

Messages From LaConcorde



Life in Haïti is very difficult as I write to you. Everything is very expensive. The banks are often closed. Even if you do have money, you can't go in the community and buy things. When you have the possibility, you can't find what you need. Tires are burned in the street everyday and stones and bottles are thrown in the street. Trees are cut and laid across the roads. They intimidate and charge you to travel. We have no hope in security from the police only the Lord can secure us. We are praying every day and have your prayers also, thank you so much. So many countries and people have difficulties in the world now. Your care has made us feel loved. I hope the Lord will protect all of you. I take this opportunity to wish all of you to have a wonderful Holiday.

Elisee Bastien
Administrator

SCHOOL REPORT

The administration of La Concorde School, wants to thank everyone in Love Takes Root for your help. The teachers appreciate the professional development through the year a lot. Because of their teaching and support of their knowledge La Concorde school achieved a national exam score of 100%. All of the La Concorde students passed the national exam because LOVE Takes Root teachers helped with training. We thank you and may you continue to be blessed. The band for the children is working hard. Even with no school the band teachers come to work and the children are very happy. The band is preparing to give a concert. Without supporting the teachers while we are learning we would not be able to have the band. We are trying to see how to let the band sustain. Thank for your financial support and the instruments. May the Lord Bless you.



- La Concorde School Administrators

LOVE Takes Root is an organization driven to help children around the world who are facing dire circumstances by delivering basic aid, education, and the seeds for a sustainable future.



Executive Director's Message



The last year has delivered many great triumphs as we continue to see the impact of LOVE Takes Root expand with the children of LaConcorde and the local community in Haiti. At the same time, we've also faced many difficulties with the challenging political climate and unrest in the area.

A key highlight of 2019, was enabling the LaConcorde school to become self-sustaining in March. This was well ahead of the planned September date, and included professional development for all teachers at the school. The result was a 100% pass rate for all students attending La Concorde school on the Haitian National Exam. An outstanding accomplishment that was met with great celebration.

In 2019, we also completed the building of (much-needed) additional staff housing, and an orphanage studying gazebo. Our computer lab is now functioning at full capacity, and the Medical Clinic has expanded primary care treatment to community members in need. Combined, all of these efforts are having an immense impact at LaConcorde and the surrounding community.

As I mentioned before, there were many difficult events that plagued the country throughout 2019. The protests that started at the end of January created a hostile climate through September, and resulted in a complete shutdown of the country. No goods are being transported throughout the country, which has created a shortage of food. The food that is available is very expensive. Roads are closed and unpassable. And there have been times in recent months where the orphanage was running low on food, out of propane or charcoal to cook, and had no gas. The banks are only open occasionally. And when open, can only give small amounts of money. Overall, the response of help to the people of Haiti was slow, and left an impression that no one cared.

LOVE Takes Root cares. La Concorde is our family, and we found a way to take care of our family and move forward during these difficult times. LTR was able to get resources to the orphanage, including rice, propane and gas - and much needed hugs from our sponsors.

As we head into the new year, our mission has never been more necessary, as we strive to provide "charitable, educational, and humanitarian support to children of the developing world for a sustainable future".

We thank you for your on-going support and the hope you are providing LaConcorde. Our deepest wish is for the gift of peace to all the world this Holiday season. We will continue to cultivate a future for children worldwide with an empowerment model. We are grateful to have you on the journey.

Barbara Wilkerson

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FYI

Due to recent changes to the tax code, the tax benefit of charitable contributions has been reduced or eliminated.

Did you know? You can maximize your tax deduction in 2019 by giving to Love Takes Root directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Currently, IRA distributions are taxed at your highest marginal tax rate, up to 37% to the Federal Government. **Giving part of your IRA distribution directly to Love Takes Root may reduce your federal and state tax obligation by up to 45% of the amount given.**

If you have a traditional or inherited IRA and/or have begun to take required minimum distributions (RMD) consult your Investment Advisor or CPA. The deadline for Required Minimum Distributions December 31st, so it is important to speak with your Investment Advisor by December 15th to schedule a partial IRA distribution directly to Love Takes Root. I have included information below that your Investment Advisor will need to complete your request.

Love Takes Root

Tax ID #45-2766894

PO Box 885

Spencer, IA 51301

Phone: (855-440-8683)

Please contact LTR with any questions.

Thank you for your support of Loves Takes Root.



Messages from La Concorde Orphanage



Hi ! We are feeling so happy to write you today. We would like to thank everyone in LOVE Takes Root for your support . In a moment like this, life is so hard in Haïti. The travel is not good. We are forced to pay at protest areas when it is possible to go out. The prices of everything is growing day after day. Without your help, we don't know what would happen. Praise the Lord wè have you. And we have protection of Jesus Christ. We are really lucky. The kids, the staff and I say a big thank you. Thank you, another time. We can't stop say thank you to you guys. May all of you have good health, food and water. Christmas is coming very soon but we don't really know if we will have the opportunity to celebrate. But the gift we can give is to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God bless

Benjamine Bastien

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Giving Tuesday: Give a Bag of Rice—Everywhere December 3, 2019
- ◆ Painting with Purpose: Minneapolis, MN January 26, 2020
- ◆ Friend-raiser: Seattle WA Feb 8, 2020
- ◆ Celebrating Haitian Art Fundraiser: Ventura, CA May 2020
- ◆ Roots Runner Colfax Marathon: Denver, CO May 17, 2020
- ◆ LTR Golf Event: Okoboji IA June 28, 2020



RUN FOR A CHILD

SIGN UP TODAY



Celebrate your birthday and give a gift of future for a child!

Visit www.lovetakesroot.org and click on the Get Involved/
Fundraise/Create Your Fundraising Page.



“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” - AESOP



**It is not too late to
be part of our
GIVING TUESDAY
Campaign.**

Visit:

[https://fundraise.lovetakesroot.org/
campaign/giving-tuesday/c260046](https://fundraise.lovetakesroot.org/campaign/giving-tuesday/c260046)

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GI  **INGTUESDAY**

December 3, 2019

ROOTS for a Child Sponsors

Sponsor Experience Carla and Indiana

Most days reading the headlines or watching the evening news can be a bit disheartening. Do you ever wonder what you can do to help make the world a better place? Putting a smile on the face of a child who needs to know how very special she/he is through a Love Takes Root sponsorship will do just that. Your monthly contribution will help supply basic needs, and your love and encouragement will lift his/her spirit.

When visiting La Concorde in May I was happy to learn of another way to help make the world a better place. A monthly contribution to Love Takes Flight helps the older teens become prepared to transition to further education and/or becoming productive citizens as they leave the orphanage. The love that takes root and what they have learned in their growing up years will propel their successful flight into society. Check out the details on the Love Takes Root website. Help make the world a better place.

Be a Sponsor!



ROOTS FOR A CHILD SPOTLIGHT

Meet Jeffney. She is playing the flute in the band. When asked why she chose the flute she said when she heard the sound from the flute she could tell it would express emotions that are inside of her. She feels better everyday when she plays the flute. Jeffney states they have not had school open for a very long time but she has continued to learn playing music.



HELP OUR BAND GROW:

The children love being part of the school band. Help our band grow by visiting the website below to donate:

<https://fundraise.lovetakesroot.org/campaign/for-the-love-of-music/c179935>

LTR Board Happenings

Grateful for the work of outgoing board members: Sean Barry, Tennie Binzer, Doug Hart, and Kirk Stuass. These board members started LOVE Takes Root and had the vision and passion to make a difference in the world and lives of children. Each of them is staying with LTR working in advisory and committee positions.

Meet our New Board Members

David Alexander: Lives in Seattle, WA. Career in Marketing. Works for F5 Networks.

Contact david.alexander@lovetakesroot.org

Chris Fuhrman; Lives in Okoboji, IA. Degree in Law and Finance/Accounting.

Contact chris.fuhrman@lovetakesroot.org

Dr. Steve Nelson: Lives in Fargo, ND. Specialty Neonatology. Medical administration.

Contact stephen.nelson@lovetakesroot.org

Dr. Edward Wojtys: Lives in Ann Arbor, MI. Specialty Orthopedics. University of Michigan

Contact edwojtys@med.umich.edu

Becca Stockdale: Lives in Minneapolis, MN. Career Marketing and motherhood.

Contact becca.stockdale@lovetakesroot.org



Volunteer positions open contact any board member or via the website!

Professional Development of Teachers at La Concorde

Dear friends of Love Takes Root,

Just a quick report on our recent trip to Jacmel and the opportunity we had to offer professional development days to the teaching staff at La Concorde.

Carla Dittmer (Michigan) and myself, Rose Fear (Iowa), were able to spend 5 wonderful days working with 30+ teachers from both La Concorde School and surrounding schools on the following topics: Strategies for managing a classroom, implementing learning centers in a classroom, teacher pride, using icebreakers and brain breaks in a classroom, identifying grade level benchmarks, and child development and personal wellness, presented by Barb Wilkerson and Nurse Junie. The teachers were wonderful participants each day, being very open-minded and curious about our topics, very appreciative of the handouts and teaching supplies given to them, and eager to be a part of further teacher training in the future! What a joy it was to be able to work with such a strong group of educators who want to be the best they can be for their students each day! Hats off to our La Concorde teaching staff!!

"A teacher who loves teaching will teach a child to love learning!"

Teacher Lauren Ritter



Cultivating the future of children worldwide

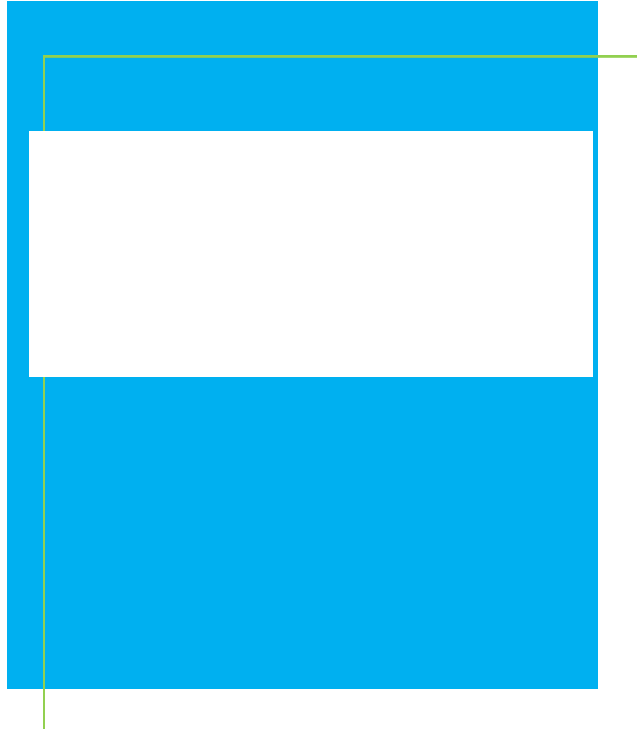
LOVE Takes Root

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www.lovetakesroot.org

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Education Professional Development



The LOVE Takes Root education committee had 2 Teacher Professional Development courses this past year in Haiti. Each course was a week long and attended by 35 teachers from La Concorde School and surrounding area. The topics included student engagement, active learning and classroom management. A center model of learning was implemented in the younger grades. A health component for teachers and their students was also included. The weeks also embraced the importance of education for the future of Haiti. LTR will continue



teacher development with a course prepared to be presented in January. If you have a passion for education Join us!

LOVE Takes Root is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible by law. Contributions can be made at www.lovetakesroot.org.