

2018 Annual Report



Mentoring Leadership, Mentoring Futures, Mentoring Independence

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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



A year of mentoring has prepared La Concorde Orphanage and School to be self-sustaining in 2019. With the generous monthly donations by our Roots for a Child sponsors paying school tuition for the children in the orphanage became reality. This has supported business practices that were taught to Haitian administrators to have all students pay fees. This will support the financial independence of the school. The other addition is the LOVE Takes Flight grant program that will provide a positive experience when a child leaves the orphanage. The lessons learned have been many both for our Haitian partners and our LTR volunteers. Success has been built on good relationships and based on love. The buildings are complete. The administration training has been provided and the basic needs of food, clean water, shelter, health, and education have been put into place. 2018 has been a year of mentoring, and we look forward to the transition in 2019!

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” Nelson Mandela

Reflections of 2018

LOVE Takes Root President Rick Wilkerson



The meaning of mentoring is to advise or train, and 2018 has been a year of mentoring and continued growth for both La Concorde in Haiti and LOVE Takes Root. This year we have had the support of University students working on projects to assess and provide implementation of administrative practices for sustainability.

The SUsTain Solar Power project is complete, and the addition of reliable electricity for water, pumps, lights, computers, fans, and refrigeration has made La Concorde ready for long-term independence.

The administration at the orphanage and the school has had extensive mentoring this year in the operational and the financial aspects of the organization. The primary school is flourishing, and the preschool opened in 2018. The addition of the computer lab has been a much-anticipated addition to the secondary school, giving opportunity to all school staff and children. The addition of music will be happening with the recent delivery of band instruments.

The children at the orphanage are doing extremely well. They are healthy, happy, and excited for their education. They remain connected to their sponsors, and the social-emotional impact of the sponsor program has been a positive outcome for the children. The addition of LOVE Takes Flight allows us to plan for transition from the orphanage as children age out. The apprenticeship Harvest programs continue.

2019 will be a year of transition not only for La Concorde, but also for LOVE Takes Root. The volunteers and board will be accessing the process used in our first project—what worked well, and what we learned from failures. As Nelson Mandela taught, we do not lose, we either win or learn. With this process, we will be led to announcing our next project at the end of 2019!

The plan in September 2019 is to celebrate with our La Concorde partners the goal of self-sustaining. This year we will be defining the LOVE Takes Root relationship and role. We have provided roots and we will always love! The future looks bright and we are humbled by your support!

Mentoring Leadership



In 2018 LOVE Takes Root was able to partner with the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at the University of Iowa, and the Sapphire Consulting Group working with students from the University of Minnesota to provide detailed mentoring in leadership and administration for the success of a sustainable La Concorde. It was with the idea of an exit strategy that LOVE Takes Root and La Concorde started their relationship. This year the focus has been to provide as much support, education, and opportunity for success to work seamlessly in this process of the self-sustaining project. The Ross students were able to visit in person, do assessments, and collect data to provide a business plan that was presented and applied to leadership at La Concorde School and Orphanage. The information has been implemented and will be evaluated during the coming year. The LTR Financial committee has provided guidance in budgeting and recording, while teaching and using tools such as Excel and budgeting programming on the computer. LOVE Takes Root is so thankful for the expertise of so many mentoring the leadership of La Concorde.

Mentoring Futures

In 2018 there has been a strong emphasis on mentoring the future of children at La Concorde Orphanage and School. The sponsor monies will continue to be applied to each orphan for daily living expenses. A new program, LOVE Takes Flight, was begun. This is an opportunity for a child leaving the orphanage to write a grant requesting up to \$1,500 US for launching into being a productive Haitian citizen. The money can be used for further schooling, job training, housing, or tools for a trade. LTR started fund-raising for this project in November 2018 and this will be an ongoing fund-raising effort.

The addition of a computer lab at La Concorde school has been a reality in 2018. With the donation of computers from Northwest Bank in Iowa, La Concorde was able to open a computer lab. This allows administration, staff, and students to expand their learning while using technology. This also allowed the development of a pharmacy medication inventory system to be used in the LTR Medical/Dental Clinic. When this system is established, it will be shared with other medical clinics in the area. This will assist in preventing shortages of needed medications.



Mentoring Independence

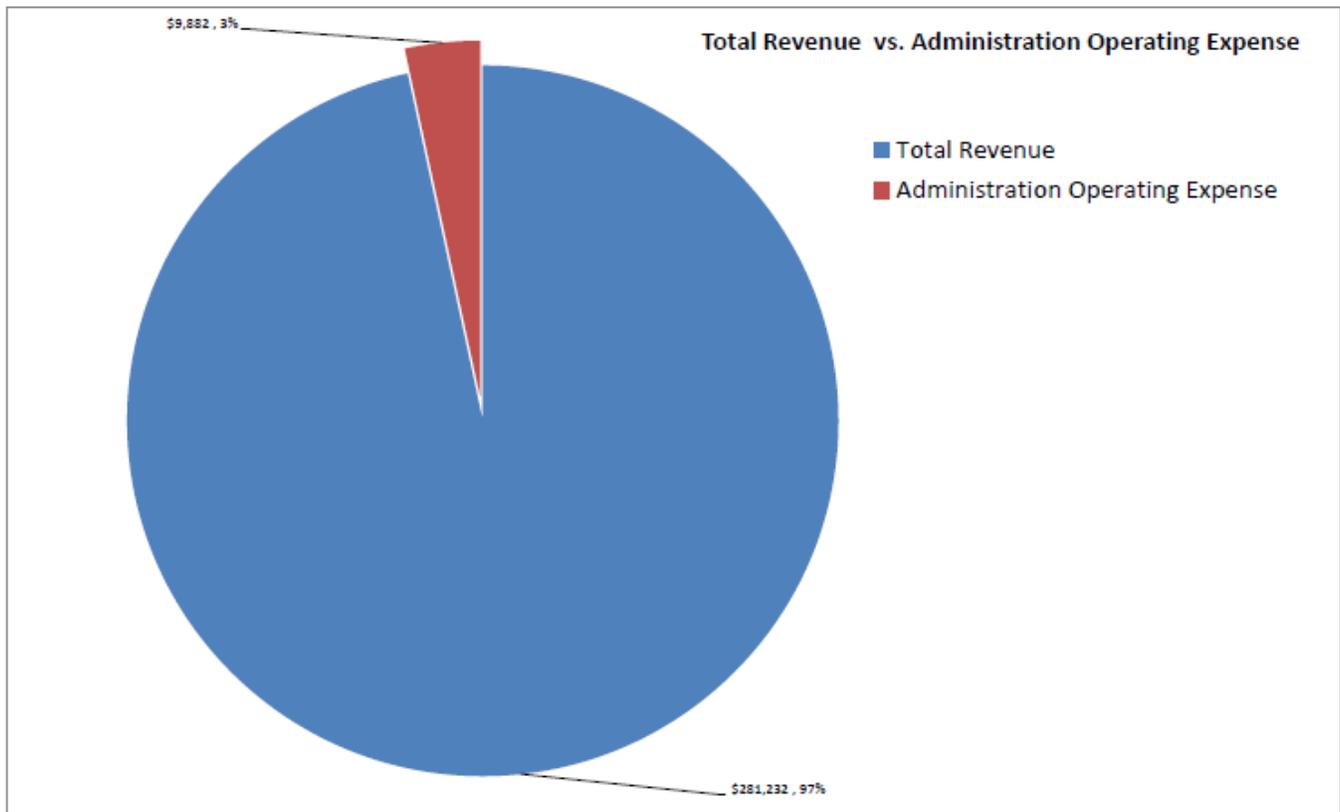
The LTR board and membership worked hard at mentoring independence for the La Concorde administration and staff during 2018. The solar power project was completed and has now included a refrigerator and freezer, which assist with improved nutrition, a goal of Project Nourish. At La Concorde School, the use of computers, audiovisual aids and lights are enhancing the education of each child. Electricity has also allowed increased mentoring communication between LTR and La Concorde, with ability to charge phones.

Another project worked on prior to exiting was installing plumbing and septic system that would function well for the orphanage and school. The dedication of LTR Buildings and Grounds committee to providing installation and teaching maintenance has been extraordinary.

In 2018 there was an additional building constructed on the grounds, housing the adults working with the children at the orphanage. Having staff that is mentored and supported is important to the LTR organization—to provide each person the dignity of a place.



2018 Income & Expenses



LOVE Takes Root would like to thank all those who worked with the organization in 2018. 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. 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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