

Annual Appeal 2017



Rising from the ashes



Matthew the destroyer

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been a little more than a year since hurricane Matthew devastated Jérémie and the Grand'Anse region. Things seemed very bleak for many months. The breadbasket of Haiti, as the Grand'Anse is often called, did not produce anything, not even a banana was to be had. But now, a year later, nature has triumphed again, and Jérémie is once again the central marketplace for agricultural products.

Haitian Connection, too, has been rising up again. Our houses, built for women and their children, sustained much damage. 34 houses in Latiboliere and Deschamps lost their roofs. **ALL** have been replaced at a cost of \$1,000.00 each. 14 houses were completely destroyed and needed to be completely reconstructed. Eight of those houses have already been rebuilt and the homeowners are back in their homes. These houses are more solidly built, and the roofs have been tied with special hurricane resistant clamps. **Six** houses still await total reconstruction. The mothers and children who lived in the destroyed homes are still in temporary housing, but eager for a place of their own again.

Therefore, we address this annual appeal to this great need, to rebuild these six houses, so that the women and their children can live again in a place of their

own. The price for one house remains the same: \$2,000.00. It is pretty amazing that we have been able to keep this price, despite everything going up in cost. This is thanks to our Haitian collaborators who make it all possible. We know that you have been generous beyond measure, but please do consider giving to this housing project again. As we have said in the past, it provides women and their children a safe place to live, and also gives the woman a place to conduct some commercial activity right from her own home.



Hurricane damage

Reconstruction

Depi gen renmen ak volonte

As long as there's love and will

Travay sa-a se pou li fin fèt.

This work must be accomplished.

Please mail your donations to:

Haitian Connection
5300 S South Shore Drive Apt 27
Chicago, IL 60615

or send via PayPal on our website at haitianconnection.org

Thanks to each and every one for all your help and support.

Wishing you all the blessings for Christmas and beyond.

Renate

Please read below for a brief update on our other activities in 2017!

While the housing project is closest to our heart, we still want to give you an idea of what else we have been doing this past year:

Haitian Connection's Divergent Institute

- On February 11, 2017 we launched the Divergent Thinking Institute and
- have conducted 15 Divergent Thinking seminars in 2017 with a variety of age groups, and people from all walks of life.

Haitian Connection's Language Institute

- We are teaching English at the Law school in Jérémie to very enthusiastic students, and also have a number of private students equally motivated.
- On Sunday nights we also hold an English conversation group where we discuss life's big questions in English.

Haitian Connection's Continuing Education Institute

- We had a poetry writing workshop in July with Janine Harrison.

Scholarship support

- 8 students are supported with scholarships, ranging from elementary school to university.

Mental health program

- Our outreach efforts into the communities have touched 5,865 people this year.
- We gave mental health support in our communities immediately after Hurricane Matthew, and we made sure as mental health providers that we also took care of ourselves.
- We held a large mental health event with 50 young people, and finally established our own mental health clinic in Jérémie.
- We participated with Henry Ford Hospital in a masculinity research project, the results of which will be available soon.

Goat Project

- We purchased 30 goats for the mothers' group of Paroty, replenishing the livestock lost during the hurricane.

Jérémie Breadfruit Flour and Nursery

- Thanks to continued support from the Trees That Feed Foundation, Jérémie Breadfruit Flour and Nursery continues to thrive. Flour is given to schools and nurseries so the children have a nutritious meal, and breadfruit trees and fruit trees are planted, even in other parts of Haiti.
- We also conducted a number of training sessions for other agricultural workers.

Biosand filters

- We were able to rent a space for our biosand filter production and started in earnest in October. This will enable people to have clean drinking water.
- We are providing every house that we are constructing from now on with a biosand filter.

Summer Camp

- We conducted our first kids' camp this summer which was a lot of fun.

Continued Collaboration with Partners in Parenting

- Our work with Partners in Parenting Haiti continues, especially on the last Saturday of the month when we conduct educational and fun activities with the children in the PIPH program.

Microcredit Group

- Our microcredit group in Deschamps continues to thrive, and provides income for the women.

None of these exciting developments would have been possible without your help! Thank you!!

If you would like to make a contribution to any of these programs, please indicate so with your donation. While the housing program is important, these other programs also touch many lives and are important in their own way.