



## Meet Cash Without Condition Participants

In the last issue, we shared the excellent news of Haitian Connection's new pilot program, Cash Without Condition, which is giving a \$30 (U.S.) per month grant to ten women who are living in extreme poverty. The recipients were selected based on their housing situation, food and clothing available to them, children in school, medical and dental attention and so forth. Read below for a brief synopsis of five of the participants.

### Benjamine Rosemanite – Deschamps



Rosemanite is a 42-year-old woman who lives in the Betouze area of Deschamps. Her eight children are aged 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6. She says her children go to school. She herself did not go to school at all. Rosemanite's one-room house is built out of wood with a dirt floor and a plastic tarp for the roof. Currently there are four people living in the house. She has no shoes, and only a few second-hand clothes. She has occasional tooth aches, and when she gets sick she prepares tea. Rosemanite has no income and works the land a little bit. She eats once a day: nothing for breakfast, for lunch she eats corn, or breadfruit, or potatoes. Nothing for dinner.

### Magdala Remy – Deschamps



Magdala is 29 and has two children, aged 3 years old and 13 months old. The older child is in preschool. She lives in a rural area in Deschamps, outside of Jérémie. Magdala went to school for 12 years but missed the last year of high school. Her house is built out of wood and has no roof; instead it has a plastic tarp and a dirt floor. It only has one room and one bed. When it rains things get wet inside the house. Four people live in the house. She has no income and has no income generating activity. She eats twice a day. For breakfast she has bread, nothing for lunch, for dinner she eats rice and beans.

### Lundy Selite – Deschamps

Selite is 62 years old. She has one child who is 28. She has lived in Deschamps for 40 years. Deschamps is a rural community outside of Jérémie. She never went to school. Selite's house has two rooms. It is built out of wood, and has a dirt floor and no roof, but only a plastic tarp. Two people live there. She works the land or has a small commerce, but these activities do not really produce money. Selite also has debts and must buy food items on credit. She eats twice a day: for breakfast she has bread, for lunch she eats root vegetables. Nothing for dinner.



## Nadia Noel – Deschamps



45-year-old Nadia lives in Betouze, a community in Deschamps, outside of Jérémie. She has 5 children, ages 13, 10, 7, 5, 2. She only went to school for one year and cannot read or write. Nadia owns a 1-room wooden house with a dirt floor, but it is in bad shape. Her roof is a plastic tarp that lets in the rain. Seven people live in the house. She has some old sandals, but her kids walk around barefoot and they have only a few second-hand clothes. Nadia has no income generating activity. She eats twice a day: for breakfast she has a mango, for lunch she has corn or bouillon, nothing for dinner.

## Jabienne Jn Charles – Deschamps

Age 54, Jabienne also lives in Betouze. She has 8 children ages 39, 21, 19, 17, 15, 13, 11, 9. All are going to school, except for the oldest one who has no schooling. She herself has no schooling. Her house is built of wood with a plastic tarp for a roof, and a dirt floor. Rain gets into the house quite a bit. The house has one room, one table and one bed. Jabienne has a few clothes and some shoes. She has no money coming in and has some debts. She eats twice a day: for breakfast she has plantains and green leafy vegetables, for lunch nothing, for dinner rice and beans.



## Literacy Program in Latibolye Continues



Literacy efforts in Latibolye go on, thanks to our dedicated teachers, Esther Jean Jacques and Milourdes Laurent. The community is extremely grateful for this opportunity. While the program is geared to women, we also have a few men who are very motivated to learn. Currently 18 women and 3 men are attending. One young woman who came to the program unable to read or write is now a lector at her church. On a recent Sunday when she did her first reading, the whole church stood up and applauded her. There are different levels of proficiency in the class: some participants are true beginners, while others are more advanced. Other subjects are integrated, especially math, where we do basic addition and subtraction. This helps the students in their daily lives so that nobody can take advantage of them. Students move at their own pace, and they attend classes as long as they want and are able to. We follow the regular school year, and classes are held 5 days a week. This demands a commitment not only from the students, but also from the teachers who receive a small monthly stipend for their efforts. This program is financed through individual donations for which we are grateful. We hope to continue this program long-term, since it makes such a tangible difference in the students' lives.



## Breadfruit Flour Featured in Cooking School



On Saturday, May 19, 2018 we held another cooking school in Jérémie at St. Luc Center for Professional Development. This time we made 'boulet', a ball shaped delicacy, made from breadfruit flour and mixed with ground meat. A vegetarian option uses vegetables instead of meat, and there is also a fish mixture that can be used. Very delicious, and again it illustrates how versatile breadfruit flour is. In addition to the enthusiastic reception by participants learning new skills and experimenting with new

ingredients, these cooking schools are a great marketing tool. As the class members are exposed to the usefulness of breadfruit flour, they purchase it and use it at home.



The creativity of Haitians never ceases to astound. In cooking school at the St. Luc Center, we progressed from using breadfruit flour for porridge, to boulets, to pate, and finally to baking a cake. The cake was very tasty, but the baking process was also amazing. Because there is no oven, the cooks used a very large metal pot on a charcoal grill. They lined the pot on the inside with small rocks, put the cake pan on the rocks, and then took the lid of the pot and placed it upside down on the pot, and put additional charcoal in the lid. The cake came out beautifully after about an hour and half. And it was decorated with love.



## GOALS Coaches Receive Child-to-Child Training



From May 8 to May 11, 2018, Haitian Connection provided a training workshop in Leogane for the staff and coaches of GOALS, an amazing organization that works with over 500 children and young people. Each afternoon for 4 hours, the dedicated GOALS coaches work with very poor children from three rural communities outside Leogane on soccer skills as well as life skills. The trainers from Haitian Connection trainers Renel Pierre, Eliasme Jean Silfin, and President of Haitian Connection,

Renate Schneider. The training was eagerly received by all participants.

The Child-to-Child program is founded on the belief that children have far more to offer and can accomplish much more than adults often realize. Given the right kind of support by adults, they can do many things to keep themselves and other children healthy and to improve the lives of everyone in their communities. When participating in Child to Child activities, children are taught how to work together to support each other's formal and informal learning and then use that learning as the basis for action to work for change in their community. Seeing the positive changes that children bring about subsequently transforms relationships with adults who recognize – sometimes for the first time – what children are capable of. Child-to-Child Methodology can be adopted to any situation or culture. There were 23 participants at the training, and they all received certificates.



(More photos of the Child-to-Child Training)

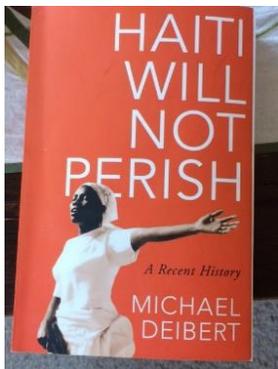


## Haitian Connection New Website Is Up and Running

If you haven't stopped by to see the new Haitian Connection website, let me tell you, you are missing something special. Photos and stories to inform and inspire will draw you more deeply into the lives of the Haitian people that Haitian Connection serves. Please visit us soon at <https://haitianconnection.org/>

## Book Corner

**Haiti Will Not Perish: A Recent History by Michael Deibert. Zed Books, 2017**



The world's first independent black republic, Haiti was forged in the fire of history's only successful slave revolution. Yet more than two hundred years later, the full promise of the revolution—a free country and a free people—remains unfulfilled. Home for more than a decade to one of the world's largest UN peacekeeping forces, Haiti has a tumultuous political culture—buffeted by coups and armed political partisans—that combined with economic inequality and environmental degradation, created immense difficulties even before a devastating earthquake leveled the capital of Port-au-Prince in 2010, killing tens of thousands of people.

This grim tale, however, is not the whole story. In this moving and detailed history, Michael Deibert, who has spent two decades reporting on Haiti, chronicles the heroic struggles of Haitians to build their longed-for country in the face of overwhelming odds. Based on years of interviews with Haitian political leaders, international diplomats, peasant advocates, gang leaders, and hundreds of ordinary Haitians, Deibert's book provides a vivid, complex, and challenging analysis of Haiti's recent history.

# Haitian Connection

Haitian Connection is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization founded in 2005, which focuses on the needs of women, children and young adults in the Jérémie region of southwest Haiti. A variety of projects have already touched thousands of lives: houses have been built for more than 97 women and their children; a small microcredit program is providing economic opportunity for women in 2 communities; a potable water initiative is giving healthy water to one thousand families; and local school teachers have received training in the Child-to-Child method. In 2016 Haitian Connection trained four facilitators in Divergent Thinking, and now Haitian Connection through its Divergent Thinking Institute is providing Divergent Thinking seminars all over Haiti.

Several new initiatives have been launched in 2017 such as a Language Institute to teach foreign languages to children and adults as well as provide training in pedagogy and methodology in the teaching of foreign languages.

An additional Continuing Education Institute has also been developed to provide continuing education in a variety of fields through seminars and conferences.

As a response to the earthquake in January 2010, and its psychological aftermath, Haitian Connection has established a mental health program in Jérémie to provide counseling as people resettle, tally their losses and adjust to a new reality. 27 members of the community have been trained in psychological first aid. This served the greater Jérémie area well after Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016. Our mental health agents were able to hold community meetings to give people an opportunity to debrief and receive some training in stress reduction techniques. For 7 years Haitian Connection has also worked to strengthen the University of the Nouvelle Grand'Anse by partnering with professionals in the US and other countries.

## Support Us

Haitian Connection is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation registered in Illinois and your gifts are tax deductible. Our projects depend on volunteers and the financial support of people who desire to help.

The cost of building a home for a woman and her family in Jérémie is \$2,000. The houses have three rooms and a latrine. You could contribute to a house, or even get your church/organization to sponsor a whole house. After Hurricane Matthew, this has become a priority for people in the region.

Scholarships for needy students from elementary to secondary schools.

Microcredit group: contributions accepted.

Mental Health Program: contributions to mental health center accepted (total cost for one year \$10,000)

Support for training programs in Divergent Thinking, mental health, Child-to-Child, and continuing education. A training program for 25 people requires us to provide a meal for all participants and give the facilitators a stipend (about 500.00 Dollars per training).

To support our projects financially, donate online by visiting our website at: [www.HaitianConnection.org](http://www.HaitianConnection.org)

If you would prefer to send a donation by mail, please address checks to: **Haitian Connection**

**5300 South Shore Drive # 27**

**Chicago, IL 60615**

When you order from Amazon.com, giving to Haitian Connection is easy! Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> to get started!

## Get Involved

We are looking for volunteers: English teachers, educators, specialists in various fields to give short conferences or seminars.

To volunteer, contact **Renate Schneider** at [haitianconnection@gmail.com](mailto:haitianconnection@gmail.com) or by phone at **312/493-3719**; in Haiti: **011/509/3 463-7532**

