



VINCENTIAN FAMILY HAITI INITIATIVE  
INITIATIVE DE LA FAMILLE VINCENTIENNE EN HAÏTI  
INICIATIVA DE LA FAMILIA VICENCIANA EN HAITÍ

*March 2015 Newsletter*

**VFHI Welcomes a New Commission Member, Marie Fouché**



Marie Fouché, AIC

Marie Fouché, originally from Haiti and currently residing in New York, joined the Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative Commission in February 2015, representing the Ladies of Charity. Marie serves as a model for immigrants to the United States. Her life demonstrates that education and concern for others pave the road to both professional success and happiness.

Since arriving to the United States from Haiti as a teenager, she has earned a bachelor's in elementary education from SUNY Empire State College, a master's in reading teacher from Queens College and most recently a master's in theology from St. John's University.

While managing successful careers in business and education, she remains involved with the welfare of her country and has been a leader among

the Haitian Diaspora in New York. Marie's knowledge of Haitian Creole, French and English language and culture has been key in providing leadership consulting to secular and religious organizations.

Most recently, Ms. Fouché was honored by the Haitian Americans United for Progress, Inc. with a community award as a founding member and by the Coalition pour Le Relèvement de l'Anse-a-Veau for her dedicated service to the town of Anse-a-Veau. She has assisted the Daughters of Charity in their work in Haiti and has served as a consultant to various U.S. organizations engaged in development in Haiti.

Marie Fouché was installed as a Lady of Charity in January 2011 at St. John's University.



VFHI Commission members: left Gene Smith, SVDP, Fr. Joe Agostino, CM, Fr. Faustino Burgos, CM, Sr. Iliana Monroig, DC, Fr. Joe Foley, CM and Marie Fouché, AIC.



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### Vincentian-sponsored Pathway to a Better Life Graduates Get Recognition from Former U.S. President Bill Clinton

On February 23, 2015 in Lascahobas, VFHI partner, Kreyol Essence had a very special visit from former U.S. President William J. Clinton. Kreyol Essence is a social business focused on exporting eco-luxury beauty products from Haiti. In a strategic move, VFHI financed a project to provide training for women that graduated from an 18-month poverty alleviation program, Chemen Lavi Miyò, CLM (Pathway to a Better Life in English).



CLM graduates processing castor oil for the international market.



Kreyol Essence owners, Yve-Car Momperousse and Stéphane Jean-Baptiste with former U.S. President, Bill Clinton.

This program was a pilot of CLM Plus, a program designed to allow CLM graduates to flex their newly minted budgeting skills through increased income. Kreyol Essence, in partnership with a local organization, will train 23 women to produce castor oil for the international market. With this program, these women can participate in the value chain of Kreyol Essence consumer products.

This castor oil will be used in a number of beauty products from lotions, hair pomades, and fortifying concoctions sold largely on the international market. The Clinton Foundation financed the completion of the processing plant, which will improve the production capacity of the major supplier of castor oil for

Kreyol Essence. The event

celebrated the inauguration of the new processing plant in the Central Plateau.

The Clinton Foundation with a delegation of 20 people visited several funded projects. Other guests include Kreyol Essence beauty ambassador, Miss Haiti, Carolyn Desert, VFHI partner Fonkoze, and dozens of media outlets. The catered, musical, well-organized event signals a pathway to success for this CLM Plus pilot program.



Haitian shea butter by Kreyol Essence.



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## A Commission Member's Perspective on her Trip to Haiti



Tilapia Fish Farm employees from left: Yamileh Jean-Pierre, manager; Fares Mathurin, night watchman/farm hand; Gracia Delil, farm hand; Anel André, night watchman/farm hand; and Guylaine François, housekeeper.

A four-day trip, a four-day immersion into an ideal mission to systemic change initiatives for the Haitian people!

I was thrust into a new way of thinking about our Ladies of Charity's motto "to serve rather than be served". I had done service last summer in the development and implementation of community development project Renesansavo in Anse-a-Veau, Nippes, with limited professional and financial resources.

Now I was experiencing:

- The accomplishments of the Vincentian Family through the collaborative efforts and resources from different groups. The positive impact on partnerships with other known organizations and the work of expert coordinators in education and economic development impacted positively on the Vincentian's initiatives.
- Learning new vocabulary such as CLM – (Chemen Lavi Miyò) and what it entails for members of the cohorts that have graduated from this program.
- Witnessing what the education coordinator has done with the feeding program for the 17 schools she oversees and listening to the evaluation process being conducted before the monitoring and teacher training can take place.
- Visiting the location where a building was just built to house the office and the young agronomist who lives there. She will continue to supervise the Tilapia Farm in the Central Plateau as well as the work being developed by the national coordinator for the region.

What makes this initiative more remarkable is the team of professionals hired by the VFHI: Yasmine Cajuste, Regine Theodat, and Yamileh Jean-Pierre. These three young dedicated, culturally grounded Haitian women are committed to making a difference for all those in needs. My hope is that they will continue to get both financial and moral support from the Vincentian Family to continue the projected plan for this Haiti Initiative.

It was a privilege, as a representative of AIC to be part of such an exciting and progressive project. I wholeheartedly congratulate the Vincentian Family for its effort and support.