

2020 Annual Report



READY, WILLING, ABLE

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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



Digging new septic after Hurricane Laura

Oh, what a year! For Jacmel, for Haiti, for the United States and for the world. The staff at La Concorde was ready, willing and able to continue all programming and solve problems during difficult situations. The mentoring model that the LTR board embraced, was put to the test and the Haitian staff was ready. The staff during difficult economic pressure, Hurricane Laura, increasing food insecurity and COVID-19 were willing to step out and make decisions for the children at La Concorde orphanage, the families of the children who attend school at La Concorde School and the surrounding community. And they were able!

School was closed during the 2019/2020 year. First due to civil unrest, then COVID-19. During this time the older children at the orphanage taught the younger children daily. The older children then studied in the late afternoons. School opened in September 2020. The children at the orphanage continued to practice the music instruments.

The Medical/Dental clinic was open by appointment only until August 2020 and now is open regular hours. They have identified a need for more physician time to staff clinic.

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.”- Winston Churchill

Reflections of 2020

LOVE Takes Root Executive Director Barbara Wilkerson



Who could plan for 2020? Who would know what challenges we would all face? But writing this at the beginning of 2021 brings the realization that the project at La Concorde and the staff were ready, willing and able to successfully navigate a difficult year. As an organization we are prepared to often take a few steps back before we move forward. With this philosophy we were able to stay positive, stable and encouraging throughout 2020. The loss of in person mentoring was difficult at first. With the inability for anyone to do Service Trips, it isolated all of us involved. Then the administration in Haiti were willing and learned Zoom. We continued mentoring and partnering as if we were there in person. LTR learned the importance of the model of mentoring. Because our staff was familiar with taking care of the orphanage, school, and clinic without our constant supervision, they were able to continue with confidence. The partnering relationships that were established from the beginning of this project made all parties willing to trust. This allowed the La Concorde staff to also provide community leadership and assist many in the community with much needed food. Stepping out to help others. Even when their needs were barely met. The stated they learned to give from all the LOVE Takes Root volunteers.

Hurricane Laura ran through Haiti in August 2020. It caused a lot of damage to the water system, well and septic. All the pumps were lost and unable to replace in country. A new septic system has been established and the well was fully dug out and is functioning again. They are still buying drinking water but the first Service Trip down will carry the parts to repair!

LTR was only able to hold one fundraiser in 2020. It was a social distanced Golf Event. This made the year of fundraising difficult but because of our sponsors for each child, we were able to maintain the support to the children in the orphanage. Our donors also were very generous and we are extremely thankful. Haiti was ranked 4th in the world for food insecurity in 2020 after Chad, Timor-Leste and Madagascar. Estimates that 42% of the population is in high acute food crisis. We are hoping that the last quarter of 2021 will see some fundraising events begin again.

The LTR Board continued to meet virtually and work during 2020. The transition of older teens from the orphanage to the community was a project that has been officially launched this year. LOVE Takes Flight is a Teen Launching program. There is an educational component with learning modules, a grant application process for accessing start up funds, and a Haitian mentoring match. There will be six teenagers launching in June of 2021 and everyone is excited. The teens are ready, willing and able. LTR was able to have summer interns again this year and we love the opportunity to learn with students.

As difficult as 2020 has been on everyone, we have had some silver linings. We learned how to communicate efficiently. How to meet effectively. We started a sponsor zoom update, quarterly. We talked directly to more people. We learned our Haitian staff was well prepared for the challenges and are effective leaders in their country. We also learned about the loving and giving hearts of our supporters, donors and volunteers to care for children that we could so easily forget. The organization is ready, willing and able to move to 2021 readjusting our goals and launching our new website. Thank you for joining the journey!

Ready Leadership



The teenagers ready to teach the younger children during COVID-19 shut down.

Able Futures

Transition from the Orphanage has been the priority for LOVE Takes Root this past year. It is so important to the future and impact for Haiti to have teens launch to become productive Haitian citizens. Many hours have been spent communicating with Haitians not just at La Concorde but from all areas of Haiti to identify the skill set needed to have a successful transition. The orphanage has been a safe, secure and caring environment. There is a lot for each launching teen to learn. Learning modules have been produced and translated into Creole. The topics covered include: health, well-being, money management and budgeting, risk behaviors, home and independent living skills. There are funding available from LOVE Takes Flight that are donated by sponsors in addition to their monthly donation and also by independent donors. These funds are for the purpose of providing grant money requested by a launching teen. The final goal is to assign each transitioning teen from the orphanage with a Jacmel community mentor. LTR had started this process prior to the civil unrest in 2019 and will continue as we are back to traveling in 2021.



Willing work toward Independence

The skills sets and willingness to work during the difficult time for the Haitian staff has been humbling. The food crisis, fear of violence, Hurricane and COVID-19 has tested all the mentoring that was provided by LTR. LTR board and membership worked hard at mentoring independence for the La Concorde administration and staff, and they were ready, willing and able to apply what they learned. On our last Service Trip in 2019 the La Concorde School was opening and financially independent. The accomplishment was well deserved. With the difficult economy presently the primary school can still support itself but we will be working with the business plan of the secondary school in 2021. With the value of the Haitian dollar rising and falling during 2020 it was very difficult to budget. And with roads closed because of gang violence very few supplies can be found in the Jacmel area. Still the La Concorde staff was able to keep all the children and staff at the orphanage fed. And provide food for the surrounding community.



CULTIVATING THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN



FOOD, SHELTER, CLEAN WATER

All children living at La Concorde orphanage have a bed, regular meals, and clean running water. Our monthly sponsors provide these dollars. We are blessed with an all-volunteer organization that helps to keep our administrative costs down.



EYE ON THE FUTURE: TEEN LAUNCH

Love Takes Flight designates funding to aid in the transition of teens out of the orphanage. Many sponsors add additional money to their monthly support and other donations come directly to this program.



EDUCATION/SCHOOL

Education for each child in the orphanage is supported by their sponsor via Roots for a Child. Additional contributions support after-school tutors. Community students who attend La Concorde School pay their tuition generating revenue for the school.



HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS

Individual donations are made to support a full-time nurse, part-time physician, and medications to stock the pharmacy.



OUR NUMBERS



Total revenue - \$239,996.00
Total expenses - \$193,148
= \$46,848.00

Volunteer contributions:
Active, skill-based volunteers - 62
Sponsors and supporters - 165

Orphanage expenses - \$147,499
School expenses - \$11,453
Medical/Dental expenses - \$10,613

Total hours contributed in 2020:
8500 hours

LEARN MORE AT WWW.LOVETAKESROOT.ORG

LOVE Takes Root would like to thank all those who worked with the organization in 2020. It was a year with so many challenges but maintained with 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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