



VINCENTIAN FAMILY HAITI INITIATIVE

Vincentian creativity at work in Haiti

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

**Haiti Fiscal Year
Oct 1, 2013 — Sept 30, 2014**

Highlights

- Graduated 290 women from proven poverty alleviation program.
- 30% increase in assets of 150 women living in rural Haiti.
- Constructed 75 homes and 150 latrines for women in poverty alleviation program
- Began construction on Tilapia Farm to produce 50,000 pounds of fish and dozens of livelihoods.
- Trained 22 vocational students through construction of Tilapia Farm administrative offices who successfully passed state exams and graduated from program.
- Completed baseline survey of 389 households, comprised of 995 adults and 1109 children in new service area obtaining valuable information for rendering future services.
- Offered and accepted membership on steering committee for proposed Haiti Education Fund and Planning Committee for primary and secondary schools.
- Fed 4,200 students daily.
- Began a school evaluation process to develop individualized School Improvement Plans with 3-5 year objectives.

Letter from the International Coordinator

Dear Friends,

2014 has been a year of transition for us. As the LaHoye fish farm moved from a dream to a business reality, we have laid the foundation for the sustainability of our projects in Haiti: adopting the Haitian fiscal year, developing

personnel policies, and positioning our VFHI Foundation to shoulder the demands this growth will entail.

Last year also marked the end of our first three year Strategic Plan. The VFHI Commission has begun the process of developing

a new plan, based on the lessons learned these past years and building upon what we have accomplished.

We hope to finalize the new Plan by the start of the next fiscal year.

Fr. Joe Agostino, CM

Tilapia Farm in the Central Plateau

In January 2015 breeder fish and fingerlings will be placed in 6 basins and 10 floating cages to produce 50,000lbs of fish. Located in Savanne Perdue, La Hoye, Central Plateau, an area with extreme potential but without government services such as electricity and sewer systems.

VFHI's long-term goal is to become an economic hub creating stability with a hybrid approach tackling economic and psychological effects of poverty. VFHI partnered with a vocational school run by Zanmi Agrikol, the agricultural arm of Partners in Health, to construct the administrative offices of the farm.

In March 2014, VFHI completed a baseline survey of 389 households. The direst non-financial needs are literacy, clean water, latrines, and medical services.

Survey Highlights

- 226 households lack access to latrines and utilize the woods.
- 96 households use untreated lake water as drinking source.
- 273 households have fertile land but 118 do not use due to financial constraints.
- Of 995 adults, only 579 are employed, only 65 in the formal sector.

VFHI projects a yearly cash flow of \$200,000 into the local economy by the third year of operation. VFHI plans to contract mothers in the area as resellers of the fish. Given, the dire circumstances of ultra-poverty, these women are ill-prepared to be resellers.

VFHI will partner again with Fonkoze to launch the proven poverty alleviation program for the ultra-poor providing them a

latrine, water purifier, and business training. Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM) or "Pathway to a better life" **costs \$1,500 per family our goal is to fund 150 families with \$225,000.**



Administrative offices, LaHoye

We ask for your generosity, to support Haitian families.

Please make checks payable to:

Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative
c/o Congregation of the Mission
500 East Chelton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Thank you for your kind support.

Education Program in Haiti



Saint Anne school students, Thomazeau

Launched in October 2013, our education program tackles hunger and education improvement. In collaboration with Mary's Meals, an international anti-hunger movement, we feed 14 schools in the Central Plateau. Separately, we feed 3 Vincentian schools in Port-au-Prince. **Daily we feed**

4,200 students from Kindergarten to High-School.

Initial results of the feeding program indicate significant impact on enrollment and presence. **Prior to the start of the feeding program, 30% of students would not complete the school day due to hunger. Currently, all students complete the day** even though 59% come to school on an empty stomach and 47% do not have dinner at home.

Building on the current school relationship, we are assisting in a multilevel participatory school evaluation process. Each school community will create a common vision developing a School Improvement Plan defining objectives for 3-5 years. Our efforts will focus on monitoring the implementation. Additionally, Vincentian charism training will be implemented for Vincentian priest schools in Port-au-Prince.

CLM Cohorts Succeed in Central Plateau

The VFHI is proud to announce the graduation of our first Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM) or Pathway to a Better Life cohort in February 2014. **290 out of the original 300 members graduated.** This 18



CLM graduates proudly show diplomas

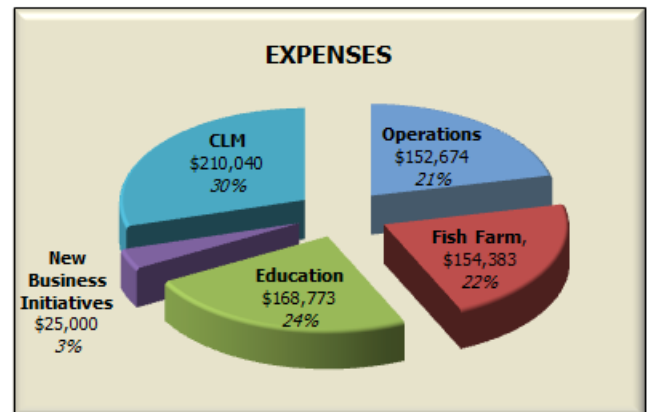
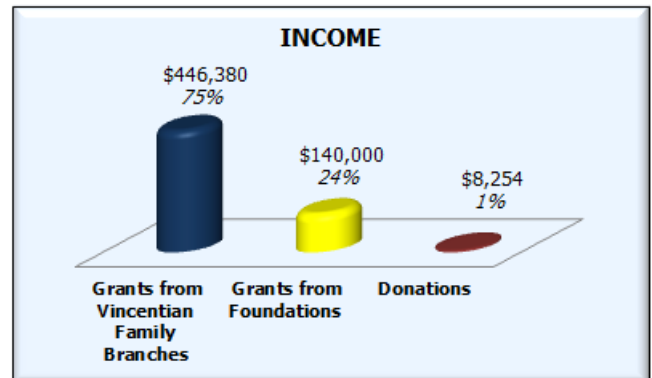
month poverty alleviation program is directed by our partner Fonkoze, a microfinance institution with vast experience in rural Haiti. Nearly 3,000 women's lives have been changed through this program.

Our second cohort of 140 members located in Gran Boukan reached its 9th of 18 months. Some of the achievements so far include: construction of 75 houses, completion of all latrines and organization of a mobile medical clinic at a nearby public school. Early in the program, 321 goats, 125 pigs, 198 chickens and 24 turkeys were distributed to participants, assets have already increased by 30%.

2014 Financial Activity

Since I am unable to thank you fittingly, I pray that God Himself will be my thanks and your reward.

St. Vincent de Paul



Our Team: VFHI's success is due to the collaborative efforts of an international Commission from the Vincentian Family, a Team of two project coordinators located in Haiti and two in the US, and an advisory group of Haitian experts. VFHI also executes many of its projects in collaboration with Haiti-based successful like-minded institutions.

Mission Statement: Based on the Gospel Values of charity and justice, VFHI collaborates with partners in the creation of systemic change initiatives that build the capacity of Haitian people to meet their own needs and claim their human rights.

Visit us: www.vfhi.org