each room would look like when finished. The pharmacy and supply rooms would have organized, open shelving units with clearly labeled spots for medications and medical equipment, not

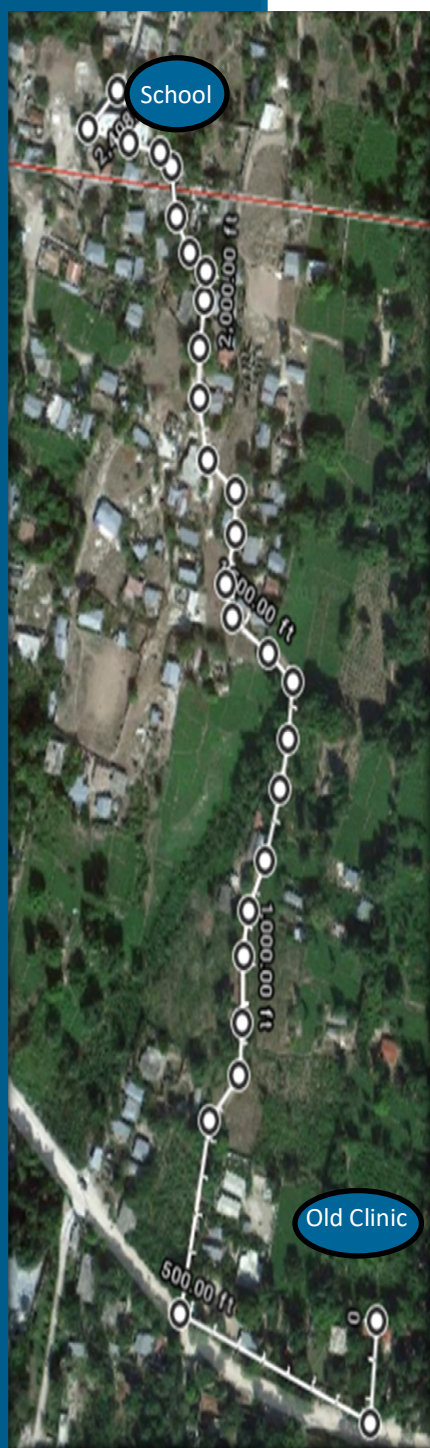
dark cupboards where little critters like to hide. Our operating room would have a privacy curtain and official operating table, not an old gurney covered with a sterile drape. It brought such a smile to my face to think of all the endless possibilities this space has for improving our patient care in Haiti.

Unlike our old clinic, the new clinic will have a covered waiting room (currently our patients wait on the patio or driveway to the clinic) and multiple exam rooms in addition to a pharmacy and nurse triage room. This makes it possible for us to add more specialties in the future such as dental and prenatal care.

Perhaps the most important feature of all is the close proximity of the clinic to the school. At present, students who get sick during the school day or who need to see the nurse have to walk almost a mile from our school to our clinic. This can be quite time consuming and disruptive to the school day, especially if a child needs only a quick fix such as a wound cleaning and band aid after a scrape of the knee while playing soccer at recess. The new clinic sits adjacent to the school with a students only entrance to the clinic from the school yard, allowing them to be treated and hopefully back on their way to class as quickly as possible. The general public will enter through the main entrance off the road. Since the clinic is closer to the main road that goes through Montrouis it makes us even more accessible to the sick and injured of the community.

While construction appears to be nearly done, we still have a long way to go to make our new space the best clinic possible. Like the design shows you see on TV, we are hoping that once we get the all clear from the masons we can show up with a truck full of our "interior design" items and make the clinic sparkle. These items range from the big (such as exam beds, waiting room chairs, desks, water fountain, and refrigerator) to the small (gloves, gauze, pill sorters, syringes, and thermometers).

Since its beginning, our little clinic has come so far. We've thrived in a space that we quickly outgrew. We've gone from just treating patients to tracking their health information in a computer database so we can better catch health issues and provide continuity of care. We've hired a full time Haitian doctor and nurse to ensure access to healthcare everyday of the week. We keep a stocked and inventoried pharmacy so that we are able to track what medications we use most and what needs to be replaced. We do all of this and still manage to keep costs affordable for our community patients and provide free care to our students. With the support of our generous donors and clinic sponsors we hope to open the doors to our new and im-



The entryway to our new clinic.

*Your support has allowed LCM to serve the people of Montrouis for 20 years.
Please consider how you can help us accomplish all we hope in 2018, and
see dreams become a reality for our students.*



From left to right: Construction of the new school kitchen, medical clinic, and St. Joseph's Vocational School

Please detach the form below and return to LCM
at 23 Grey Pebble Ct. Germantown, MD 20874

Donations are greatly appreciated.

Please prayerfully consider one of the projects to support .

St. Joseph's Vocational School (including the final stages of construction). The projected needed cost to open our doors in September is \$30,000— **OUR GREATEST NEED AT THIS TIME!**

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

School Feeding Program (including completing construction of new kitchen). The projected needed cost to complete the kitchen project is \$8,000.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Medical Clinic (including completing the construction, purchase of supplies, equipment, and medications). Approximately \$75,000 is needed to complete this project.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Sponsorship Opportunities Can you sponsor another child? Or please also show the above pictures to family/friends and share of your experiences and joys of sponsoring a child with LCM.

Child's Name: _____

Enclosed is my check for: ☐ \$40 (monthly) ☐ \$240 (1/2 a year) ☐ \$480 (1 year)

We pray the resources needed to complete these projects will be made available to us in 2018.



Life in Photos

Rice and Backpacks for Christmas 2017



Like what you see? Follow us on Facebook to view more photos and stay up to date with what's happening at LCM!

LIFE CONNECTION MISSION

23 Grey Pebble Ct.

Germantown, Maryland 20874

PLEASE
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STAMP
HERE



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THE LCM TIMES

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