



MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE NEWS

An occasional bulletin published by the Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation, Inc. to report progress of the children's orphanage in Hinche, Haiti. It is also available on the internet at www.mfofoundation.org and at www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti

October 2009

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Preparation, Anticipation, Excitement
By Brother Michael McCarthy, CFX

A whole lot goes on behind the scenes as our students get ready for a new school year.



Opening day at the Fortuné Jean-Louis Primary School

First of all Bebe (Kreyòl for deaf mute!) arrives to repair the bikes for the junior and senior high school students who began their classes on the 7th. Those young men, who take turns preparing spaghetti each morning for an early breakfast, depart on those bikes by 6:45 for their fifteen minute ride to St. Martin de Porres Secondary School.

Second, the uniform man visits and meets with Frenèl Jean-Dieudonné, the Activities Director, to get the information he needs to make additional uniforms for the elementary students.

Third, the classrooms get a good cleaning. They were used over the summer, when the teachers came for two hours of reinforcement for each grade each day. (The students loved the extra learning and were eager for school to begin.)

Fourth, the three boys who will be going to the Sant Teknik in Pandiassou this year receive the details of their schedule. They begin at 8:00 a.m. with their classical subjects, moving in the afternoon into technical classes that end at 4:00.

Finally, the boys put the finishing touches on the riverside 'beach project' that Peter Everest, our sum-

mer volunteer, spearheaded. The boys painted many of the trees in the festive colors of blue, white and pink; they also painted the tires they put in the ground to serve as benches. The boys spread the tons of dirt/sand/rocks that Jean-Louis had brought in and improved the path down to the river with some improvised steps. (Many of the boys loved to take advantage of the 'beach' on hot summer days.)

In addition to many of the usual activities, we were gifted with the presence of five *Midwives For Haiti* nurses who stayed at the orphanage as they visited the hospital and the Azil each day furthering their projects. Each night many of our boys and girls visited our clinic for the professional help, loving hearts and healing hands of these five women. Thanks to Susan Pleasants' leadership in the clinic over the past two years, it was easy for these nurses to move ahead in treating some of the students because of the up-to-date charts and clear documentation. Also, last month 18 of the older boys took an intensive three-day course in First Aid. They responded well to the demanding schedule and many practice drills. All passed the exam and are eagerly awaiting their official certificates.

Yes, this is a season of changes. The eggplants in the garden are almost finished; the mango season is over. We anticipated the opening of school with a special prayer service on Sunday the 6th under the mango tree. Planned by our spirituality team, the service invoked the Holy Spirit to be with us in a special way as we accompany our young men and girls on their academic journey. Thanks for all who remember us in so many ways! Happy autumn to you all.

NEW BISHOP INSTALLED IN HINCHE

In Haiti, there is nothing like a grand celebration! Just ask Bishop Emeritus Walter Sullivan, Br. Cosmas Rubencamp CFX (Foundation Secretary) and Fr. James Griffin (pastor of the Church of St. Mark, Virginia Beach) who represented the Diocese of Richmond at the October 11 installation of Bishop Simon-Pierre Saint-Hillien CSC in Hinche.

Archbishop Bernadito Auza, the papal nuncio to Haiti, presided at the installation. Coincidentally, his brother lives in Virginia Beach and is a member of the Church of St. Mark, where the Archbishop con-

celebrated Mass on his last visit to his brother. Also presiding was the former bishop, now Archbishop of Cap-Haïtien, Louis Kebreau, an old friend. Among the dignitaries present was Haiti's President, René Prével.

As it turned out, there was another coincidence: Bishop Saint-Hillien and orphanage director Lefort Jean-Louis are both from the same part of Haiti, the Artibonite!



Lefort Jean-Louis with his new bishop, Simon-Pierre Saint-Hillien

Bishop Sullivan, Brother Cos and Father Jim stayed at Maison Fortuné during the week they were in Haiti. This was the first time Bishop Sullivan had seen the orphanage since 2004, and he was amazed at the changes. Brother Harry Eccles and Jean-Louis were their hosts as they got acquainted or reacquainted with the boys and girls.

MORE WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

As promised in our June newsletter, there now are two: www.maisonfortune.org, maintained by Brian Gridley, a parishioner at St. Mark Catholic Church, Virginia Beach, and www.mfofoundation.org, maintained by John Blandin of the staff of Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, also in Virginia Beach.

The original website focuses on the orphanage itself; the new one on the Foundation and its mission—the support of the orphanage. The two are linked.

We hope you'll check out the new site, which for the first time provides an easy way to make on-line contributions to the Foundation, its operational, capital and endowment funds and its projects.

THEY'RE GETTING OLDER!

There are now 46 Maison Fortuné residents now in secondary school. A new development: in addition to those attending St. Martin, we now have three at the lycée [public school] in Hinche and three at the Sant Teknik [technical school] in Pandiassou (about three miles from Hinche).

Those attending the Lycée are Archille Mackenson, Lacroix Hubermane and Olichard Jacques.

Those at the Sant Teknik are Jacklin Davilman, James Jolicoeur, and Kelby Noël.



Our secondary students (Sant Teknik students in light blue on the left; Lycée students in the darker blue on the right; our first female student, Marie-Denise Louis, is standing in the front row center

Not only are the kids getting older, they are also more of them to feed and educate. This year there are 115 boys and 35 girls at Maison Fortuné!

PENNSYLVANIA GOLF OUTING A MAJOR SUCCESS

The eleventh annual golf outing sponsored by the Beaver County Council, St. Vincent de Paul Society, once again designated the Maison Fortuné Orphanage as the beneficiary of a major part of the income generated. We received a check for \$11,000 this year and are deeply grateful to the outing director John Dudo and the members of the Council, who serve the needy in western Pennsylvania—and at the orphanage.

Foundation President Chip Wirth and his son played in the outing this year—sorry, no scores are available. They had a great time, however. Former Haiti volunteer Jonathan Dohanich was part of the outing team this year as well.

SOLARIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

Last month we received a gift of \$5,000 from a family charitable fund which wishes to remain anonymous. With this gift we are almost a quarter of the way toward our goal of providing solar energy to the orphanage. Your help is needed to get us the rest of the way!



The children of St. Patrick School in Norfolk, Va., are collecting a million pennies for the orphanage—and they are just about halfway there! The box will weigh three tons when filled.

OTHER RECENT NEWS

Like many places in the US, Hinche has seen its share of flu.

In late September and early October, there was a line of children at Maison Fortuné's clinic every day recently. The flu (seasonal or H1N1, who knows?) swept through the place and then just as suddenly was gone, thank God. No lasting damage. Now everyone seems healthy once again.

As we go to press, Susan Pleasants RN, the Foundation's Wellness Program coordinator, is on her way to Haiti, so we soon should have a report on how the children are doing in the health area.

2009 SILENT AUCTION

The Seventh Annual Silent Auction benefitting Maison Fortuné Orphanage will be held:
Saturday, November 14th, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
St. Mark Catholic Church
1515 Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach.

Tickets are \$12 each and may be ordered from the auction organizer, Joyce Gridley, at 757-675-6486 or jgridley@cox.net

Lefort Jean-Louis, Maison Fortuné's founder and director, will be there and hopes to meet many of our supporters in Virginia's Hampton Roads area—and beyond!

SUPPORT MAISON FORTUNÉ THROUGH CFC!

For those considering a donation to a worthy charitable organization through the **Combined Federal Campaign**, please consider Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation as the recipient.

The Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation is an approved charity of the U.S. Government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), and is listed under the CFC's *National/International Independent Agencies* at number **12234**.

All federal civil servants, military and postal donors can designate Maison Fortuné to be their supported charity during this year's appeal. If you are a potential CFC donor, please consider designating the orphanage as a recipient of all or part of your contribution. The children at the orphanage will be the direct beneficiaries of your kindness because *less than 3%* of all funds raised are spent on administration and fund raising.

Last year [our first year to be listed] we received **\$27,660.79** through this campaign!

Please remember the code number: **12234**.

On behalf of the children of Maison Fortuné, many thanks!

MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP CONTRIBUTORS: July 2009-June 2010

Listed below are the individuals & groups that contributed since July 1, 2009 to the day-to-day operating budget (food, clothing, salaries, furniture, etc.) or to the capital budget (for building construction), or the Endowment Fund. We are very grateful; the orphanage could not survive without them.

Anonymous Donors	Nancy Layne
Colleen Aucoin	Earl & Carol Lienemann
Pearl Baird	David & Lisa Linnell
Charles Baker & Regina Dufresne	Chris & Stephanie Lowman
Cassie Booth	Br. Daniel Lynch CFX
Anthony Breen	Br. John Mahoney CFX
Bernard Brennan	Greg & Michelle McCracken
Ann-Marie Carothers	Michael & Shelby McGeehin
Mark & Sharon Carscallen	Thomas & Maureen McGeehin
Frank & Linda Carter	George & Louise McInnis
Peter & Kim Catoe	Lois McNally
Laura Charette	The Merck Company
Elisa Charters	Art & Kerry Mowbray
Dolores Christian	Kevin & Mary Murphy
Mary Ann Collins	Br. Cosmas Rubencamp CFX
Troy & Karen Constance	John & Susan Sangenario
Richard & Gwen Costello	Maribel Santiago
Bob & Sandra Coyle	Perry & Kathy Sassic
Rev. George Cowan	Lorraine Sharpe
Lisa Czora	Lynn Simmeth
Ron & Shirley De Bacco	Yvonne Smith-Philips
Frank & Carla Delgado	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Monaca Pa.
Dr. Thomas Diehl	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Beaver Co. Council
John & Marilyn Dohanich	David and Diane Swift
John & Pamela Dragon	Ralph & Erlinda Taguba
Milton & Agnes Ebbert	Valiant Tan
Pauline Eccles	Fred & Marguerite Thomas
ECR Software Co.	John & Ellen Thompson
Bruce & Susan Everett	Joseph & Susan Tofalo
Rev. Neil Fackler	Thomas & Elena Trotter
Mary Fitzsimons	Loren & Marcia Tschohl
Fred & Carol Flach	Rita Unis
Karen Gdula	Bradley & Cheryl Van Buren
Joseph Grim	Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Drew & Doris Grivna	Celia Woodham
Haiti-Not-Hilfe	
Haitian Health Care Foundation, Inc.	
Travis & Vicki Hale	
Hands Across the Sea, Inc.	
John & Susan Harnett	
Patrick & Kollette Hillard	
Michael & Jessie Johnson	
Betty Jones	
Jon & Ginny Kehoe	
Margaret Koep	
Leonard & Frances Komoroski	
Rev. William E. LaFratta	

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____. I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage operating budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Solarization project |

Name

Address

City State Zip

Please make checks payable to **Catholic Diocese of Richmond** and mail to:
Patrice Schwermer, Office of Justice & Peace, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond VA 23294

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