



WINDOWS ON OUR WORLDS

News from **PARTNERS IN PROGRESS (PIP)** – Spring 2013

Permanent St. Antoine School Reconstruction Advances Rapidly in Fondwa



With the onset of the “dry season” last November, work on a new, permanent St. Antoine School has advanced rapidly in Fondwa. PIP’s partners in the **Association of Peasants of Fondwa (APF)** expect the new classroom complex to be completed over the coming summer and to be available for classes at the opening of the 2013-2014 academic year!

The school, which enrolls approximately 600 children from kindergarten through the end of secondary school, was completely destroyed in the massive earthquake that shook Haiti in January 2010. In keeping with APF’s belief that “*education is the means to overcome misery*”, reconstruction of the school became the focal point for rebuilding Fondwa. Emergency support from **Partners in**

Progress (PIP) and **Family Health Ministries (FHM)** made possible the construction of transitional classroom structures and the school reopened within 8 weeks of the earthquake.

Construction of the new St. Antoine School began in January 2012. The engineering firm of **M. Philippe Magloire** oversees the project with much of the labor supplied by Fondwa locals. A consortium of funding agencies that includes **Partners in Progress** provided the financing. The new structures are designed to be “earthquake resistant” in the choice of materials and with the main classroom buildings anchored into the bedrock of the school campus. Reconstruction has progressed steadily, despite the challenges of integrating the work with Haiti’s rainy and dry seasons and of maintaining a full schedule of classes on the already-crowded campus. Congratulations to PIP’s partners in Fondwa!



Pre-schoolers Learn Community, Create “Tie Blankets” for Fondwa Children



Pre-schoolers in **Nicole Taylor’s** class at the **French American International School (FAIS)** in Portland, OR began learning about “community” through an “action project” that involved creating “tie blankets”. Students worked together as a community with each of them contributing to the project by tying the fleece blankets together. They were encouraged to think about other communities that might benefit from the blanket and how they might reach out to them.

From their teacher, who knew about **Partners in Progress (PIP)** and the Fondwa community, they learned about Haiti and the children of **Fatima House**, the Fondwa home for more than 70 orphaned and “at risk” children and youth. The pre-schoolers were intrigued to learn that children attending school in Haiti study French, since they also study French at FAIS. Recognizing that “community” can extend across boundaries, they decided they wanted to send the blankets to the children at **Fatima House** in Fondwa, because “they need a blanket” and “they speak French like us.” PIP executive director, Rich Gosser, delivered the blankets on a recent site visit to Fondwa.



Second Phase of “Earth Block” School Construction Completed in Deslandes



A second “earth block” classroom building for the **Centre d’Inspiration Jeunesse (CIJ)** or “**Youth Inspiration Center**” in the village of Deslandes was recently completed with the addition of flooring and application of several layers of “earthen plaster” over the walls. “Earth blocks” have a higher compression strength than conventional cement blocks commonly used in Haiti and offer increased seismic resistance. A specially designed upper wall structure allows heat to escape from the spacious classrooms and combines with the thermal properties of “earth blocks” and an insulated, corrugated metal roof to maintain an interior temperature about 10° cooler than conventional buildings in Haiti.

Plans are currently underway for additional classrooms and for converting an existing classroom to a computer lab powered by solar electricity. Members of the school parent association have pledged to contribute funds towards the purchase of at least one computer and see the addition of a computer lab as a means of attracting more students and retaining better teachers. Most of the funding for the Deslandes school construction has resulted from the dedicated efforts of “**Anne Mullaney’s Friends for Haiti**”, a group of family and friends of former PIP board member Anne Mullaney, who championed the project before her premature death from cancer in April 2011.



“Education for Change” Fund Supports Scholarships for Solino Students

Education provides the foundation for change in Haiti and the “**Education for Change**” fund of PIP’s “faith-based” **Rich in Mercy** division provides partial support for educational scholarships for 100 children and youth from the Solino neighborhood of Port au Prince. Solino is a neighborhood dominated by poverty where street gangs attract youth who have few opportunities to attend school or earn a livelihood.

With support from PIP and other benefactors, a Spiritan Catholic priest, **Fr. Patrick Eugene, CSSp**, began a scholarship program in conjunction with the **Frere Alexandre School** that benefits 100 boys and girls from Solino, chosen on the basis of both need and merit. PIP funds for the project come from individual donors, from donations collected by children in the religious education classes of the **Holy Trinity School**, Ligonier, PA, and from “pocket change” dropped in a “collection bank” crafted by Ligonier artist **Paul Sirofchuck** and located at the **Ligonier Sweet Shop / Pathfinder Photo** also in Ligonier.



Birthday Bash Focuses on Both FUN and FUNDS to Benefit Children in Haiti



Leah Grady of West Deer, PA wanted to do something special for her eleventh birthday. She asked her mom, **Heidi Grady**, if she could have a party for some of her friends from the neighborhood and from her school. Face painting and the usual birthday cake, special treats, and games made it certain that the party would be a lot of FUN, but Leah decided to make her birthday even more special by making her birthday bash an opportunity to raise FUNDS to benefit children in Haiti through **Partners in Progress** (PIP) where her grandad, Rich Gosser, is executive director.

Instead of bringing presents, Leah’s friends and their parents were encouraged to make donations to PIP and her birthday celebration became a means of extending a “hand up” to children and youth in Haiti through the “**Education for Change**” fund that provides scholarship support to deserving elementary and secondary school students in Haiti.

Partners in Progress

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