

# Marco Depestre Foundation Of Ottawa

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Welcome to the second issue of the bulletin of The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa (MDFO), dated January 2013. We are very grateful for your continued support that allowed us to accomplish a number of our project targets. Our overall goal is to help our needy neighbours in Haiti with care and compassion to meet their basic needs, while preserving their dignity.

In 2012, an added challenge, to many impoverished Haitians, was the passage of 2 hurricanes, the first one Isaac in September that destroyed a good part of the crops. Then Sandy hit Haiti in October with force causing the loss of lives, flooding, and devastation, leaving little hope of crops to be harvested in 2013.

In an attempt to improve our ability to help alleviate some of the challenges faced particularly by the residents of southern Haiti, MDFO, applied for charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency. We are hoping to have a response from them in the near future.

Also, we have signed several agreements with our intermediary, the Marco Depestre Foundation in Haiti (MDFH), to assist with the implementation of our projects in Haiti.

## Below are the highlights of our achievements in 2012:

### PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER—MARO VERGER

Construction of a cistern to provide potable water to the students of Maro Verger School and to the members of the Methodist Maro Verger Church began on December 13th. We expect it to be completed by the end of February 2013. A team consisting of the school principal and the church leaders are involved in overseeing the building of the cistern, and will be responsible for maintaining it.



### CHILD SPONSORSHIP



Presently, 20 children, including orphans have been funded to attend school. MDFH and MDFO representatives, Julia Depestre and Arnelle Thelusma, monitor the progress of the children by visiting their guardians and schools, and by telephone contact with their families. Here is a photo of Noel Israel, one of our child sponsors.

### MARO VERGER SCHOOL (TEMPORARY SITE)



The school was destroyed during the 2010 earthquake. At present 57 children still attend classes some temporarily in the church while others in a make shift structure under a tent until a new school is built. Photo taken by Yvette in front of the Methodist Church on August 31, 2012.

### MACARY HOME REPAIR



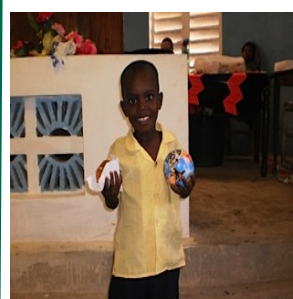
Materials were purchased in December 2012, but could not be delivered until February 2013 mainly due to impassable road conditions, following Hurricane Sandy. Photo shows one of three homes to be repaired in 2013. This home is in need of flooring, inside walls and a door, for the security of the family of 8.

### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY GOAT PROJECT

This pilot project started in September 2012, with the selection of 10 beneficiaries who each received a female goat. They were selected from families with children attending the Maro Verger School. Beneficiaries were trained by an agro-technician, Georges Herno, in the raising of goats. They were also required to make a small \$12.50US contribution to the purchase of an improved species of male goat, and to agree to "passing of the gift" of a newborn goat to another family in the community. This project will provide the beneficiaries from this deprived community with an improved diet and with a small source of income. Photo shows the female goats purchased for this project.



### CHRISTMAS MEAL



Over 1200 of our sisters and brothers in Haiti, including orphans and the elderly, were treated to a Christmas dinner offered in three locations: La Saline, and Macary (South Haiti) and Laboule 12 (suburb of Pétionville). Children were provided with toys and most of the adults received toiletries. The opportunity was taken to present awareness sessions on current health challenges.

Mr. Jean Renald of the Foundation for Reproductive and Family Health presented a session on cholera, and distributed aqua-tabs in La Saline, and Dr John Harbottle provided a similar session in Laboule 12. Also, Winnifred Vaval, a dental hygienist, provided information on dental hygiene, and toothbrushes and toothpaste were distributed to the children. Photos of happy recipients of meal.



### HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Following the passage of Hurricane Isaac in Marigot in September 2012, crops were destroyed and created a further problem with the scarcity of food. Photo shows the distribution of rice, beans and oil, by MDFH representative, M. Noncent, and MDFO President, Yvette Depestre, in Marigot on September 7, 2012.



*"In as much as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me". Matthew 25:40*