

# Haiti in My Heart Society

Charitable Registration No.: 80638 5837 RR0001

INSTITUTION  
MIXTE RBMAX

FONDAMENTALE ET TECHNIQUES

# NEWS!

**Fall 2023-Winter2024!**



Sessions continue this Fall and Winter, bringing Haiti's captivating story to the forefront. These sessions answer the often-asked questions:

*"What happened to Haiti - how did a country come to experience these dire situations?"*

*"Why is change so difficult?"*

*"What can we do to foster hope, alleviate suffering, and help families in Haiti build for a brighter future, despite the current circumstances?"*

Sessions are hosted by a school, church or church group, or people just like you. Each presentation is suited to the audience, for ages as young as 5 up to 105!

Contact us to arrange a Shine A Light session in your community, with your social or church group, friends, or family.  
[info@haitiinmyheart.ca](mailto:info@haitiinmyheart.ca)



## THE 2022-23 SCHOOL REPORT IS IN!

Even with the continued stress and uncertainty of gang activity, scarcity of food, fluctuating inflation, and increased prices for basic supplies like water and gas/diesel, and food staples like rice, beans, and spaghetti, our school maintained a **95% retention rate of our student body** this school year.

Maintaining a high retention rate is critical to our students' academic success: without consistent schooling, children in Haiti struggle to pass the mandatory government exams contributing to the high drop rate of nearly 57% of all enrolled students by Grade 9.

Your gifts help ensure our students stay in school to at least the highest Grade we offer, Grade 9. By providing the tuition, books, uniforms, supplies, and a daily lunch, families are able to send their children to our school every year.

Our school families and students cannot thank you enough for all that you are doing for them, their children, and their community.

The following students earned the distinction of obtaining "top of their class":

**Darline Moncher - Preschool**

**Sankalocia Lubin - Senior Kindergarten**

**Christ Brown Edouard - Grade 2**

**Mosena Depre - Grade 4**

**Naïka Oremus - Grade 6**

**Karlens Dimanche - Grade 8**

**Taniphecka Fenelon - Junior Kindergarten**

**Mylove Bacon - Grade 1**

**Andeline Augustin - Grade 3**

**Natacha Thelot - Grade 5**

**Kettelina Simeon - Grade 7**

*\* We are awaiting the results of the Grade 9 government exams our students wrote in early July and will report on their achievements in a future newsletter. \**

As HIMH's capacity grows, thanks to your generosity, we are able to ensure the school's administration practices and personnel have the resources and tools they need to provide the reporting, accountability and transparency for our school.

We look forward to sharing more details on the school and students with you in the coming months and years.

Your love, compassion, and prayers continue to be needed for our children and families. Haiti's circumstances have not changed significantly since gangs took over the seaport in Port au Prince, 1 year ago this September. Parents continue to struggle to feed their children and gang activity continues to rule the country.

In addition, the land dispute in Montrouis remains unresolved. Earlier this month, the community experienced a resurgence of violence from the gangs controlling the land in the mountains East of Montrouis.

As Paul reported, "Thank God we have a strong local Police that is able to protect our community".



## Welcome New Monthly Donors!

We are delighted to welcome Ann Kennaley, Anne Brennan, Bonnie Jones and Cathy & Larry Porter who have started monthly gifts for our students! **Thank you!**



Developing the next generation of leaders in Haiti through access to education

NWSLAug/Sep2023

## Build. Grow. Learn.

How is it that our "news from Haiti" often contains both heart wrenching updates and inspirational stories and hope? The human experience includes suffering, joy, and hope. Haiti's historical and present circumstances bring these stark realities into sharp focus, time and again. When the situation in Haiti becomes particularly desperate for our children and families, as it is right now, we ask whether our priority should shift to providing basic necessities of life, or stay the course, providing access to education.

Every time we ask this of our Haitian staff and partners, the answer remains the same: stay the course.

### **Keep providing access to education.**

An educated child is more likely to make good decisions, become a responsible citizen, enjoy improved health, and find employment. An educated girl is more likely to raise healthy and educated children, arresting the cycle of poverty.

### **Keep operating a school that provides the necessary books, uniforms, supplies, staff wages, and daily meal.**

The majority of schools in Haiti do not provide these resources, and families are unable to afford the \$500-\$600CAD school expenses each year, per child, to access education for their children, and often make difficult decisions to stretch their household resources.

### **Do what you can, when you can, to support the school families and their nutritional needs.**

Our annual **Meals For Minds** December campaign this year will include raising funds for both the school feeding program and again providing family meal kits.

### **And there is always a gentle ask, yet not so subtle ask, about when the school could provide a Highschool education.**

In Grades 1 through to 9, students work toward successfully writing their government Grade 9 exams which allows them to continue onto Highschool grades 10 through to 13. However, this occurs only if their families can afford to pay for their child's education expenses. Most cannot, contributing to the 57% drop out rate at Grade 9.

In the next 3 years, 40 more students at our school are anticipated to completed Grade 9. In 5 years, that number will be 86. In 10 years, it grows to 176.

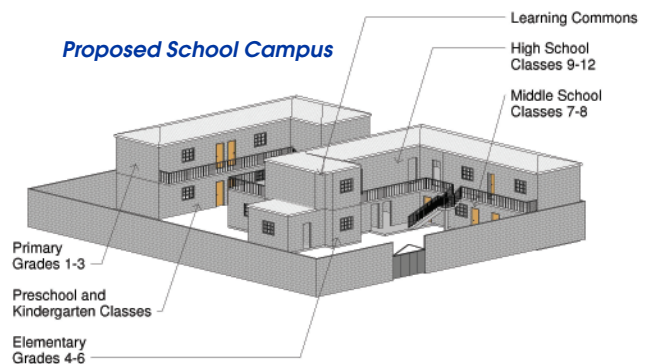
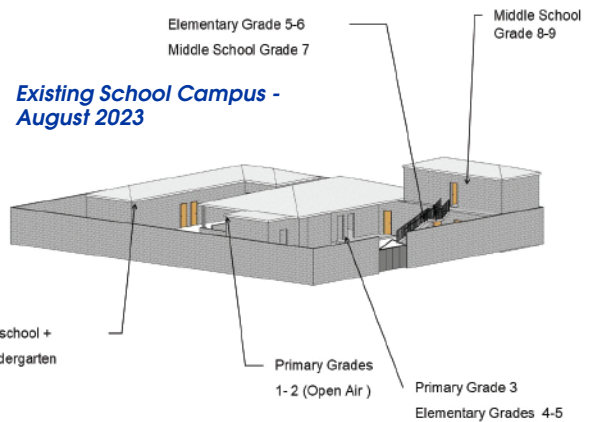
Our vision remains to provide access to education and the opportunity for children in Haiti to pursue opportunities for higher learning.

### **It is time for us to build, our school to grow, and our students to access higher learning.**

As plans unfold, we'll continue to keep you informed of this new direction. You can also hear directly why education remains a critical key to Haiti's future, and our plans, by attending a **Shine A Light** session this Fall or Winter.

In the meantime, we share with you these drawings of our existing school campus, and a concept drawing of the completed build!

\*Concept drawings by Emma White, Architectural Engineering Program, University of Waterloo (class of 2025).\*



## IT'S FOR THE KIDS!

We have just one purpose in raising funds: it's for kids in Haiti.

These funds:

- teach and feed kids
- help them to grow in spirit, mind, and body
- provide community and a sense of belonging
- develop the next generation of citizens, parents, and community leaders.

Right now, HIMH and the school's Administrative and teaching staff are preparing for the new school year. Books and uniforms are purchased for the anticipated 330 students returning this September. Well-used desks, chairs, benches, and chalkboards are replaced. The operating budget is reviewed and finalized. Teachers complete an in-service day to finalize their preparations and lesson plans.

You can participate and be an active part in these preparations by making your own gift for the upcoming school year operations. A monthly, quarterly, or annual gift is easy for your financial planning, and key for us to meet the year's anticipated needs.

## HOW DOES A MONTHLY GIFT STACK UP FOR A STUDENT?

- \$ 10/month - books and uniform
- \$ 20/month - daily lunch
- \$ 25/month - tuition
- \$ 55/month - (books, uniform, daily lunch, and tuition)

### Start a gift today!

- online with your credit or debit card (scan the QR code below)
- e-transfer to [info@haitiinmyheart.ca](mailto:info@haitiinmyheart.ca) (no password required)
- personal cheque to: Haiti in My Heart Society, 434 Glenwood Avenue, Kelowna BC V1Y 5M1.



## Happenings in Haiti

### Grade 9 Students Complete Their Studies

With our expansion to a Grade 9 classroom in the 2020-2021 school year, we now have a third consecutive year of Grade 9 students who wrote their government exams and have completed their studies with us.

We are so proud of these students, many of whom have attended consistently for many years, enabling them to achieve this milestone.



**Charmaine Guerrier**  
Age 14  
Start at IMR - Gr. 8 (2021)



**Chisenie Annacin**  
Age 19  
Start at IMR - Gr. 8 (2021)



**Douvens Noel**  
Age 18  
Start at IMR - Gr. 1 (2013)



**Fednard Atilus**  
Age 18  
Start at IMR - Gr. 8 (2022)



**Jacques Pompey**  
Age 20  
Start at IMR - Gr. 2 (2014)



**Lovenie Baptist**  
Age 17  
Start at IMR - Gr. 1 (2014)



**Madaphcar Cossogu**  
Age 19  
Start at IMR - Gr. 6 (2020)



**Richard Merantus**  
Age 15  
Start at IMR - Kindergarten (2011)



**Raymond Mathias**  
Age 19  
Start at IMR - Gr. 8 (2021)



**Flodia Augustin**  
Age 18  
Start at IMR - Gr. 3 (2016)

### Beach Day!

In June, our staff and students enjoyed a day at the beach! Snacks and lunch were provided. Games were played. Water play contributed to the fun as most children, even though they live in a fishing village along the coast, do not have many opportunities to play in the water or learn to swim.

These experiences are vital to our staff and students, as they provide an opportunity for our students to just "be kids" and our staff to just "be" for a day playing and engaging with their students.



### Kindergarten Graduation!

Kindergarten Graduation is a milestone celebrated throughout Haiti as it marks the beginning of a child's formal education in the coming school year.

At our school, Kindergarten students are celebrated with a special lunch and celebration with their families, teachers, Mme. Remicile (School Director), and Msr. Jean Karl (Ministry of Education Administrator for IMR). Our students receive their Graduation Certificate and a Booklet of photos of themselves, their friends and teachers, through their school years to date at IMR.

We are so happy and proud of these students and families!



Our School Parents are so proud of their children and this milestone they've achieved. Below are just a few of our students and their parents.

To view all of this year's Kindergarten Graduates, visit our website:

<https://www.haitiinmyheart.ca/graduates>



**Sankalocia Lubin**  
Age 6  
Start at IMR - Preschool (2021)



**Bendjino Lubintus**  
Age 5 Start at IMR - Jr Kindergarten (2022)



**Lorvensky Rauchenayby Noel**  
Age 5 Start at IMR - Preschool (2021)



**Magelinda Jean**  
Age 6 Start at IMR - Preschool (2021)

### Paul Remarries!

On June 21, Paul married his new lovely bride, Charline Toussaint. Paul's first wife passed in January 2021, leaving Paul and three children (a daughter and two sons).

**Congratulations Paul and Charline!**



## SCHOOLS HELPING HAITI

### St. Joseph's Elementary School

St. Joseph's Elementary School renewed their sponsorship of 4 students for the upcoming school year. The Grade 6 and 7 classes lead the way for the school's fundraising efforts, under teacher Ms. Hopley's guidance.

The Grade 6 students plan, organize and execute a Christmas "Green" Sale in late November. Students and staff bring in gently used toys, games, and books to re-sell. A bake table also helps increase the fundraising efforts!

The Grade 7 students performed "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in May to sell out audiences.

Proceeds from both efforts provide the funds to sponsor their students in Haiti.

Thank you to Principal Ms. Pedrette, teacher Ms. Hopley, the staff, students, and parents.



Pictured: Louise Elliott, HIMH Chair  
Kate Hopley, Grade 6 Teacher  
Grade 7 Students

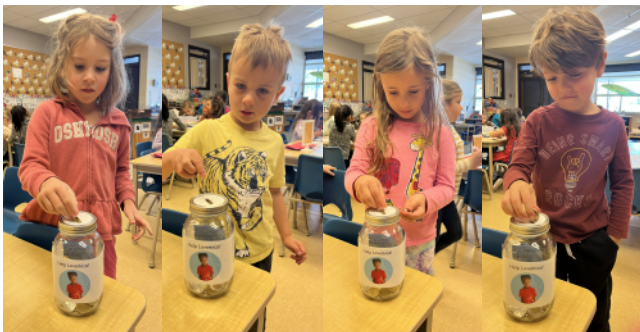
### Notre Dame Catholic School

Notre Dame Catholic School's fundraising was so successful this past Spring, they've renewed their sponsorship of their student for the next two school years!

In one month, students completed chores at home to earn a toonie toward their student sponsorship; and donated a toonie in that same month to wear a hat to school.

The students were lead in these initiatives by Principal Mary Leonard, and teachers Kathy Consoli and Jenn White.

Thank you NDCS community of staff, students, and parents!



## HIMH WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEERS!

We value your generosity, and place a high importance on ensuring we steward your financial gifts and charitable tax receipting using the best standard practices.

We are so pleased Tillie McCann has joined us, providing her exceptional accounting expertise and time. As HIMH grows, Tillie will help us ensure our practices and procedures maintain a high standard.



**Tillie McCann**  
Bookkeeper

### About Tillie

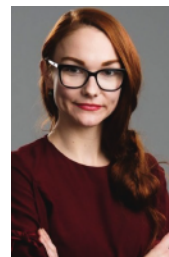
Tillie is a long time Kelowna resident, and a graduate of the University of Waterloo earning her Chartered Professional Accountant designation.

Prior to moving to Kelowna, she worked at IBM and NCR (National Cash Register). Now semi-retired, she currently provides her accounting expertise to her husband's private medical practice.

Tillie is married with three young-adult children. She enjoys hiking, connecting with friends, travelling, and is a fierce card and board game competitor!

Our school has grown from 50 students to its current enrollment of 330 students! Prior to 2020, Louise (HIMH Chair) and Dianna (L4H Chair) would take a photo "inventory" of students during their annual visits to the school, and obtain a little information about each student. Since Covid, this work has been contracted to a local Haitian photographer, working with Paul and Sophania (IMR School Secretary). As the data volume grows, and Sophania's administrative capacity expands with her schooling, it is time for the data in Canada to be managed in a more efficient manner than multiple Excel spreadsheets, computer folders, and class lists.

Sonya's project includes consolidating all student data into one Excel spreadsheet, tracking their historical enrollment and Grade advancement to current, and capturing personal bits of data we've collected. This work will allow easy migration into one of the data management systems she's researching to eventually "hold" all the student data and their individual photos.



**Sonya Taggart-Mint**  
School  
Management  
Database  
Project

When completed, we'll be able to easily track a student's progress over time, ensure records kept in Haiti and Canada are accurate and consistent, and create "student stories" to connect you more closely with the children you support!

### About Sonya

Sonya emigrated to Kelowna BC four years ago from the U.K.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Film. Yet, she has found her passion in community development, mental health, and advocacy work.

Sonya works for Stepper Care Solutions and is the Co-Design Lead for Wellness Together Canada, an online mental health platform funded through Health Canada. She is the volunteer Chair of the Central Okanagan Foundation Community Grants Committee.

She lives with her partner, Luke, and their kitten Yuki.

