Dear Friends,

This fall has been a busy time for us in Haiti. As you may have heard, Haiti has experienced several months of ongoing, violent political protests, which have left schools and businesses shut down and led to shortages in fuel and electricity. Families who rely on daily income have been without work and soaring prices have added to the burden of a limited income.

All of the non-profit organizations operating in Haiti have been affected and Habitat for Humanity Haiti is, unfortunately, no exception. During this challenging time, we have continued to operate the best we can, while also prioritizing the safety of our staff and beneficiaries. Office closures and fuel shortages have affected our day-to-day operating environment. However, our determined staff have continued to push through, and we remain confident that we will continue to meet all our project goals. In fact, during this time, we hit 300 new homes and 1,500 repaired homes for families in the south of Haiti as part of our Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts, and we completed the training of 70 local builders and seven new homes for families in the north of Haiti affected by the earthquake in October 2018. You can see a photo of one of those new homes below.

While the crisis has affected our staff both personally and professionally, I am proud of the determined, resilient team we have in Haiti and the many ways they have overcome this stressful environment to continue serving families in need of decent housing. Thank you for continuing to keep Haiti and the Habitat staff in your thoughts and prayers.

As always, I would like to share our sincere thanks for your support in changing lives and building hope in Haiti. We wish all the best to you and your families during this holiday season and we look forward to working with you in 2020.

Blessings,
Jean Frenel Tham
National Director

60,000+ families served since 1984
Street Lighting in Canaan

Since 2011, Habitat for Humanity Haiti has been working in Canaan, Haiti’s fourth largest city on a variety of short-term development and long-term disaster response projects. Recently, Habitat Haiti installed an additional 30 solar lamps in Canaan. Solar lamps support community development and help to reduce violence, especially violence against women. We have been working in Canaan since 2014 and have installed over 200 solar lamps to date.

Jean, the principal of a school in Canaan.

A solar lamp installed in a key location identified with input from community leaders and Habitat Haiti staff.

Jean is the principal of a primary and secondary school in Canaan serving 180 students. Habitat Haiti installed a solar lamp in front of his school, which he says was critical for students because now they can stay after class and study under the lamp.

The presence of the solar lamp has had a social and economic impact as well. The small businesses now stay open late and new businesses are being created. There are at least two new vendors in the area selling food.

Insecurity was a major concern for people in the community because there were numerous cases of theft and aggression but with the lamps the insecurity has dropped a lot and residents feel more secure.

Waste Management in Simon Pelé

In Haiti, plastic bottles clog and obstruct sewers. As a result, there is extensive flooding when it rains. Last month, Habitat Haiti arranged a training on waste management and recovery with several Simon-Pele schools. Activities were focused on demonstrating and encouraging students to reduce waste by reusing plastic. The children learned to make a broom.

After two weeks of training, they were very grateful and happy. They were very motivated to learn an alternative way to recycle plastic bottles. The ongoing resilience work throughout Simon Pelé through our water and sanitation program will help the community prepare for a better future.
Meet a Habitat Family:
Despite losing her home during Hurricane Matthew, Micheline (left) is focused on the future. Micheline is the mother of two boys, ages 4 and 7. She and her husband are farmers. They grow cassava and watch over livestock. They also make charcoal that her husband sells in the market. Earlier this year, the family received keys to their new home. Slowly but surely, Micheline and her family are rebuilding their lives.

Young Adult Masonry Training

Habitat For Humanity Haiti and a local organization, the Konbite to Strengthen Local Actions (KORAL) have partnered on a project aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of masons in the South where Habitat Haiti is building homes.

With a focus on housing construction, this project offers two types of training for 30 individuals: a practical training called “schoolyard” for 15 experienced masons and carpenters and a professional training in masonry for 15 young people starting out in the construction field.

Before this training, these young people had no knowledge of construction. The training program focuses on home construction, especially masonry work. This project is an opportunity to give hope to economically and socially vulnerable young people. At the end of this program, students will have the skills to support their community.
Did you know Habitat Haiti has over 50 full-time staff members working in Haiti? We’re excited to introduce you to the talented members who make up our hardworking team!

Staff Spotlight:
Barthelemy Louis Mary Leon
Associate Program Director

Where are you from? I am a native Haitian. I was born in Cap-Haitian, Haiti’s second largest city located in the north of Haiti.

How long have you been with Habitat Haiti? 13 years. One as an international consultant and 12 as a full-time employee.

What are your primary job responsibilities? Since 2010, I have been the Associate Director of Programs working with the Program Director in the development of new initiatives and opportunities. I am also a project manager, overseeing the implementation of our disaster response projects and water, sanitation and hygiene projects, which aim to improve living conditions and strengthen community resilience to natural disasters.

What is something people might not know about your job? It is more than a job. It is kind of “sacerdoce.” It requires lots of commitment and hearted empathy as it is about serving vulnerable people.

What is your favorite memory of your time with Habitat? There are too many to remember a particular one, but the happiness you see in the eyes of a beneficiary entering a safe new home is unforgettable.

What do you like to do when you’re not working? At night, I like playing guitar and singing popular old French and Haitian songs. During the day, I enjoy home improvement projects. I also watch movies or play sudoku.

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