

THE *PROGRESS* REPORT

Spring
2017



Building Home Initiative in Deslandes – Update and Up Next

Three homes of the Building Home Initiative Pilot Phase have been completed and construction on a fourth home will begin in April. The project experienced some delays in finishing the third home due to difficulty finding building materials because of the scarcity of materials caused by Hurricane Matthew reconstruction.

Planning for Phase II of the Building Home Initiative is underway. An additional four homes will be constructed during Phase II. We'll continue working to improve the building design by increasing living space and reducing cost. PIP and École Communautaire Gamalièl de Deslandes will work with community members to develop a local-based cooperative financing model that can be self-sustaining.

PIP is collaborating with Échale Tu Casa (a Mexico based organization) to evaluate and improve the design of the homes. Échale Tu Casa works to improve access to decent, green and sustainable housing in marginalized communities. They have constructed some 30,000 homes out of stabilized compressed earth block and rehabilitated another 150,000 homes across Mexico! We are exploring opportunities to partner with Échale Tu Casa and other organizations in development of the financing model.

A Durable, Safe Home for Sisters of St. Antoine



Reconstruction of the Sisters of St. Antoine home in the village of Tom Gato, Fondwa is underway. The walls are up and workers will begin constructing the roof this month. The Sisters of St. Antoine lost their home in Hurricane Matthew. The new home will have six bedrooms, a living space, kitchen and three bathrooms. More importantly, the building incorporates seismic and wind resistant design elements. PIP is one of several organizations helping fund the project. PIP also provided design and planning assistance. The Sisters of St. Antoine have been integral to sustainable development in Fondwa.

MESI ANPIL to all those who helped fund this project!



PIP is moving its office to the Borough of Aspinwall

Effective April 1, 2017
OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS IS:
P.O. Box 11278
Pittsburgh, PA 15238



A PIP Donor's Perspective

In 2001, I found myself, Haiti-bound, with one of the founders of Partners in Progress, Rich Gosser. The trip helped to strengthen a friendship already started by others in my church with the people of rural Fondwa. It helped answer the question of how we might best collaborate. As we talked, a clear need emerged: to empower young people by subsidizing teacher salaries at St. Antoine School.

The leaders of PIP helped our church community, Sacred Heart, to see that a modest amount of U.S. money could make a big difference in Fondwa, where crippling illiteracy had once been as high as 85%. From the outset, many generous people in Sacred Heart's parish wanted to help with this effort. PIP was indispensable in getting our donations safely to their destination. Both Rich and Mike Neumann of PIP also helped us form bonds of trust and respect with Fondwa's local leadership: Fr. Joseph Philippe, Sr. Simone, Sr. Carmelle, and later, Sr. Claudette. The PIP team works closely with our partners in Fondwa, making regular trips there and providing reports, pictures and stories. This helps keep us responsive and mutually accountable as we learn of changes, crises, and triumphs. In brief, PIP helps us stay connected in a graced and life-giving relationship for both the Sacred Heart and Fondwa communities. We are deeply grateful!

-- Betty Hanigan



Konbits Rising

New Innovation, Expanded Opportunities, Local Economy

These are the priorities that farmers of the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project have set for the next 18-24 months. Konbits will continue innovating to find new agroecology techniques for improving yield and soil health in rural Haiti. They will expand opportunities for other farmers to adopt agroecology practices by sharing know-how, tools, seed and other materials (including ongoing development of the Sisters of St. Antoine Farm in Papaye). Two healthy value added agricultural products will be created, one for local markets and one for markets in urban centers.

The **Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project aligns with the following 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:**

[SDG 1](#) - Zero Hunger, [SDG5](#) – Gender Equality, [SDG13](#) - Climate Action, [SDG 15](#) - Life on Land.



Jean Rene shares with Linda Boss of St. Mary of the Mount parish how agroecology practices have improved soil on his land, enabling him to grow yellow beans and other crops on his farm for the first time.

Some of the partners who make it happen.

Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa, Dominican University, Duquesne University, Earth Block International, Ecole Communautaire Gamaliel Deslandes, Échale Tu Casa, 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. Bernard Church, St. James Church of Wilkinsburg, Twinning Parish, St. Sylvester's Church, and many amazing individual donors and volunteers.



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