



The Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

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Despite numerous challenges, through the support of our many benefactors and God's grace, the Foundation provided food to the hungry, schooling and school supplies to disadvantaged children, medical assistance to the unwell and Christmas joy to many needy families. In the words of one very grateful Foundation recipient, "light has come into my home".

The following are highlights of our achievements in 2023

Child Sponsorship

Annual Child Sponsorship meetings went well in Laboule 12 and at the Centre de Formation Musicale Marco Depestre Sr. 40 children were promoted; 7 failed. Given the challenges these children faced, it is not surprising that some failed.



Group 1 with guardians and Julia
August 19, 2023



Group 2 with Julia, guardians and
volunteers - August 24, 2023

Distribution of School Supplies

In 2023, 1,386 appreciative students in 6 locations received essential school supplies.



Laboule 12 - Group of kids with kits of
School Supplies, on September 16, 2023



Savannah students with books and
supplies, on February 6, 2023

Nutrition Supplement

Eight families receive monthly food vouchers. As increasingly children complain of hunger, the Foundation is offering monthly kits to 12 children.



Mr. Mathurin with 3 of his
children - January 16, 2023



Sarah and Eldridge at the
cash - September 1, 2023

Agroforestry Project

5,000 seedlings from last year were distributed in Vialet. Avocado, mango and cacao seedlings are awaiting the rainy season. In Furcy, 4,700 seedlings from last year were distributed during the rainy season. However, it has not yet been possible to resume production.

Right: Vialet nursery, December 13, 2023

Below: Vialet, Matrons with seedlings, May 25, 2023



Youth Development Project

Three former sponsorees are undertaking post-secondary education, one in leadership and auto mechanics, another in computer science, and one in Agronomy.



Ralph (at the door), in 2nd year accountancy
August 28, 2023

Humanitarian Aid

A bereaved family received help with medical, funeral and psychology expenses following the death of a young sponsoree. A former sponsoree received funds for expenses related to her baby's arrival. The Bomplan Methodist Church received help to rebuild its roof. An elderly poor handicapped lady received funds for food and medication. In Savannah and Laboule 12, needy families received food. Two sponsorees taking care of their ill mother received help with medical care. A former sponsoree who fled gang violence received funds to purchase sheets to sleep on the ground in a safer location with a bed being provided later.



Mrs Clermont, smiling, holding part of her bed set on Dec. 18, 2023

Christmas Activities

In December, 2,250 people in 9 locations benefitted from the Foundation's Christmas offering. In Savannah, Laboule 12 and Latibolière, families gratefully received dry good kits. Meals were served and toys distributed to children and support staff at École Presbytérale Saint Gérard de Beaudry and École Nationale de Corail. At École St Vincent de Paul, École Communale de Pétienville, École Rama de Duplan and Laboule 12, toys, snacks and toiletries were distributed. In Brigade, toys and gifts were handed out. All were thankful to the Foundation for bringing a smile and hope at Christmas.



Left: Happy Students of Pétienville Communal School, on Dec. 20, 2023

Below left: Kids savouring a meal at St-Gérard de Beaudry School, on December 20, 2023

Below right: Julia distributing Dry good kits at Laboule 12, on Dec. 30, 2023

Below centre: Kids receiving cookies and toys at St. Vincent de Paul School, on December 18, 2023



Despite the challenges, through your support and by the grace of God, much was accomplished in 2023. We thank you most sincerely.

«Let us stir up one another to love and good works». Hebrews 10:24