



## The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

6139 Red Willow Drive  
 Orleans, Ontario Canada K1C 7J7  
 613-830-4714  
 Marcodepestrfoundationofottawa@rogers.com

[www.marcodepestrfoundationofottawa.org](http://www.marcodepestrfoundationofottawa.org)

The Board of Directors of the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa (MDFO) would like to wish you a Happy & Blessed New Year, as we present you with our Bulletin # 6. We thank you for your generosity that provided the means for us to assist some of our sisters and brothers living in dire circumstances in Haiti.

### The following are some of the highlights of our achievements in 2016:

#### Maro Verger School Building



Photo (Above): Construction of M.V. school - Aug. 16, 2016.

After a number of fundraising concerts, suppers and appeals in Canada and the States, and a memorial run in California, we were able to achieve the funds necessary to accomplish our priority project for 2016, which was long awaited by the Maro Verger community. The construction of the Maro Verger Primary School commenced in July and was completed at the beginning of September, with a Haitian Engineer and his team of workers, along with a number of paid helpers from the local community and some of their children who worked alongside them. The work was completed according to plan, and was greatly assisted by the monitoring and guidance of Etzer Depestre. A joyful inauguration ceremony was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, led by Pastor Marco Depestre and Pastor Jean-Marie Admirable, followed by refreshments prepared by some of the women in the community. The three room school can accommodate 60-70 students. We thank God that the school withstood the disastrous passage of Hurricane Matthew, in October.



Photo (Above): Classroom in M.V. - Sept. 19, 2016.



Photo (Above): MV Inauguration - Sept. 19, 2016.

#### Humanitarian Aid

#### Maro Verger Community



Photo (Above): Maro Verger lady in front of ruins post Matthew - Oct. 2016.

Hurricane Matthew ravaged the community, leaving behind many homes completely destroyed or heavily damaged. Most residents lost their livelihood and sustenance, through the loss of their livestock, fallen trees and family crops. A survey was carried out of their losses, and there was a distribution of a three month supply of dry goods to the eighty three families in the community. The latter took place on November 11<sup>th</sup> and provided some relief to them. With the leaders of the community, we will need to consider how best to assist in replanting and in replacing and/or repairing their affected shelters.



Photo (Above): MV Dry Goods Kit - Nov. 11, 2016.

## Distribution of Aquatabs

Tim McNair, a generous supporter responded to the resurgence of Cholera post Matthew by purchasing 12 boxes of Aquatabs from Ireland. Some of these life-saving pills used to make water potable were part of the kits received by the families in Maro Verger, in Baie d'Oranges, (South-eastern) and in Gros Marin, Cavaillon.



Photo (Above): Distribution of Aquatabs - M.V. Nov. 11, 2016.

We continued our support to a second year medical student, and with the help of a compassionate, caring donor we provided him with a monthly \$40US to help defray his travel expenses. The same benefactor and a family member provided the medical student with an equipped laptop to assist with his essential research studies.

We are very thankful for the two boxes of zippers received from AQANU that were given to four different people to help bolster their small business.



Photo (Above): Claire & John Ais, orphans with Yvette - Aug. 27 2016.

## Child Sponsorship

The twenty four students, including orphans who are part of this important project, attend regular schooling, thanks to the commitment of their sponsors who provide \$30 monthly to cover their school fees. Sponsors are kept informed of their sponsees progress, and many keep in touch with each other.



Photo (Above): Sophia Paul - Aug. 29 2016.



## Christmas meals

With the proceeds from your generous donations, the sales of ice cream and cakes, four activities took place: In La Saline Methodist Primary School, 160 children gathered to celebrate Christmas. Dr Harbottle spoke on hygiene and Cholera prevention. After the snack, each child went home with a gift and a smile. At the Petit-Goâve penitentiary, over 210 prisoners, policemen and guards enjoyed a hot meal and received toiletries. In Akar (South-eastern), more than 600, including children and elderly ate to their fill. Toys were given to the children and in Baie d'Oranges (South-eastern), 150 families benefited each from a kit of dry goods.

Photo (Left): Elderly eating - Akar, Jan. 2, 2017

Photo (Right): Child enjoying meal at Akar—Jan. 2, 2017



*It is by the grace of God and your goodwill that we achieved all this in 2016. Please accept our sincere thanks.*

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