

2019 Annual Report



Advancing Leaders, Advancing Independence, Advancing Organization

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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 (LTR) 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: La Concorde Jacmel



School

A year of advancement has prepared La Concorde School to be self-sustaining in 2019! Even with all the unplanned issues of civil unrest, collapsed economy and food insecurity, the leadership skills mentored at La Concorde were put to the test and they accomplished the financial independence of La Concorde School.

Orphanage

LOVE Takes Root sponsors, Roots for a Child, will continue to support the children living at the orphanage. We have established three sponsors per child or \$150/month pays for schooling, books, uniform, food, self-care needs and vitamins. This also allows for survival in a fluctuating economy environment. The sponsors are key to the success of the children at the orphanage. The knowledge that you are somebody to someone we have learned is very powerful. The band also continues to be a huge success. The children practice constantly when not in school and sound beautiful when they play. Music to our hearts. The continuing development of LOVE Takes Flight to assist in the successful transition from orphan to productive citizen is becoming more of a focus of the LTR board. LTR is grateful for each individual on this journey.

“Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves.” Horace Mann

Reflections of 2019

LOVE Takes Root President Rick Wilkerson



The meaning of advancing is to move forward in a purposeful way, and 2019 has been a year of moving forward for both La Concorde in Haiti and LOVE Takes Root. This year had complications that were challenging for the country of Haiti and especially the people of Haiti. As the Haitian proverb “Deye mon, gen mon” implies, beyond mountains there are mountains. And we learned with adversity there can be an increase in capacity.

Advancing leaders are mountain climbers. The leaders at La Concorde were able to maintain and manage, while the country was experiencing civil unrest. They had the skill set to assess and make decisions for the best ways to keep everyone safe and well. They used the learned critical thinking skills to climb up the next mountain.

The administration at the school had the school financially independent earlier than the September 2019 deadline. They have not received funding to finance the private school since March 2019! This is a huge accomplishment. In addition, every student (enrollment 289 children) passed the National Haitian Exam in June 2019! A 100% pass rate is an amazing achievement. In 2019 LOVE Takes Root again provided Teacher Professional Development for Haitian teachers. The concepts learned have been applied to La Concorde school and are a welcome addition to teaching practices. The computer lab has been an important addition to the secondary school, giving opportunity to all school staff and students. The Band program is music to our ears! With all schools in Haiti closed during the 2019 Fall semester, the children at the orphanage were able to play daily and have become quite good.

The children at the orphanage are doing well despite the trauma of this past year. Food was scarce for a period of time because of inability to transport food due to gas shortage, and the Haitian economy failing. LOVE Takes Root and the amazing volunteers and donors were able to address these issues.

2019 also was a year of LTR stateside changes and climbing to an additional project using the values and lessons we have learned. 2020 we will be defining the LOVE Takes Root future project. We are ready for another mountain!

Advancing Leaders



Civil unrest was prevalent in 2019 for Haiti. Many non-profit organizations in Haiti had their in-country director need to leave the country to return to the safety of home. That left behind untrained personal in the area of leadership vulnerable and experience additional stress. LOVE Takes Root has used and empowering and mentoring relationships with our Haitian partners, they were prepared and confident to continue with administration duties and functioning of the facility because of their leadership skill set. They are familiar with being in charge and leaders. The mentors of many universities, colleges and volunteers partnering with LOVE Takes Root provided invaluable advanced leaders.

It was also noted by the La Concorde Administration staff how leadership was demonstrated in the older children at the orphanage. They formed teaching groups for the younger children, and held “school” daily. They also organized band practice and encouraged each other. This is the difference that LOVE Takes Root celebrates and can make an impact and difference in Haiti.

Advancing Independence

In 2019 even with all the extenuating circumstances La Concorde Primary School and Secondary School met the goal of being financially independent private school. The business principals they learned in 2019 were applied and provided a platform for independence is an accomplishment for both La Concorde and LOVE Takes Root.

La Concorde also had a 100 percent student pass rate in June 2019 Haitian National Exam. That means that all 289 students at La Concorde Primary and Secondary School passed the exam. This is a huge accomplishment. LOVE Takes Root acknowledges the work of teachers at La Concorde school and the volunteers of LOVE Takes Root education committee. In May 2019 a team again provided a week of continuing education to La Concorde and community teachers. This continuing support and professional development with dedicated Haitian teachers have made a difference.

Because of the riots across Haiti no schools were opened for the fall semester 2019. La Concorde is prepared to reopen and provide extra hours of instruction to supplement lost learning opportunity.



Advancing Organization

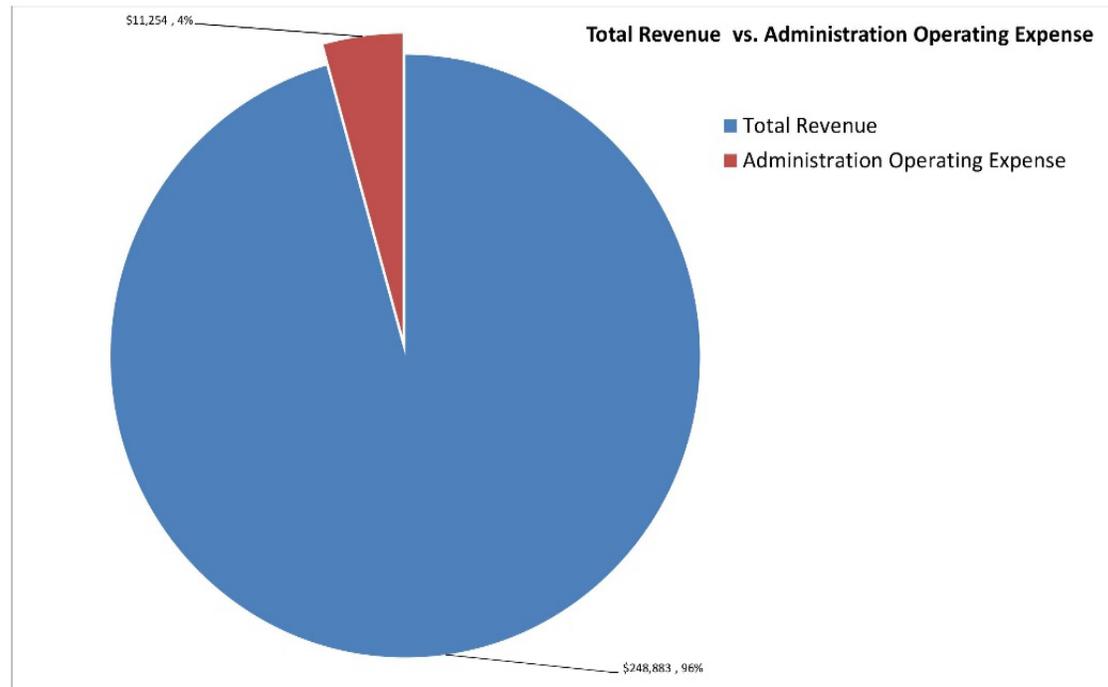
In 2019 LOVE Takes Root not only worked at advancing the project in Haiti but also the organization stateside. LOVE Takes Root continues to be an all-volunteer organization with less than 5 percent overhead expense. This allows LOVE Takes Root to do so much with donated funds that cultivate the futures of children in Haiti.

LOVE Takes Root had a change of board member and board positions in 2019. Visit our website www.lovetakesroot.org to learn about our newest board members. We are indebted for the passion, expertise and time spent in the establishment of LTR with our outgoing board members. As with our projects they will always be loved.

LOVE Takes Root had a board retreat in May 2019 to reflect on our journey and vision our next project. The board agreed that with our relationships, success and networking in Haiti that LTR will first investigate a second project in Jacmel, Haiti. LOVE Takes Root has started to have meetings with the Mayor, government staff and Jacmel community leaders to define the needs of children in the area. Project 2 kickoff is planned for 2020!



2019 Income & Expenses



LOVE Takes Root would like to thank all those who worked with the organization in 2019. It was a year with many trials but much 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. The LOVE Takes Root Board of Directors thanks 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.

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