

## LOVE TAKES ROOT

#### NEWSLETTER

#### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

#### **ELISEE BASTIEN**



In the precious name of Jesus I share with you my great gratitude.

In this time of the deterioration of the lifestyle in Haiti, I would say in general that, if foreigners did not pay attention to us Haitians, our ordeal would be indescribable and interminable. The staff at La Condored Orphanage,

Primary School, Secondary School, Medical Clinic and LOVE Takes Flight program salute and thank our partners at LOVE Takes Root who invest body and soul in helping the community of Jacmel. The aid provided by our donors contributes to the development, nutrition and education of more than a hundred children, saved from the infernal cycle of juvenile delinquency and lives devoid of any logical sense. There does not exist enough words to describe the benefits brought to the lives of these children, whose lives were destined to be without a positive outcome for Haitian society and for the world.

As Director I pledge to continue to work tirelessly for the future of these children and the children who are attending La Concorde School. And am truly grateful to all donors, volunteers and mentors working with us from LOVE Takes Root. God Bless each of you.



Share your talents!
We're always looking
for volunteers.
Contact us to learn
how you can help!



The children work many hours to give the gift of song to each member of the LOVE Takes Root Organization.



To join us for the concert, click the link or scan the QR code.

CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR ZOOM MEETING!

MEETING ID: 931 833 5788 PASSCODE: LTR



Malyn is a recent retiree after 27 years at Target working in Innovation and 11 years as a Systems Engineer at IBM. She has been an active community member and volunteer in the Minneapolis area. Malyn joined the LOVE Takes Flight Committee in 2023. She assists teen transition by mentoring candidates in life skills and business skills. She partners closely with program coordinator Alexis and the team on goal setting, program development, budgeting, piloting and implementing entrepreneurial opportunities. This past year she has accomplished the feat of opening the Bread of LOVE Boulangeriel We are grateful for the skills and time Malyn has dedicated to this successful project.

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024

#### REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



I have stopped saying things cannot get worse and have continued to be thankful we are located in Jacmel. The infrastructure that LTR committees worked on to include solar power, Wifi, and empowering mentoring has made communication and continuing impact possible. The LTR Board continues to grapple with many of the long term issues and still with a self sustaining mindset. We are adding programs of supporting a child for school and food with the idea of keeping them with their families and not placed in an orphanage. We are also looking at some form of school food program in 2025. The children that attend La Concorde School have regular meals BUT the students from the community are not. Hunger is an issue. I am so grateful for all of the volunteer committee members who work to keep LTR functioning! I am also grateful for every sponsor and our donors. You are making a difference in the lives of many. Please share our story! May you each feel the love that is sent from far away. Happy Holidays.

#### ORPHANAGE SPOTLIGHT

lam W.M. I remember when I was younger my parents used to give me much tenderness and love. But unexpectedly my life destination was going to be changed because of an upcoming event. January 12th, 2010 my dad, mom and my siblings were gathered to celebrate my 5th birthday. We were in the midst of the



party when Haiti started to shake, that event put an end to all pleasure that my family had. From that day on everything changed. Food was like a luxury for my family. If I would like to illustrate somebody in the Bible I would say « Job » because I felt like him. Even my mom abandoned me but my dad was facing all those troubles. He played two roles: he was my father and did what my mother was supposed to do. To take care of us my dad took a cooler and walked through the streets to sell juice. Then he could do no more and he found an orphanage for all of us . In 2011 when I got here I noticed that my father had been everything for me. In this orphanage there were some kids who were in the same trouble like I was. I was homesick. After a short time I felt so comfortable like I was home. I was covered with love and love was among us. Dr. Rick, Barb, my sponsor and the leaders help me so much. I don't see what kind of word that I can use to say thank you for what you have done for me. May God bless you and help you. Your help helps lots of us to find our smile again. Thank you and love you. I am going to serve others because of your teaching me what difference it makes.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! OCTOBER 2024



La Concorde School has 350 students enrolled this year! National Exams scores were released in September and La Concorde was recognized for Outstanding Performance.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





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PG. 2 WWW.LOVETAKESROOT.ORG

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024

# LOVE takesflight

### FROM ALEXIS MEDIJINE

Love Takes Flight (LTF) is an important and exciting part of the Love takes Root organization.

Love Takes Flight is a transitioning program, designed to help young adults transition out of the La Concorde orphanage and into Haitian society as successful members of the community. The LTF program focuses on young adults 18–25 who are aging out of the orphanage and who need some assistance so they can "take flight" as adults. While the focus of the Love Takes Flight Program is on the La Concorde orphanage young adults, the program has branched out to also include select young adults from the community of Jacmel – who are also in need of guidance and support.

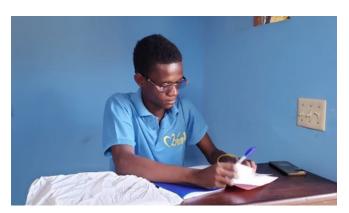
A few highlights of the program:

- The program lasts four years. And to be selected, the candidate must tell us why they want to be a part of the program and what they hope to learn from it.
- Our main goal is to help these young adults become independent and contributing members of Haitian society. We do this by teaching entrepreneurship and the value of consistent work.

- We have created specific businesses that employ them such as: a meat chicken business. Additionally we have successfully sponsored those with more specific career goals that have included: a tailoring business, a soap business, and a graphic t-shirt/uniform making business, and car mechanic.
- For those more academically inclined, we find ways to sponsor them to attend further education. We are proud to report that Jeffney, a young female graduate of the program is currently attending University in the city of Cap-Haitien. We also have candidates enrolled in Nursing School and Business Administration.
- We are perhaps most proud of our most recent and biggest endeavor to date, the opening of the BREAD OF LOVE Boulangerie in Jacmel. A bread bakery run by our talented baker Luxene, and the hardworking staff all young Love Takes Flight members. We will be sharing more of the bakery in coming months but we are excited to report that things are going very well, that we are selling out of the bread daily. To open a successful business in Haiti at this challenging time is no small feat and we are determined to keep this success on–going.



LOVE TAKES FLIGHT CANDIDATES WORKING IN THE BAKERY. ONE OF THE CANDIDATES MADE THE SHIRTS WITH HER GRAPHIC TEE BUSINESS!



LOVE TAKES FLIGHT CANDIDATE WORKING ON BUSINESS RECORDS.

WWW.LOVETAKESROOT.ORG PG. 3



## SUMMER FLOOD BACKPACK SCHOOL SUPPLIES FUNDING PROJECT

This last June the community of Spencer, lowa the home and heart and beginnings of LOVE Take Root experienced a devastating flood. It will take years to recover. Because so many in the community stepped up to help children a world away LTR joined forces with the Hy–Noon Kiwanis to raise funds for backpacks and school supplies for every student in Spencer and surrounding community. WE DID IT! Thank you for your generous support!





### THE BAKERY IS NOW OPEN!



The LOVE Takes Root Medical Committee is starting monthly video Grand Rounds with our Haitian Medical providers! The medical services are extremely compromised in Haiti and resources and supplies are difficult to obtain. But we can still support and provide any expertise. IF you are a health provider please contact us! Volunteer ONE hour a month!



If you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account, you have the option to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to Love Takes Root. By making a donation from your RMD, you can reduce the taxable amount of your distribution, which can offer you potential tax savings while continuing to support the vital work we do. Contact us for support.