



Marco Depestre Foundation Of Ottawa

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It gives us great pleasure to provide you with Bulletin No. 3 of The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa (MDFO). We would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and yours our best wishes for a year filled with God's abundant blessings of health, peace, hope and joy. Our commitment continues to be the improvement of basic needs of some of our sisters and brothers in Haiti, while preserving their dignity.

The past year was a challenging year for us, with our efforts directed at applying and obtaining charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency. We are thankful that this status was awarded MDFO effective January 1, 2013, and with it are operational and reporting responsibilities that we take seriously. Our foundation will issue tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more in a calendar year.

Our intermediary, The Marco Depestre Foundation of Haiti, continues to work closely with us, in the delivery of our projects in Haiti. Despite some challenges, they have been our operating arm in the provision of improved nutrition to some families of sponsored children, potable water in the rural community of Maro Verger, school supplies to students, small business incentives and family farming opportunities, to name a few. These, and other projects, are aimed at enhancing the quality of life of some of the residents in the targeted impoverished communities in Southern Haiti and in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince.

We hope you will enjoy learning about our accomplishments and the impact of your support, in the following narratives and photographs. Thank you for joining us to make a positive difference in the lives of those we seek to serve.

Below are the highlights of our achievements in 2013:

CISTERN IN MARO VERGER

Construction of the cistern is now complete, with permanent gutters built in December 2013.



The bio-sand filter was installed on January 20 and should be functional by February 1, 2014, and will ensure a source of potable water for the school children and the members of the Methodist Maro Verger Church. A team, consisting of the school principal and the church leaders, who are to oversee the maintenance of the cistern have received training from a technician from the company (Photo: December 2013).

CHILD SPONSORSHIP



Presently 23 children, including some orphans, are assisted by sponsors to cover the school fees and some related costs for them to attend school. Each sponsor commits to a monthly contribution of \$30 for their sponsoree. MDFO representatives, Julia Depestre and Arnelle Thelusma monitor the progress of the students, through

meetings with them and their guardians, and also through telephone contacts and visits to their schools. Photograph shows Yolanda Coichy smiling as she proudly holds her school supplies (September 6, 2013).

CHILD SPONSORSHIP - NUTRITION SUPPLEMENT

This is a new program, to assist some of the Child Sponsorship malnourished students (and families) by providing them with monthly vouchers to purchase nutritious food, such as oatmeal and sardines, to supplement their poor diets. The aim is to improve the diet of these students, in the hope of improved health and better grades at school.

This program was initially funded through a grant from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Ottawa to assist four students/families for a duration of one year. Photo shows Israel Noël putting food items in shopping cart (August 30, 2013).



DISTRIBUTION OF DRY GOODS



The distribution of dry goods is our effort to respond to the need of some poor families, including elderly individuals, who lack basic food in impoverished areas of suburban Port-au-Prince. In the areas of La Saline and Laboule 12, a total of 117 families identified by community leaders, because of their dire circumstances, were provided with rice, beans, oil, milk, sugar and spaghetti. Photograph shows the distribution of dry goods by the Leader of Laboule 12, Papa Ti-Chal (September 25, 2013).