



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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Moving The LCS Network Forward Despite Challenges

by Jimi Grondin (THP Director of New School Construction)

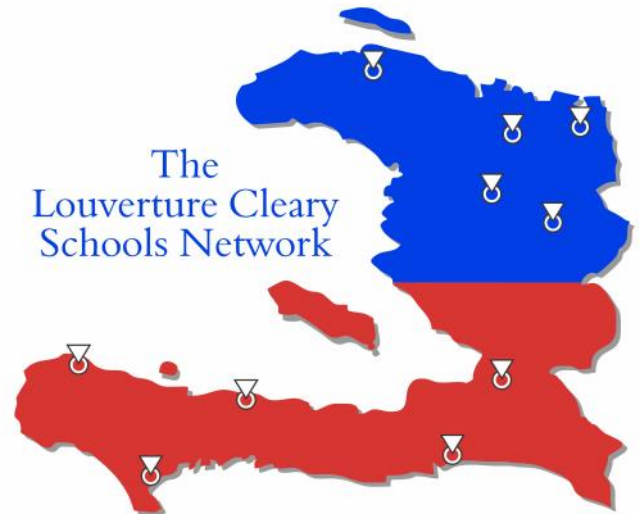
The COVID-19 pandemic and instability in Haiti have made travel and other activities in the country considerably more challenging, causing many activities to take much longer than usual. Nevertheless, The Haitian Project (THP) continues to push steadily forward with the creation of The Louverture Cleary Schools (LCS) Network, a national system of 10 top-notch, tuition-free, Catholic secondary boarding schools stretching across the country.

Building on the decades-long success of LCS Santo 5, each new school

in the Network will be established in a different diocese/department of Haiti, increasing access to quality education outside of the nation's capital.

The importance of this undertaking has only been made clearer by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a country that has just one-tenth the number of doctors per capita as the United States, 25 percent of LCS graduates go on to pursue careers in medicine.

Working with diocesan and private sector partners in Haiti, THP and Fondation Haitian Project (FHP), THP's partner foundation in Haiti, have located viable sites for the next



three schools: one each in the northern peninsula, central plateau, and southern peninsula regions. FHP is currently working out details on the leases or title transfers for these properties.

The first phase of the Network is
(continued on page 3)

Committed to the Value of Education: LCS Looks Ahead After State Exams

by Amanda Haluga (THP Director of Charism & Missionary Program)

In Haiti, each school year is punctuated by two state exams: the exam required for *Katryèm* (US 9th grade) students to advance from the fundamental curriculum to the secondary, and the Baccalaureate exam required for *Philo* (US 12th grade +1) students to officially complete secondary school and apply to university.

While these exams are usually held

in July, this year they were delayed until October when schools completed the 2019-2020 school year, which had been interrupted by frequent political unrest and then by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having already met the Ministry of Education's abbreviated 2019-2020 school day requirement, Louverture Cleary School Santo 5 (LCS) was able to spend the summer and early fall looking ahead to the new academic year instead of wrapping up the last one. The school's administration

focused on the meticulous planning necessary for the school's eventual reopening, made considerably more complex by LCS being one of the few boarding schools in Haiti.

The school hosted the *Katryèm* class and the 2020 *Philo* graduates separately for a week of exam prep and then again during their actual exam periods. Having only one class on campus at a time allowed for necessary hygienic practices and social distancing while providing the students with important final instruction in a focused environment with reliable electricity and nutrition.

(continued on page 4)

A Letter from The Haitian Project's President



THP President Reese Grondin

To our deeply appreciated THP Community:

2020 has been a year of many challenges. While the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic continues, with hopeful progress on the vaccine front we pray that we may finally begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Through the dedication and hard work of our team here in the U.S. and our colleagues in Haiti, THP has made a real difference with our COVID response. From providing steady paychecks to help staff and teachers navigate the crisis and support their families, to providing 2,400 reusable masks to the school community, to providing direct food support to community partners integral to our mission—we are there for our community in Haiti.

We are well positioned to serve not only through the support of those who have given generously in 2020, but also thanks to those who have supported us in years past—whether they were able to continue that support in this difficult year or not.

THP will continue to expand our impact as we increase access to education in Haiti through the construction of The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, with plans to

break ground on the second school in the coming months—a historic moment in THP's 30 year history.

Our students and graduates ARE the change that Haiti needs to move forward. When we see graduates like Dr. Jhonny Fequierre (LCS '00) striving to help patients during the pandemic in an inadequate healthcare system, or Lyncée Charles (LCS '20) placing third in the ENTIRE NATION with her essay arguing for the importance of the social contract and effective governance, it is impossible not to appreciate that more Louverture Cleary Schools means a brighter future for Louverturians and their country as a whole.

The path forward is only achievable through the community of people that walk beside us—we could not do any of this without your support.

If you are among those able to give, please help keep the wind in our sails and move our mission forward at this historic moment. Please continue or even increase your support this year. It remains a year where we can use all the help we can get, and your help is the help we have to give!

Whether you gave in past years or in this year, whether you hope to give again down the road or are simply keeping our mission in your prayers—I want to extend our sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you.

We pray that you and all your loved ones remain safe and well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reese Grondin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line at the end.

Reese Grondin
President, The Haitian Project

Did you know there are many ways to support The Haitian Project?

- **Donate online** at HaitianProject.org where it is easy (and very helpful) to set up a recurring donation (sign up once and you are good to go!)
- Donate through **Venmo**: @TheHaitianProject
- Make a legacy contribution through **Planned Giving**
- Participate in your employer's **Corporate Matching Gifts Program**
- Give the gift of **Stock or Mutual Funds**
- **Donations can also be mailed** to The Haitian Project

Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate for more information on these various options, or contact us at 401-351-3624 or by email at development@haitianproject.org.

"I have set up a recurring donation to THP because of how much my three years as a Volunteer at LCS shaped my image of the world and my understanding of how there are good ways and bad ways of helping people. The Haitian Project is one of the good ways."—Brendan Kelly (THP Volunteer '15-'18)

Louverture's Success Highlights LCS's Excellence

by THP Staff

Louverture Cleary School students and graduates are known as Louvertureans because they embody the values of the school community: working hard, placing others before themselves, and committing to building a brighter future for their country. A recent success of graduate Lyncée Charles (LCS '20) highlighted this work ethic while once again showing that LCS students receive an outstanding education at one of the top schools in Haiti.

After the COVID-19 pandemic brought her final year at LCS to a halt in March, Lyncée and her peers had to return home to quarantine and continue their studies in alternate ways. While looking for ways to stay engaged and active during this challenging time, Lyncée discovered that a Haitian cultural institution, the Centre Muse Haïti, was holding a national essay competition about the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to one of five possible prompts, Lyncée wrote an essay addressing the mistrust and skepticism many Haitians feel toward their government and whether this mistrust permits citizens to disregard the government's pandemic response

policies. She reflected on how the people of Haiti may distrust the state because of corruption, lack of transparency, and a lack of support for even the basic needs of the population living in poverty.

In spite of these challenges, true to her Louverturean formation, her essay remained focused on the path forward, concluding that the seriousness of the virus and the importance of the protocols implemented should rise above negative feelings toward the Haitian government. This, she reasoned, was imperative to protect the health and well-being of Haitians and to not create another tragedy for an already suffering people.

After LCS Principal Marjorie Mombrun (LCS '07) was informed in September that Lyncée had placed in the top ten entries in the country, they attended a socially-distanced award ceremony to learn that Lyncée



Lyncée Charles (LCS '20) at the Centre Muse Haïti award ceremony

had placed third overall in the national contest!

Principal Mombrun reflects, "I am proud of Lyncée. She decided on her own to participate in the competition and was awarded third place. Once again, LCS is top in the country, proof that our students receive a great education. It elevates the reputation of the school and reminds everyone that LCS aims for excellence."

Moving the Network Forward Despite Challenges

cont. from page one

the construction of the Model Campus, which can then be replicated across Haiti. While LCS's flagship school 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. The Model Campus addresses this issue as an

easily-replicated, safe and constructive environment for the formation of Haiti's future leaders that expands upon LCS's legacy of environmental stewardship through innovative green technologies.

Work is expected to begin on the Model Campus at one of the three locations in the coming months.

Enthusiasm for The LCS Network in Haiti could not be higher. Once it is safe to resume more frequent travel within the country, the search for the remaining locations will progress with the help and support of Haiti's Bishops, all of whom have expressed great enthusiasm for the Network.

To learn more, visit www.haitianproject.org/louverture-cleary-schools-network.

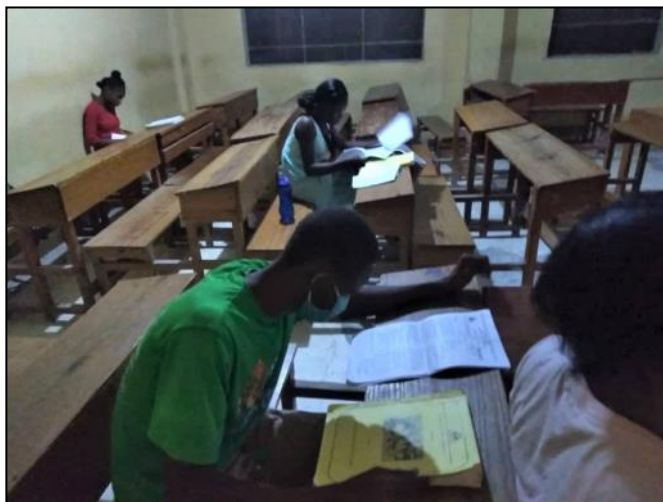
Committed to the Value of Education

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The fact that the state exams took place successfully in the context of the pandemic and continued political unrest was a remarkable show of determination by the students, the Ministry of Education, and the country of Haiti.

This accomplishment was not without adversity for our own 2020 *Philo* graduates, who had to take refuge in the town square due

to unrest and gunfire in the area at the end of their final test day. Thankfully, none of them were hurt, and they were able to return safely to LCS that evening.



LCS *Philo* graduates preparing for the Baccalaureate exam in October

The students' commitment to persevering through such a difficult situation underscores how important their education is to them, their families, and their country.

Looking for a thoughtful gift for a teacher, friend, family member, or just about anyone else?

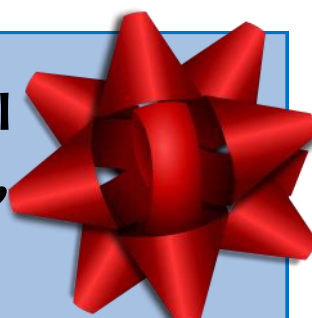
Give the Gift of Education, it is the gift that never stops giving!

Make a donation in any amount to The Haitian Project in honor of a friend or family member this holiday season, and THP will send your loved one a Christmas card notifying them of the gift given in their honor. Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate, or fill out and return the enclosed form to sign up.

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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.

To donate, visit

www.haitianproject.org, Venmo at @TheHaitianProject, or mail checks payable to The Haitian Project.

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The Haitian Project

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