

## 2016 Annual Report



**Building Shelter. Building Relationships. Building Futures.**

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President: Rick Wilkerson  
 Vice President: Cristina Binzer  
 Treasurer: Doug Hart  
 Secretary: Sean Barry  
 Facilitator: Barb Wilkerson  
 Mike Koenecke  
 Kirk Stauss

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## Our Mission

The charitable, educational, and humanitarian support of children of the developing world for a sustainable future.

LOVE Takes Root was founded with a mission of cultivating the future of children worldwide. The foundation's goals are to improve the lives of children through the provision of shelter, education, and health, with the goal of a self-sustaining community.

## Current Project: Secondary School Completed at La Concorde



LOVE Takes Root completed the final building phase at La Concorde. The secondary school, built by an all Haitian contractor and crew, opened in September 2016. It is a two story building with 11 classrooms, a bathroom, and an administrative office. The first class of 7<sup>th</sup> graders started in September. The expansion plan is to add one new grade each year. This is an important part of empowering La Concorde, the Jacmel community, and the country of Haiti.

“One of the most powerful tools for empowering individuals and communities is making certain that any individual who wants to receive a quality education can do so.”- C. Gregoire

## Celebrating our Success

*LOVE Takes Root President Dr. Rick Wilkerson reflects on 2016*



The response this year, from both our donors in the United States and our partners in Haiti, has been humbling. We needed to raise the final funds for finishing the secondary school by June. With the work of our dedicated LOVE Takes Root volunteers, we produced a new video showing the progress of our mission, had our 4th Annual Golf Outing event, hosted a fundraising dinner, and reached out to many donors. We made our goal and classes started at the La Concorde Secondary School in September. On the ground in Haiti, 2016 was busy as well. La Concorde had a change in administration and, to support the sustainability of the project, a LTR board member, along with their family, volunteered to stay in Jacmel for an extended period. Our Haitian partners faced a difficult time in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in October, but demonstrated their growing skill set by assessing, prioritizing, and implementing immediate action to repair the damage. The school was open the next week and I

was humbled by how far we had come.

The next years will be devoted to our goal of making La Concorde self-sufficient.

Establishment of a water filtration system and evaluation of alternative energy sources to support the highest quality of life for the children of La Concorde will support our mission of self-sufficiency in Haiti. Thank you all for joining the LOVE Takes Root journey.

## Empowering Minds



La Concorde has 232 students enrolled in the Primary School and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade of the secondary school this year. The children from the orphanage do not pay for school but the children from the community pay tuition. This is the business plan for creating La Concorde's sustainable future. But the goal of the administration at La Concorde School is to make sure it is the best school a child can attend. They believe that a good education brings much success to an individual and to Haiti.

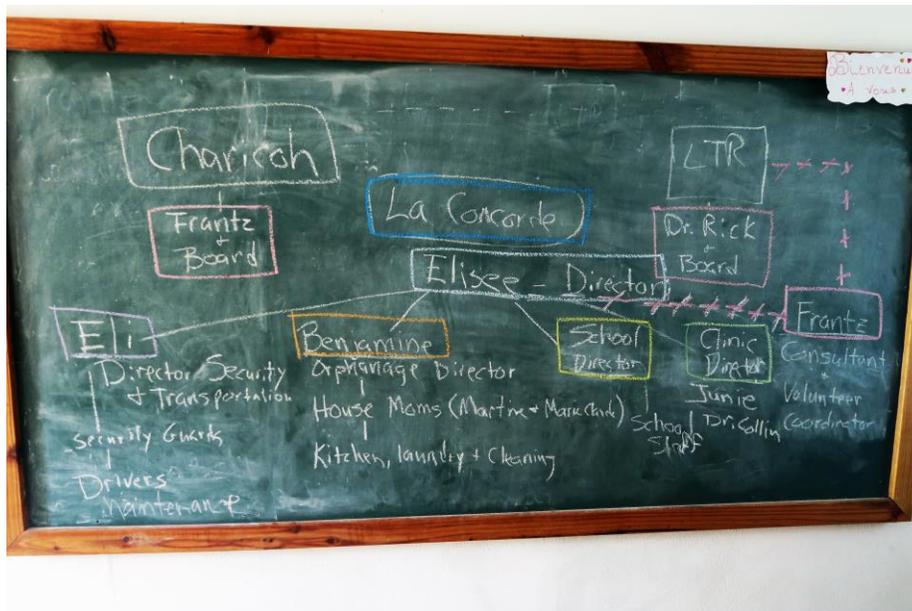
LOVE Takes Root supported the future of that reality with starting the first ever Teachers In-service at La Concorde facilitated by a volunteer instructor. The Haitian teachers learned about the 4 Cs. Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity. The goal is to implement this type of instruction throughout all grades at La Concorde, while also embracing the Haitian Ministry of Education Curriculum.

## Empowering Independence

Each of the 62 children at the orphanage has a sponsor. As much as clean water, shelter, and healthy food make a difference to a child, stable relationships are also important. LOVE Takes Root finds 2 sponsors for each child, and both the child and the sponsors are encouraged to keep in contact with one another. Through this relationship, the children can find a sense of connection, and to be looked at as an individual not just one group of children.

Beyond making a difference in the lives of 62 children by giving them a safe place to learn and grow, LOVE Takes Root works with the orphanage staff to teach them how to mentor self-value, independent thought, and lifelong organizational skills. For example, volunteers introduced the systems for bedtime and clothing storage to orphanage staff and now they can keep 62 children moving towards their independence.

LOVE Takes Root hosts ongoing mentoring meetings using technology and has a partner visit every two months. We are different from other NGOs in that most international organizations have someone from the nonprofit act as a director on site. We don't. We partner with the staff to foster understanding on how a business and organization can work, creating a sense of achievement for the orphanage staff as they succeed.



## Empowering Futures

Another unique component of LOVE Takes Root projects is our hope and expectation that each project, upon attaining self-sustainability, provides whatever financial support it can to the next LOVE Takes Root project. We expect the La Concorde Orphanage to be self-sustaining within five years. The five-year goal toward independence began once the school was completed in September 2014.

LOVE Takes Root will raise funds to install a water filtration system and gravity feed process so that clean water can be available to the orphanage, school and sold to the surrounding community. Funds for an alternative energy system using solar panels is planned so that electricity can be used daily at La Concorde. A computer lab functioning at La Concorde would increase the quality of education and be the only school of its kind to do so in south Haiti.

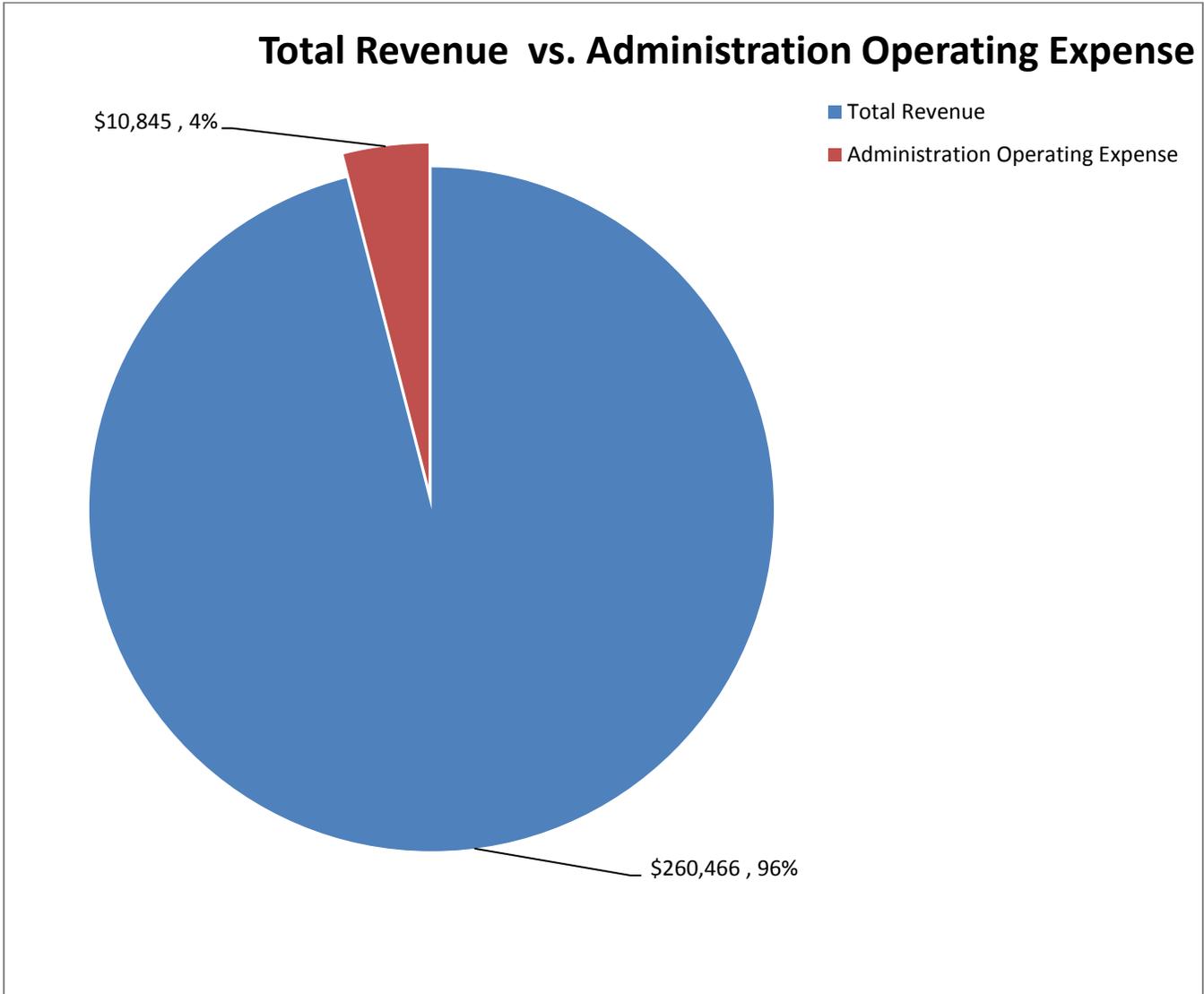


The goal of each child at La Concorde having 2 sponsors will be a focus of achievement in the coming year. As will the ongoing mentoring/coaching for care of the orphans. Emphasis will be placed on planning for the future of each child at La Concorde orphanage as an individual.

Mentoring in the Dental and Medical Clinics will be continued monthly through 2016. This will support the Haitian medical and dental professionals working with the clinic at La Concorde. For a small fee, local residents can receive care, which will go toward sustaining the facility.

Mentoring will be focused for the administration and running of an organization.

## 2016 Income & Expenses



LOVE Takes Root would like to thank all those who worked with the organization in 2016. It was a year with so much success and love shared by so many people. Each of you made a difference. It is possible to change the world for others with compassion and focus. The future of the children touched by your gift has been changed. It is with this that a generation can change - One life at a time. LOVE Takes Root Board of Directors thank you with gratefulness.

For more information about LOVE Takes Root, or to learn how you can get involved with our organization, visit us online at [www.lovetakesroot.org](http://www.lovetakesroot.org).

LOVE Takes Root c/o Barb Wilkerson  
P.O. Box 885  
Spencer, IA 51301

Phone: (855) 440-LOVE (5683)

