



Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

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Bulletin No. 4 - March 2015

We are delighted to present Bulletin No. 4 of the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa (MDFO). First, we would like to wish you a year filled with God's richest blessings.

It is now five years since the devastating earthquake claimed the lives of over 200,000 Haitians and changed the lives of millions more. The Foundation's goal is to promote through our different projects the well-being and livelihood of some of our needy sisters and brothers in Haïti, while preserving their dignity.

We would like to share with you some of the highlights of our achievements in 2014:

Child Sponsorship

Presently 25 children, including orphans, are being assisted to attend school by sponsors' commitment of \$30 monthly, to cover school fees and related cost. MDFO monitors, Julia Depestre and Arnelle Thelusma, follow their progress by visiting them, their guardians and schools, and by telephone contact with their families. *Below: Sponsoree Woodolph Beauchamp. (Oct. 2014)*



Potable water - Drums & Gutters Project

In 2014, a drum and gutter was provided to each of the 25 families living close to the Maro Verger Church, as they were in close proximity. Recipients will be provided with a monthly supply of aquatabs for one year to ensure the quality of the water collected in the drums. *Below: Recipient beside installed drum and gutter. (Dec. 19, 2014)*



Maro Verger School

MDFO has been actively involved in this rural community of Petit-Goâve, which is located on top of Mount Macia, since their primary school was irreparably damaged by the 2010 earthquake. The 47-50 students had been temporarily schooled in a tent, which was blown away by Hurricane Sandy, and had to be relocated to the adjacent church sanctuary, until a school could be built. Understandably, the Maro Verger community is eagerly awaiting a new school building. *Above: some of the school children inside the tent. (2011)*



Child Sponsorship - Nutrition Supplement

This program, in its second year, is aimed at improving the diet of some of the malnourished children. It provides their families with a monthly voucher to purchase nutritious food such as eggs, milk, sardines. The benefits from this supplement have been evident in improvement in most of the recipients' health and school grades. One beneficiary of this program is supported by our long time supporter, Rob Robertson. *Above: Mathurin family shopping. (Aug. 2014)*



Macary Home Repair

Three homes, of two elderly and one sick homeowner, were repaired in 2014. As you can see from the photo above, this homeowner is experiencing great joy from her repaired home.



Christmas Meal

Over 1220 of our sisters and brothers in Haïti, a majority of them children and some orphans, elderly and lame were treated to a copious Christmas dinner in three locations: La Saline (sub-

urban Port-au-Prince), on December 25; Acart (rural region of Marigot, South eastern Haïti), on December 26; and Laboule 12 (suburb of Pétionville), on December 30. The opportunity was taken to provide Health Awareness sessions in La Saline and Acart, by Dr Harbottle and by MDFO President Yvette Depestre, on Solar Disinfection of Water using clear glass or plastic bottles; and in Laboule 12, Dr Soledade Benjamin provided a session on Cholera Prevention and proper hand washing techniques. *Insert: Some of the elderly eating in Acart (Dec.26, 2014)*



Animal Husbandry - Passing-on-the kid Project

The Animal Husbandry - Goat Project started in 2012 with ten families each receiving 1 kid. Since the project is well established and running well, it is now being run by the community,

with the responsibility to "Pass-on-a-kid", under the supervision of Mr Ovide Fontin, the School Principal. *Insert: second and third generation kids being held by participant. (December 19, 2014)*

Animal Husbandry - Country Chicken Project

This new project initiated in July 2014, was financed by a generous donation from the Ernest E. Guertin Foundation of Ottawa. Five families were selected by community leaders, to each receive five hens and one rooster, as well as a supply of corn and millet feed for a year. They received training from a technician, Mr G. Herno, and were encouraged to participate by building their own coops. The recipients have already benefited from a good supply of eggs, and lots of chicks, to enhance their diets. *Background: Photo of hen and chicks (Oct. 2014)*

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We take great pleasure in sharing with you what we have accomplished in 2014 through your generous support, and by the grace of God. Let us remember this verse from Galatians 6:9: <<...let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up>>. Galatians 6:9

