



FONDASYION ONÈ POU AYITI

FONDATION HONNEUR POUR HAÏTI

FOUNDATION HONOR FOR HAITI.

Website : www.fonhoh.org. Email: marky16@gmail.com, marky@fonhoh.org, massilien@fonhoh.org, massilienj@yahoo.fr
6, Rue El Samy, Santo 23; Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti. Tel (Haiti) 509-463-2810. Tel (US): 978 223-9828, Fax: 978 223 9828.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTION OF FONHOH

**FROM: Johnny Massilien, Board Director
: Marky Jean-Pierre, Director of
Development and Public Relations**

TO: Friends and Supporters

CC: FONHOH's members

SUBJECT: Information about FONHOH

Where are we in FONHOH ?

After the 'Haiti Rendezvous' held on October 21st 2006, we have focused our attention on having a more sustainable organization that can make it possible for us to better meet the needs of the people that we want to serve in Haiti. As a brief reminder, in FONHOH we are very concerned with the needs of the poorest ___ Haitians who experience difficulties feeding themselves and getting clothes among other parameters, but our chief concern lies in the lack of access to education and to educational resources. As we often demonstrate, lack of access to education constitutes one of the biggest problems that the country is facing, and one that prevents it from benefiting from the potential of young and adult Haitians.

Consequently the staff of FONHOH has decided to work more on its organizing structure by having

a more suitable office in Santo, Plaine du cul-de-sac and a permanent staff.

Thanks to the help of \$200 that we had received from North Congregational Church in April 2006 in addition to the amount of \$550 that we have collected the day of the 'Haiti Rendez-vous' as well as the personal efforts of the board members of FONHOH and the help of Cakin Sainte Rose who is the Mayor of Macouba, a city in Martinique; we were able to finish up a part of our building and to fence it so we can securely keep materials that have been shipped and that will continue to be shipped to our office from the US. For the moment we have a decent place for our office and we are diligently working towards having a paid and permanent staff in the office. We anticipate having 3 paid and permanent staff members for the moment: one secretary, one administrator and one archivist and techno-person that should be responsible both for launching and maintaining our computer lab and for archiving the literacy / educational materials (books, audio, video) that we have procured so far and those that will be shipped from the US and Martinique very soon.

In terms of remuneration for our 3 staff members, according to the salary grid in Haiti, we foresee a monthly salary of 10.000 HTG (Haitian Gourdes)¹ or \$US 265 for the secretary and the same amount for the Archivist and Techno-Person and 10500 HTG or \$US 280 for the administrator. We anticipate a three-year salary period for these employees, with a possibility of an increase up to 5% per year. So the projected salary of the three staff members for the first year, 2007-2008, will

¹ 1 US dollar = 37 Haitian Gourdes (HTG)



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be \$US 810 per month or \$ US 9,720 per year. The salary for the next two years with an increase of 5% per year will be respectively \$US 850.5 per month or 4 US 10,206.00 per year and \$ US 900.10 per month or 10,801.20. Therefore a three-year budget to keep a minimum of 3 employees in our office is 1,136,906.4 HTG or \$US 30,727.20 Until we can afford a larger staff, the members of the board will stay active in everything that we are undertaking in particular the visits to our sites and the development of the organization.

We are working diligently towards shipping to Haiti the resources that we presently have stored in North Congregational Church in Amherst thanks to the kindness of its members and their willingness to help us build a substantial structure that can provide ample help to the poor in Haiti. We should admit the fact that their unconditional support to the cause that FONHOH spouses is invaluable. They don't only support us financially. They are a source of moral comfort for us by encouraging us to keep thinking on ways to help our Haitian brothers, they help us to build useful connections, and we can't evaluate the importance of the spaces that they offer us to store materials to be shipped to Haiti. In the same line of thought, our partnership with institutions such as Eritaj Foundation, Inc (www.eritajfoundation.org), the Lambi fund of Haiti (www.lambifund.org) and First Baptist Church of Northampton play also a major role in helping us to achieving our goals. Thank to a loan from Eritaj Foundation we were able to sponsor the trip of a keynote speaker from Haiti (Johnny Massilien, Executive Director of the board of FONHOH) for the 'Haiti Rendezvous' event held on October 21st. The Deputy Director of The Lambi Fund project of Haiti (Mrs. Victoria szatkowski) was one of our speakers. With the help of Judy Sherman, Marky Jean-Pierre did a

presentation on 'Haiti, Development from the Periphery' in November 2006 at first Baptist Church of Northampton. The director and a few members and supporters of CONASPEH (National Spiritual Council of Haitian Churches) were also part of the audience.

We presently have quite a few materials we will ship very soon. We anticipate organizing a big shipment during the summer of this year (2007). The materials that are presently stored in the United Church of Christ in Amherst include donations from STAPLES in Hadley such as school supplies, computer desks, office furniture; tens of boxes of books that our friends from the United Church of Christ have helped us to collect and other materials such as clothes and footwear. We also have a few electronic items such as computers and monitors. Each of these categories is part of a specific program that FONHOH tends to pursue. The books for example are part of our project of a multilingual (English, French, Creole) library that that we are building progressively. A well-structured project proposal is presently being prepared to be submitted to donors. The idea is to build a good library with extended computer lab in the Plaine du cul-de-sac (around Port-a-Prince) where we can also offer online education to young adults who have already completed their secondary school but who have no access to post-secondary instruction. As a pilot project, it will be replicated in each of the biggest cities in the 10 Departments of the country as time goes on. So our efforts to collect educational materials and computers, computer desks, office furniture, etc, enter in line with the library project. Things such as clothes and footwear are consistent with our regular program of distribution that we often make to poor kids and poor families; we often target poor families in the remote area and those in



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hospitals and prisons when it comes to clothes and footwear.

How do we ship our materials?

We have already sent a pick up truck packed with such materials in November last year (2006). As we obtained more materials this year, we have planned to buy the type of bus that is used to transport children to school in the US. In New England those used vehicles / buses can be available for a limited amount of money. The point of using such vehicles as opposed to a container to transport the materials is that they can work when they go to Haiti either to transport children to school or to generate money that can in turn be used for other activities.

We have already contacted a company that transports school children in South Deerfield. The director of the company has agreed to sell us a 1994 diesel fuel engine bus for the amount of \$ US 2.000. We have already contacted the shipping company in Boston and he has agreed to take the bus along with all of the materials for us safely to Haiti for the amount of \$ US 5.567. Since we don't have free custom duty yet (we are still working towards that) the Haitian government will charge us for custom duty. We won't know how much they will charge us until the bus is in the port in Haiti. We are currently in the process of saving and collecting funds that can allow us to make possible this shipment no later than the middle of the summer vacation (the deadline that we impose to ourselves is June 2007). So far the budget for this shipping is roughly estimated as \$ US 8,000 including the cost to take the vehicle to the Boston Shore, from where it will be shipped to Haiti.

In the mean time, as many of our friends and supporters knew, FONHOH has purchased a property in Lagoune (Department of Centre) where we anticipate building a primary school. We have already started discussion with health NGO colleagues to see how the people in the area could have access to medical care. We also continue to think about the ways in which we could satisfy the request of the people in the area who have asked us to help them get a well for potable water and a mill. Our last meeting with the inhabitants of the area in June 2006 has not been followed up by any action yet. One of the reasons has to do with the new political situation during the month of December that has occasioned new waves of violence in the country. In fact Marky Jean-Pierre, the Director of Development and public Relations in FONHOH went to Haiti on December 17 2006 for a one-day trip and had planned to meet with the board members in Haiti; but the meeting had been cancelled because one of the members had received anonymous phone calls from people who had threatened to kidnap her. Marky had to return to the US the same day and no meeting was held. For the same reason FONHOH could not hold the distribution of games and a hot meals to children as we usually do at Christmas, and the events that have been planned for the official opening of our new office have been cancelled although many important political figures such as the Ambassador of France, the Mayor of Maccouba, Martinique, the representative of some national and international NGOs as well as some members of the present government had already confirmed their participation in the event that was planned for December 30th.

We are hopeful that we can start our projected activities very soon with the help of the new permanent staff that we will be able to afford,



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since the safety situation in the country has tremendously improved due to the efforts of the government supported by the international military mission. Once our staff is in place we will speed up the preparation and submission of our projects (school building, funds to pay school for children and young adults) to donors. Until we find new financial resources, the board of FONHOH has decided to make personal contributions to pay the 3 employees mentioned above. Cakin Sainte-Rose, from Martinique has also promised to help us out.

We are hoping that our friends and supporters can understand the difficult situation in which we are

working in Haiti as a country that is trying to find its destiny after decades of political turmoil and that is ravaged by poverty and hopelessness for a great number of its citizens. An organization like FONHOH with such great visions needs time, energy and resources to even start making its existence visible and substantial. We are indebted to the efforts of our friends and supporters who are part of this great beginning. We are convinced that they will soon be able to see the concrete results of their efforts. Our slogan remains the same: ***‘A new Haiti is Possible’***.