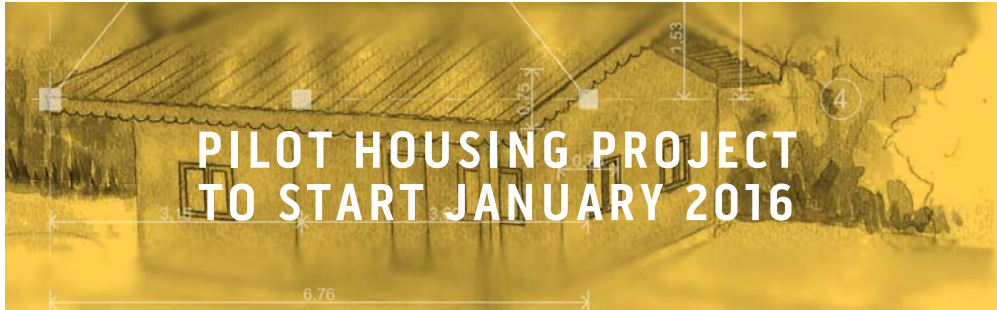


# THE *PROGRESS* REPORT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN  
2015



## PILOT HOUSING PROJECT TO START JANUARY 2016

Partners in Progress, *Ecole Communautaire Gamaliel Deslandes* (“EGD”) and the *Deslandes Komite d’Planifikasyon* (the local planning committee) have completed building and preliminary project plans for a housing initiative called *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Building Home Project. A pilot phase to construct a minimum of five houses next year will begin in January. A plan for replicating the project on a larger scale will be developed with participating families during the pilot phase. **[CONTINUED NEXT PAGE]**

## OUR NEW LOGO

The image of a partially woven basket symbolizes PIP’s emphasis on process and interconnectedness in its approach to development.



Making a beautiful and durable basket is a complex process, involving many hands. The place where basket material is gathered must be cooperatively managed so it is protected. Material has to be harvested at the right time, in the right way. Old and young must learn from each other so weaving techniques are passed to future generations.

PIP has found that the most successful development projects are those that involve authentic and equitable community participation. PIP engages diverse voices at every step of a project cycle – from prioritizing needs to planning, implementing and evaluating the project. This process involves communities locally, regionally and globally exchanging ideas and resources so that the best development options are considered.



For more on our development approach, visit PIP’s new website scheduled for launch in late December at [www.piphaiti.org](http://www.piphaiti.org)


## THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS




**900+**  
**CHILDREN**  
have access to  
quality education




Food production  
increased by  
**128%**



**46**  
**WOMEN**  
trained in green  
construction, sewing,  
or culinary arts



**1,705** SQ. FT. Agroecology  
Resource and  
Cyber Center  
(ARCC) built



**450+**  
adults & youth benefited  
from ARCC educational  
and community activities



Typical rural home

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The Project involves farm families organized in traditional work groups called *Konbits*. Each *Konbit* has four to five families. Families take out a home loan and pay what they can afford. The remainder of the loan is forgiven in exchange for helping other families build. Measures are taken to ensure that even the poorest families have a chance to participate in the project.

Men and women who were trained in CEB technology during construction of the Agroecology Resource and Cyber Center (“ARCC”) this past winter will be hired to provide training and supervision to families throughout the construction process. They will also be hired to manufacture the CEB blocks used to build the homes.

## Fondwa and Deslandes Team to Develop Farm



### Farm to Promote St. Antoine School and Fatima House Orphanage Sustainability While Creating Opportunities for Farmer Knowledge Sharing

The Sisters of St. Antoine (“SSA”), *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Agroecology Project (“KVK Agroecology”), and PIP are teaming up to develop a farm that will provide food and income for the St. Antoine School Lunch Program and Fatima House Orphanage.

SSA has acquired a 7.4 acre parcel of farmland near Papaye in the Central Plateau region of Haiti. Farmers from the KVK Agroecology Project will train SSA farmers in agroecology techniques as a way to maximize farm production and income. Phase I will establish experimental plots on 1.5 acre of land in 2016.

In addition to promoting school and orphanage sustainability, the Project will enable KVK farmers to build their skills as trainers. It will also allow farmers from three different regions of Haiti to share knowledge and resources for sustainable agriculture.

#### Some of the partners who made it happen.

Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa, Dominican University, Duquesne University, Earth Block International, Ecole Communautaire Gamaliel Deslandes, Fatima House Orphanage, Friends of Anne, Jacsonville Planning Committee, Komite d’Planifikasyon Delandes, Maritech Engineering, Mt. St. Peters Church, Mullaney’s Harp and Fiddle, Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh, Ryan Family Foundation, Sacred Heart Church, Sisters of St. Antoine, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth KS, St. Antoine Professional School, St. James Church of Wilkinsburg, St. Margaret Mary Church, Twinning Parish, St. Sylvester’s Church, and many amazing individual donors and volunteers.



St. Antoine School (“SAS”) was established by the *Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa* (“APF”) in 1993. The school provides pre-school thru “philo” (grade 13) education for children who come from Fondwa and 15 surrounding villages. Many of these children must walk 3 to 4 hours each way, every day to get to school! This daily feat is even more impressive when you consider the steep mountainous terrain of Fondwa and that children typically have nothing to eat before leaving for school.

Despite these challenges, SAS students consistently exceed the national average pass rate for standardized tests. Last school year, 84% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders passed their national “fundamental” exam compared to 72% nationally. PIP partners, Sacred Heart Church and St. Margaret Mary Church, provide support for teachers’ salaries and the school lunch program. This support is critical to making sure SAS students have the learning environment and nutrition they need to succeed.



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