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The Directors of the Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa (MDFO) wish you a Happy & Blessed New Year, as we present you with Bulletin # 10. We thank you for your generosity that provides 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 2020**

**Child Sponsorship**



Above: Group of sponsorees - Aug. 22, 2020

Through the generosity of sponsors who provide \$30 monthly to cover school fees, MDFO is able to sponsor 46 children. Sponsors receive regular progress reports. In general, the children are healthy and had a successful school year. One of our students who graduated from high school suddenly died. Julia Depestre, the MDFO Monitor, was able to reach out to his family and provided some assistance in their time of need.

Below: Guardians & sponsorees at Annual meeting - Aug. 22, 2020



**Nutrition Supplement**

We are all saddened by the death of our beloved friend Barbara Sawh, who was a founding member and Vice-President of our foundation. Thanks to her compassion and care, 6 of the 7 families are financed mainly through the generosity of Friends of Serviam. Families receive vouchers for much needed nutritious food. The children are healthier and their school results have improved.



Mrs Pierre at cash, January 10, 2020



Mrs Charles with provisions, Dec. 3, 2020

**Distribution of School Supplies**

Due to especially large donations, a total of 900 needy students from kindergarten to high school benefitted from a variety of school supplies. Both the children and their guardians are most grateful for these tools so the students can attend school.



Above: Young people in Laboule 12 on Sept. 19, 2020

Left: Students wearing their masks, holding school supplies at St-Martin School on Nov. 12, 2020

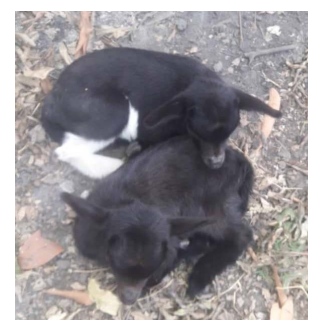
**Fondoux Goat Project**

In Fondoux, the Passing-on-the kid Project continues. Children are caring for the kids under their parents' supervision.



Left : Goat at Fondoux - Aug. 2020

Right:: Two kids - Dec. 2020



## Agroforestry Project

In spite of the insecurity, the nurseries in Vialet and Furcy, continued to function as much as possible. Distribution to small scale farmers totalled 21,525 seedlings: such as, cashew, avocado, pine, mango, tamarind, cedar, coffee, cocoa, papayas, mahogany and cherry trees. Mr. Herno, the agricultural technician, spends a week every month in each nursery, and visits the beneficiaries of seedlings to provide guidance and advice.



Left: In Vialet, Jacques Charles with Cacia planted in 2019



Above: Ladies with coffee seedlings in Furcy,



Above: the Vialet nursery, December 2020

Right: Coffee seedlings in Furcy, on Aug. 26, 2020



## Humanitarian Aid

Sessions on Covid-19 prevention were presented. Masks and flyers were distributed. In Laboule12, hand washing stations were set up. Soap and hand sanitizers were distributed. The 600 beautiful hand-made masks were very welcome and timely gifts from Rose Leblanc and Canada Sews Eastern Ontario.

## Cistern and Gutters

Generous donations from The Missouri Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, St Andrew's Church Ottawa and La Fondation Ernest E. Guertin helped finance the building of a cement slab cover to the cistern and the repair of gutters for the school at Savannah.



Above: Covered cistern in Savannah - Oct. 3, 2020



Above: Gutters on Savannah School - Oct. 3, 2020

## Christmas Meals 2020

Through the generosity of donors, Julia Depestre and her team of volunteers ensured the dinner boxes of chicken, rice, beans and salad were distributed in a COVID-19 safe way. Over 1,660 children, elderly, teachers and community members (in five locations) gave thanks for the food, toys, and toiletries joyfully received. Briefings on health awareness took place where a doctor was available.



Left: Dec. 23, 2020 - St Pierre - Kids enjoying the meal



Right: Happy lads: at École La Grotte Dec. 22, 2020



Right: An elderly friend enjoying her meal. Dec. 21, 2020 at Église St-Pierre de Pétionville

*It is by the grace of God and your goodwill that we achieved all this in 2020. 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**