



# Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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## Forging a Path with the Model Campus

by Tommy Cody (THP Volunteer '13-'14)

The Haitian Project, Inc. (THP) is ready to forge a path forward with The Louverture Cleary Schools (LCS) Network, a national system of 10 top-notch, tuition-free, Catholic secondary boarding schools stretching across the country. The successful funding and execution of The LCS Network starts with the development of a Model Campus that can be replicated across Haiti.

While LCS's flagship school, located at Santo 5 in Port-au-Prince, represents a model educational program, its physical plant grew and adapted over the years to fit the confines of the property. This organic growth, though part of its success, is not scalable. For Patrick Brun, THP Board Member and Head of THP's Partner Foundations in Haiti, constructing a Model Campus offers an opportunity to build

from a vision rather than out of necessity, and it will demonstrate the transformative power of The LCS Network. "The Model Campus will be the proof of concept," he explained.

In addition to the construction of the Model Campus (LCS 2), this phase of The LCS Network plan includes the development of the sites and initial buildings of LCS 3 and 4. Each new school will be built in a different department of Haiti, increasing access to quality



SEAT members Patrick Brun (left) and Michael Moynihan (right) visit a potential LCS school location in Les Cayes in the Sud Department of Haiti with His Excellency Chibly Langlois, Cardinal of Haiti (left center), and pilot Bernard Celestin (right center).

education outside of the nation's capital.

More than just great schools, the Model Campus and all future LCS cam-

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## THP Highlights

**Beacon of Stability:** Recently, news outlets have given more attention to the ongoing instability in Haiti. While the situation is difficult, LCS has been able to keep its doors open and to provide some stability in an increasingly fragile country. Having weathered government failures, natural disasters, and difficult economic situations, we are proud that LCS has continuously been an oasis of stability delivering quality education and civic formation for over three decades. It is thanks to everyone's support and our courageous staff and students that makes it possible for us to continue to be the calm in the storm.

**Bishop's Blessing:** THP was honored to have Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of the Diocese of Providence bless THP's new Rhode Island office in October. Staff and volunteers gathered for the ceremony as Bishop Tobin prayed that THP's "labor in the vineyard for the education and formation of those in Haiti will be fruitful." We are extremely grateful for the support of Bishop Tobin, the Diocese of Providence, and all of the parishes and dioceses throughout the country who support THP and its mission to provide lasting change in Haiti through education!

**3...2...1...Success!** We know that a mission is only as strong as the community that sends it! The basis of our mission strength was made clear by the success of our first online social fundraising event, *Countdown to Change*. The 30-day campaign invited community members to create personalized online fundraisers to share through email, social media, and text message to encourage friends and family to support THP before the start of the new school year at LCS. Before the clock ran out, the campaign surpassed its 120-donation goal and made over 60 new friends to support THP's mission!

# A Soulful Formation through Mentorship

by HPN Staff

Last year, Pope Francis made the following comment at a conference for Catholic educators: *We need to give a soul to the global world through an intellectual and moral formation that can support the good things that globalization brings and correct the harmful ones.*

Since the early 1980s, THP has been inspired by the Holy Spirit to make education—as well as soulful formation—available to talented and motivated children whose families cannot afford the cost of their children's education.

In addition to serving the students of LCS Santo 5, THP has provided education and mentorship to hundreds of other children and adults in Port-au-Prince through its community outreach programs. It was THP Director of Community Development Christina Moynihan who led the movement to share the school's resources and values with its more vulnerable neighbors not long after she moved to Haiti with her husband, THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan, and their children in 1996.

LCS Santo 5 is located in a quiet neighborhood on a dead-end street. This was conducive to creating relationships with the *vwazen* (neighbors), and soon the



Christina Moynihan teaches Sizyem students at LCS Santo 5.

neighbors' needs became evident.

First, THP began distributing potable water to the zone, the area around the school. Then a tutoring program was established so that Louverturians could share their education with others.

Next, with the help of two US Volunteers, Christina pioneered a child developmental center in order to help keep

families in the zone together. Finally, *Kan Dete* (summer camp) was created to continue supporting the *vwazens* and their desire for more education and formation for their little ones.

Christina takes a personal interest in the well-being of LCS's neighbors. She has advocated for young children who were not enrolled in school because their families could not afford the cost of their education and helped them secure scholarships to local elementary schools.

Thanks to her mentorship and the tutoring provided by LCS's community outreach programs, some of these students have even been able to attend LCS for their secondary education.

Once they have entered LCS, the neighborhood children's stories are hardly different from those of any Louverturians—they pass Haiti's national exam, attain university degrees, and work in professional careers where they earn enough to take care of themselves and their families.

With support and mentorship, these young people transcend an extremely disadvantaged situation to a future full of hope and achievement. In turn, they work to build a more peaceful, just, and prosperous country for themselves and their communities, giving a soul to a global world.

## The Model Campus

(continued from page 1)

puses are designed to be anchor institutions that positively integrate into their local communities, providing resources and socio-economic support to stimulate each community's natural development. These "smart campuses" also expand upon LCS's legacy of environmental stewardship through innovative green technologies like solar panels, biogas solutions, and more.

Jimi Grondin, LCS Volunteer alumnus and Site Evaluation and Advisory Team (SEAT) manager, will oversee everything from picking the site of each campus to training

a dynamic, two-person team consisting of a physical plant engineer and an accountant that will oversee construction. For Grondin, choosing the right individuals and training them to work collaboratively to ensure construction goes according to plan and that the campus runs properly is the most daunting and edifying aspect of the project. "Things will get built—we have proven we can do that. But, training people and taking care of them, that is the whole point of building a better Haiti through education," he stated.

At this critical juncture in The LCS Network plan, THP needs its community more than ever. "A mission is only as strong as the community that sends it," THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan asserted.

Whether it is a small donation or picking up staff and volunteers from the airport, all contributions matter. "The home role, saying 'I have your back' and giving staff the courage and the gumption to go out and do the work, is so important. The Moynihans have received it and could never have done 25 years of mission work without that support," he continued.

With the home community fully behind The LCS Network, THP's staff and volunteers are ready to put their experience and wisdom to work and take this monumental step towards a brighter future for Haiti. To learn more about The LCS Network and the Model Campus, visit [www.haitianproject.org/louverture-clearly-schools-network](http://www.haitianproject.org/louverture-clearly-schools-network).



## LCS Student View

*Jeantilus Andréa, Sekond student (US 11th grade)*

My name is Jeantilus Andréa, I am fifteen years old and in *Sekond* (US 11<sup>th</sup> grade) at Louverture Cleary School. I live at Bon Repos with my godmother, who is a teacher, and my aunt, who is an accountant.

For me, an LCS education relates to morality and leads to change (in a good way). It makes us see the world a bit better. It also forms us for a better future because it opens our eyes to see what is bad in society and that we should change it. In this way, it prepares us to be good leaders and helps us to understand the concept of leadership.

My favorite thing about LCS is the education, along with my friends and the equality between us. We sleep in the same room, we eat the same food, and we study together. It is at LCS that I am able to talk with my friends. We show respect to each other by accepting everyone's opinion. Then we know the value of every human.

I could say that I don't have a favorite subject, but if I had to pick, I would say: languages, mathematics, chemistry, and



*LCS Sekond (US 11th grade) student Jeantilus Andréa (left) and Twazyèm (US 10th grade) student Voltaire Bill James-Sky .*

religion. I am involved in sports and languages at LCS. I have been a member of the girls' soccer team for four years and play the position of defender. I enjoy playing basketball at school as well. I am also working on becoming a great leader and communicating well with everyone

in our community.

My plan for the future is to succeed so that I can help my country leave the situation it is in. I have to work hard for this. I will also continue to fight for equality between all people. I think as a Louverturian I should have this as my mission.

## LCS Student View

*Voltaire Bill James-Sky, Twazyèm student (US 10th grade)*

Hello, my name is Voltaire Bill James-Sky and I am in *Twazyèm* (US 10<sup>th</sup> grade) at Louverture Cleary School. I was born in Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite and lived there until I was six. Now I live with my aunt in Gerald. I am 16 years old.

After my mother told me about LCS, at first I was afraid about coming to LCS because I had to spend the week away from my family. When I saw how LCS was a good school, I was happy to be here.

Going to school at LCS has been a new

discovery for me. I have discovered myself, my talents, and who I am. It is at LCS that I saw the reason why I am living.

When I first entered LCS I was shy, but after being here I began to believe in myself. I have gained maturity and can see what I have the ability to do now. I have begun to think about how I can change Haiti because LCS has helped me to believe that I can. I now know that education is the key to success for each person and for Haiti.

At LCS I am involved in the debate club. My favorite subject is math, I am one of the best at it in my class. I also love playing soccer with my friends at school. The best part of LCS is the community which

***"I have begun to think about how I can change Haiti because LCS has helped me to believe that I can. I now know that education is the key to success for each person and for Haiti."—Voltaire Bill James-Sky***

has become like a family. We share everything and live as brothers and sisters.

In the future I want to study technology or medicine. I would also like to create an organization with the students who are in my class and others who have graduated from LCS to share what we have learned at school to change the country of Haiti. I know I want to live my life for Haiti.

# Living Without Barriers

By Abigail Knapp (THP Volunteer '18-'19)

When Jack and Anna Wall first learned about THP and LCS, they knew they wanted to become involved with the community. Both Chicago natives, Jack and Anna met while attending Loyola University in Chicago. Both pursued careers in the medical field: Jack worked as a doctor while Anna taught nursing classes. They have been married since 1958 (62 years!) and have five children. Happily retired now in Crystal Lake, Illinois—their hometown of over 50 years—they love spending time with their children and 15 grandchildren.

The Walls became involved with THP after attending a presentation by former THP employee Tim Scordato at their church, St. Thomas the Apostle. In 2011, they visited LCS on a weeklong service trip with Fr. Jerome Koutnik of the Diocese of Rockford. Jack spent his days working in the medical field in Port-au-Prince and in the evenings spent time at the school with the Moynihan family and service trip group. Anna worked directly with the students on various projects around the campus including gardening, painting, and organizing the library. She also worked alongside THP Director of Community Development Christina Moynihan with the neighborhood children who were part of the *Koukouy Sen Kle* (Fireflies of St. Clare) Early Childhood Development Center.

LCS students are always excited to receive visitors. “I remember all the kids wanted to practice their English,” Anna said. “I tried to be with the kids as much as I could.”

This experience enabled the Walls to see firsthand how impactful an LCS education is for children in Haiti. In particular, Jack and Anna were struck by the work ethic demonstrated by the students both inside and outside the classroom.

For LCS students, work is integral to success—whether it be attentively studying or participating in Work Hour around campus. Jack reflects, “I will

never forget being in the school at night. In the dimly lit hallways that were mostly outside, the kids were studying. Their diligence was impressive. They understood what having an education meant for them...it’s great to see that all these kids who are going to college have the concept in their minds that they are going to help their country.”

While in Haiti, the Walls worked closely with the Moynihan family. Jack and Anna remember spending the evenings in captivating discussions with Fr. Koutnik and THP President Deacon

Patrick Moynihan about an array of topics such as economics and religion.

The Walls brought a great energy to the campus and were prepared to give 100 percent to whatever task arose. When asked about the Walls, Deacon Moynihan recalled, “What is most amazing about the Walls is not their charitable support, but that they physically came to the school at what some might consider a somewhat advanced age—yet they were, and still are, a picture of youth.”

Besides visiting the school, the Walls have been involved in the Project in numerous other ways. They are regular contributors to THP and have worked with their church on fundraising and raising awareness. Throughout the years, the Walls have also opened their home to THP community members. One weekend, they had every bedroom in their home filled with THP board members who were in town for a board meeting!

Part of the reason the Walls have remained committed to the Project for



Jack and Anna Wall of Crystal Lake, IL, have been strong supporters of THP since visiting LCS in 2011.

so many years is because they believe education is the answer. Both are excited about the prospect of having nine additional schools modeled after LCS and rooted in the teachings of Matthew 10:8, “What you receive for free, you should give for free.”

Jack and Anna both agree, “Our experience there was transformative... and that’s why we remain involved.”

## BE A LOCAL THP VOLUNTEER!

Interested in helping THP in your own community? We can ALWAYS use help with events, community housing, rides to and from the airport, and local advocacy. Contact THP today at 401-351-3624 to get involved!



## A Woman with Great Dreams

by Djim Guerrier (LCS '14, Head of the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement)

Marly Morland has been working as a tutor in the *Koukouy Sen Kle* (Fireflies of St. Clare) Early Childhood Development Center since 2015. This program welcomes children from the neighborhood of Santo 5 where LCS is located, and other areas around it, whose parents cannot afford to send them to primary school. The program was originally initiated by THP Director of Community Christina Moynihan to support neighborhood families and stop the practice of giving children up to orphanages—a practice often enticed by those who run orphanages.

Marly is also very involved in the community life unfolding at LCS. She participates in daily Work Hour, is present at night to help the Junior Staff keep an eye on students during study hours, participates in work projects on weekends, and whenever there is a celebration at the school, Marly is always present to help the *Koukouy Sen Kle* dance group to prepare for their performances.

A woman with great dreams, Marly is about to earn her license in administration with a minor in tourism management from university. Her first dream is to create a *Koukouy* program in her neighborhood. For Marly, "There should be a *Koukouy Sen Kle* in every neighborhood in Haiti."

Marly believes that such programs can help her neighborhood have lower juvenile delinquency, less child abuse, a lower infant mortality rate, and help keep families together. According to Marly, since her education helped her escape from certain situations that are likely to seal the fate of young women from her neighborhood, she wishes to offer the same opportunities to more children, especially girls from communities like hers, to have a better future through education.

Thanks in part to the *Koukouy Sen Kle*

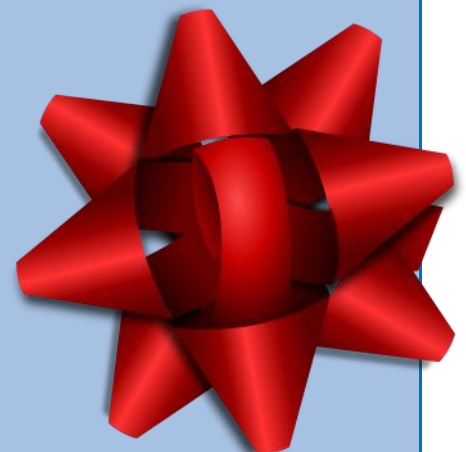


Marly Morland (left) sings with children from the Santo 5 neighborhood in LCS's *Koukouy Sen Kle* Early Childhood Development Center.

program that has been the inspiration for two of her biggest dreams, Marly is well on her way to making a positive difference in Haiti.

## This holiday season, there are several ways to give gifts that keep on giving!

- **The Gift of an Education:** When you make a donation in any amount to THP in honor of friend or family member this Christmas, THP will send your loved one a Christmas card notifying them of the gift given in their honor. Visit [www.haitianproject.org/donate](http://www.haitianproject.org/donate) to sign up.
- **Host a Holiday Party for Haiti:** In the spirit of giving, bring family and friends together and host a Holiday Party for Haiti to benefit THP! Already planning a gathering? Great! It's easy to incorporate THP in your event. Call THP at 401-351-3624 for more information.
- **AmazonSmile:** Support THP while you shop! Sign up at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).



**CONTACT THE HAITIAN PROJECT FOR MORE INFORMATION AT:  
1-401-351-3624 or [development@haitianproject.org](mailto:development@haitianproject.org)**

# Remembering the 2010 Earthquake

by Brian Rhodes (THP Volunteer '04-'05)

Watch for a special edition of *Haitian Project News* coming out in early January with more personal accounts from members of the Volunteer community who were on the ground on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 4:53pm when the 7.0 earthquake struck.

I remember January 12, 2010 very well. It is a day I will never forget. Arriving home late from school, I saw *The New York Times* headline: Fierce Quake Devastates Haitian Capital. I remember arriving at school the next morning and breaking down to my principal as I attempted to explain what had happened.

I did not teach anything that day related to my academic subject. Instead my students listened to my stories and asked me questions about Haiti. I worried for my students in Haiti, for their families, and for the future of the country. This was a moment where I cried out "Why God? How could you possibly allow this to happen to Haiti?" I always knew Haiti had had a huge impact and imprint on my life, but up to that day I don't think I understood quite the magnitude of my love for LCS, the students, and the country.

Five months after the disaster struck, THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan invited me back to LCS to teach and help the Volunteers who had been working endless, exhausting hours. I arrived to see many of my former students now in leadership roles. The downtown was still in ruins, but LCS continued to be the oasis it has always been. Makeshift portable classrooms were set up on the soccer field, students had been moved into safe dorms, and the pulse of the Louverturians beat on. I covered Spanish classes and was amazed by the attention to detail and concentration of the students.

Our students, armed with four languages, great interpersonal skills, and sharp minds, hit the streets. They translated for international doctors and military personnel. They worked to dig Haitians out of the rubble. They put all of their skills to use to help in the recovery. People were amazed by the caliber of our students' English and Spanish, along with their French and native Kreyòl.

Back at LCS, architects and engineers immediately went to work assessing the damage and ensuring that the dormitories



Photo taken by Brian Rhodes in 2010 after he returned to Haiti after the earthquake.

would be safe from aftershocks. One dorm was deemed unsafe and already tight quarters got even tighter. Our students did not complain. They are used to adapting and are well equipped to make the most of their situation. When a wall fell on the school grounds, injuring a few of the students, the student body immediately brought these students to safety. Students at LCS overcame this tragedy by getting immediately to work, living the motto that they had painted on the campus well before the quake: *We are ready to rebuild Haiti, are you?*

Students at LCS today, as in 2010, are resourceful, hard-working and resilient. They are everything that a teacher could possibly want in the classroom. The spirit that has enveloped LCS for over 30 years continues to produce great results in the community.

When disaster struck on January 12, 2010, I knew our small oasis in Santo 5 would not only be fine, but that the students and staff would be ready and willing to rebuild Haiti. For all of us who have been touched by this special place, even in today's turbulent times, we are lucky to have a place like Louverture Cleary, a place full of future resilient leaders capable of making significant change in their country.

As I reflect on these last 10 years, I understand more than ever the need for nine more schools throughout Haiti as we build The LCS Network. We need to do exactly what LCS has been doing for over three decades—to rebuild Haiti.

LCS is ready to rebuild Haiti, are you?

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### Mission Statement

*The Haitian Project through its support of Louverture Cleary Schools, a national network of tuition-free, Catholic, co-educational secondary boarding schools in Haiti, provides for the education of academically-talented and motivated students from Haitian families who cannot afford the cost of their children's education in order to maximize their potential and enable them to work toward building a Haiti where justice and peace thrive.*

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