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We are delighted to present Bulletin 7 of the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa (MDFO). We take this opportunity to extend to you and yours our warmest wishes for a Blessed New Year filled with health, peace and lots of joy!

The following are some of the highlights of our achievements in 2017

Child Sponsorship



Photo (Above): Group of sponsorees - Sept. 1, 2017.

Thirty-one children, including orphans, are part of this important project. They attend school regularly, thanks to the on-going commitment of their sponsors, who provide \$30 a month to cover their school fees. We share progress reports with their sponsors, some of whom keep in touch with those they sponsor. The Child Sponsorship Nutrition Program, provides nutritional supplements to five families to improve their diets, which in turn helps the children focus on their studies. Funding from Friends of Serviam has thankfully covered the latter costs.

Photo (Below): Israël at the cash - Aug. 8, 2017.



Humanitarian Aid

Maro Verger Community



Photo (Above): Distribution of seeds and seedlings - March 20, 2017.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, seeds and seedlings were distributed to the 83 families living in Maro Verger. Based on an evaluation by the leaders of the community, the neediest families were chosen to receive support. One goat was given to each of the four families, five families received chickens, two homes were repaired, and one home was built. These provisions greatly assisted the community to recover their basic food and shelter needs.

Potable Water

Three schools in the U.S. thankfully raised funds to purchase Aquatabs for all the families of students attending the school in June. In December, the balance of funds received were used to purchase 27 water filters for 27 families. Training was provided on how to install and upkeep the water filter system.



Photo (Above): Distribution of filters - Dec. 22, 2017 .



Photo (Above): Mrs. Greffin and Engineer in front of her new home - Nov. 4, 2017.

Humanitarian Aid (cont'd)

Goat project in Fond-Doux

In December, the twelve neediest families, whose children attend Fond-Doux Methodist School, were chosen by a local committee to receive a female goat each. An improved Boer male goat was also provided for the purpose of breeding. Each family contributed \$1.94 U.S. to purchase medical supplies for the goats. They also agreed to attend the training course to learn how to care for their goat and redistribute the first offspring to another chosen farmer beneficiary.

Macary Home Repair



Photo (Above): Mrs. Joseph in front of her new home - Sept. 5, 2017.

In Macary, one home was repaired and another one was built. The families contributed some of the materials and assisted in the construction of their homes. They are proud and thankful for their safe new homes.



Photo (Above): Beneficiary of goat – Fond-Doux - Dec. 30, 2017.

Christmas meals

Our Christmas Meal fundraiser was very successful. Over 1,400 sisters and brothers benefited from these activities. With the proceeds from generous donors, the sales of ice cream and cake, four activities took place. At the La Saline Methodist Primary School 275 students gathered to celebrate Christmas and share a meal with their families. At the Petit-Goâve penitentiary, 160 prisoners, plus guards and policemen enjoyed Christmas dinner. In Baie d'Oranges and Délices, over 1 000 children, adults and the elderly, were offered a traditional meal. On the last two occasions, Dr. Harbottle instructed on hygiene and cholera prevention. Aquatabs were also distributed in Baie d'Oranges. All children went happily home with a toy.



Photo (Above): Students enjoying Christmas dinner - La Saline - Dec. 20, 2017.



Photo (Below): Guests at Baie d'Oranges Christmas meal - Dec. 22, 2017.

We take great pleasure in sharing with you some of our major accomplishments in 2017 through your generous support, and by the grace of God. Thank you!

«In as much as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me». Matt. 25:40