

Haiti Partners Quality Schools Program Quarterly Report June - August 2014

Quality Schools Strategic Objective

Develop schools that help children realize their potential while driving community development and lifelong learning.

Component #1: Children's Academy and Learning Center

Outcome: Create a high quality school and learning center grounded in the local community that cultivates civic engagement, innovation, and sustainability and serves as a reference for Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other schools.



Progress Toward Objectives:

- With the start of our second preschool class, the Children's Academy more than doubled its enrollment in 2013-14 from 25 to 60 students. In response to local demand, we also doubled our [incoming preschool class](#) this fall to 60 kids. This brings the total number of students at the school to 120 - 45 more than aimed for in our original objectives.
- This August we hired 6 new teachers and two new teacher aids, bringing the total number of employees at the Children's Academy to 18.
- Coordinating 10,886 parent volunteer hours at the Children's Academy, making it possible to get substantial projects done like [improving local roads](#) and [landscaping and beautifying the front of the school](#).
- [Multivitamins given to students](#) each morning throughout the school year, thanks to a grant from Vitamin Angels.
- Over [10,000 trees planted](#) by students, parents and community members at the Children's Academy site and in the community. (We received saplings from USAID.)
- In July, we held a three week summer camp for over 80 preschool aged kids. This camp both provides summer learning opportunities for current Children's Academy students, and helps get incoming students accustomed to how things work at the school.
- A [USAID stove pilot program](#) was organized at the school and led by the vice president of the school's parent committee.

- [Community meetings](#) held 2nd Sunday of each month at the Children’s Academy throughout the school year. In August, we began weekly Sunday afternoon prayer and worship service.
- We submitted a concept paper to USAID for a project to, “create an alternative agricultural development paradigm in Bellevue La Montagne, one that encourages more ecologically, biodiverse, resilient, sustainable and socially just forms of agriculture.” The project includes the creation of a substantial alternative garden at the Children’s Academy that will be used to teach students and parents modern agricultural techniques.
- Training the 13 person construction team through our partnership with Extollo International in earthquake resistant masonry, plumbing, welding, electric, and more.
- Strengthening our relationship with [Haiti Clinic](#), making it possible for thousands of people in the Baocia area to receive affordable, quality health care. Clinics with visiting doctors and nurses are held every 2 to 3 months (view a picture from August [here](#)) and serve several hundred people at a time. Vaccines are offered once a month to local children. A Haitian doctor, nurse and health agent are on-site three times per week, serving as many as 40 to 50 patients each day. A Haitian dentist comes twice a month. Haiti Clinic is financing a clinic build out to significantly improve facilities.
- Piloting a new Haitian-made school administration software in the Children's Academy and IMN Community School. This software promises to dramatically improve administrative efficiency and our schools' ability to track student progress. If the pilot is successful, we hope to implement the software in the rest of our partner schools as well.
- Implementing community education activities, including weekly meetings with parents to address locally relevant issues like *restavèk* and domestic violence, and seminars for parents and other community members about locally grown foods and nutrition.
- Wozo Choir continues to thrive both musically and as young emerging community leaders.
- An Australian woman with decades of experience as an English and ESL teacher taught English to the Children’s Academy students and other young people (including Wozo members) for a month this summer. English class has continued ever since from 5:00 – 6:30 led by Alex Myril and community volunteer. There are 30 active students.
- A Canadian intern fluent in Haitian-Creole volunteered for three months this summer to write proposals and help us solicit funding for various Children’s Academy and Learning center projects. To view an example of her work, [click here](#).
- Kerline Janvier, co-coordinator of Children’s Academy and Learning Center attended a Beyond Borders Rethinking Power seminar in Jacmel last May. We are partnering with Beyond Borders to establish Baocia as one their partners carrying out this promising program for combatting violence against women and girls.

Component #2: Partner School Network

Outcome: Develop an effective accompaniment approach that helps Haitian schools to improve education, achieve financial independence through social business, and become democratic centers for community development and lifelong learning.



Progress Toward Objectives:

- On July 9-11 we held our [annual Teachers Summit training](#). Ten teachers from Holland, Michigan (all from Calvary Church) prepared many supplies and lessons and traveled to Haiti to work with over 60 of our partner schools teachers. The content focused on student-centered teaching techniques. To better acquaint the teachers from Holland with the partner school teachers' reality, we also included a visit to Cabois and the Children's Academy.
- Since July 2013, we have conducted over 60 hours of training and support activities, reaching all of our partner school teachers. This includes the large Summit trainings detailed above as well as HP staff visiting partner schools to provide on-the-ground follow-up and support.
- Three partner school meetings were held over the last school year in December, April and June. Topics ranged from considering how to improve implementation of training techniques to revisiting our goals and vision document to [working together to better define our broader goals of a partner school education](#).
- Long-time colleague and education expert, Steven Werlin, continues with us on a part time basis in order to help us improve our trainings and support for the partner schools.

Component #3: Social Business

Outcome: To develop thriving businesses that provide important products and services to the local community, generate funds to make schools financially independent, and create an entrepreneurial culture among students, teachers and parents.



Progress Toward Objectives:

- Troy Sanon started with us June 1 as our Social Business Coordinator. ([Click here](#) to see his impressive CV.) Troy is helping to ensure the expertise and resources are on

hand to support our new enterprises as they get started, to assure their success for the coming years, and to build our own capacity to support social business development and entrepreneurship as a centerpiece of our strategy for sustainable schools and job creation for the future.

- COPRABEP (La Gonave/Bèl Platon Community School) social business poultry farm construction completed, manager hired, equipment purchased and installed. It has been up and running, raising and selling chickens, since December 2013. They will purchase a 3-wheeler in order to broaden their delivery range. ([Pictures](#)) Business is not yet profitable but we're optimistic it will be by January.
- HAJICA (Darbonne/IMN-Henri Christophe-Cabois-Anonsiyasyon Community Schools) social business poultry farm construction completed in February 2014. A manager was hired in March and it has been up and running, raising and selling chickens, since April. Slaughter equipment was purchased and shipped from Iowa this summer and installation nearly complete. ([Pictures](#)) Business is not yet profitable but we're optimistic it will be by January.
- CPBM (Baocia/Children's Academy): hillside excavated, retaining wall built, foundation poured and first floor completed. ([Pictures](#)) Manager hired in August. Bakery equipment moved in in early September. [Two large generators](#) were delivered and installed in early September. The bakery will be up and running in November. [Walls of second floor training center](#) currently going up.
- Once the bakery gets off the ground and we register our construction company as a cooperative, we will have four new social businesses operating at once. The fifth social business will be the *Training and Meeting Center*, which will include the 2nd and 3rd floors of the bakery building. While we will be using this space frequently for various types of teacher training, construction theory, entrepreneurship, etc., we know that we will not be using it 100% of the time. Thus, we plan to market it to NGO's, churches and businesses who need affordable off-site meeting and training facilities. In addition to having two large classrooms for up to 90 people, we will also be able to lodge as many as 30 people on the 3rd floor.

Additional Progress

- In August our new Development Coordinator, Brian Ballard, started with us. Brian worked closely with Tony Campolo at EAPE for several years before coming to Haiti Partners. He has exceptional donor relation skills, significant grant and campaign experience, and we have high hopes for his ability to improve our fundraising this year and into the future.
- In February, we hired a Communications Coordinator, Joel Geertsma. Joel has exceptional design and videography skills and has already had a significant impact on the

look and feel of our social media and email communications. His presence is making it possible for us to plan an overall communications strategy and calendar, something we've always struggled to do with our limited human resources. In the coming months Joel will play a central role in updating and improving our brochures and paper communications, as well as making a series of high-quality and engaging videos.

- We have just finished a substantial, long-form report, to celebrate our fifth year in existence. Alongside this we are completing a brand refresh (including a new logo). And, in November, we will be launching a matching campaign and creating a brand-new website.
- In June, John began the [WorldBlu-Certified Freedom Centered CEO Program](#). He received a full-scholarship - a \$9,000 value - to go through this self-paced learning program that is expected to take two to three years to complete. The program's objective is for participants to demonstrate mastery of implementing the ten principles in an organization. John's learning partner is Ian Forber-Pratt, the Founder and Executive Director of Foster Care India.
- We are also delighted to report that in the midst of so many other things going on, Haiti Partners made, once again, the WorldBlu List of Most Democratic Workplaces. The process requires that every staff member complete an anonymous online survey evaluating our leadership and practices based on these [ten principles](#). It is wonderfully encouraging to see how our entire team of Haitians and Americans are responding to the invitation to create together an organization where we bring our full selves to our work. We are blessed to have a group of highly motivated, talented and committed people. We love knowing that the practices and principles of WorldBlu, Barrett Values, etc., are rippling out into the Children's Academy and Learning Center, our partner schools and social businesses, and the churches and seminaries that we're engaged with.
- After three years of substantially being in a response mode after the 2010 earthquake, this past winter Haiti Partners dug into the major organizational development project of strategic planning. With full support and engagement from our board of directors, we engaged an outside consultant, held two off-site staff and board meetings in February and April, as well as many conference calls. Our consultant used the [Barrett Values Assessment Tool](#) to invite all our staff and boards to evaluate, anonymously, Haiti Partners as relates to our values. We also invited everyone to complete an extensive online survey for long, medium and short range planning purposes. The Barrett Values Assessment Tool and online survey were both done in English and Haitian-Creole. We were very encouraged by the high level of participation among all members of staff and



board in the entire planning process. The result has been greatly increased clarity about our mission, values, and goals, how we express them, and how we plan, concretely, to move forward to attain them. [Click here to view our provisional strategic plan](#). The board's decision to focus this year on strategic planning came out of a co-director evaluation they performed in September and October. In parallel, and overseen by the board, Kent and John did extensive self-assessments.

- Co-director, John Engle, spoke at the Barrett Values Centre [CTT \(Cultural Transformation Tools\) International Conference](#) in Sweden in June. The Barrett Values Centre is an innovative international company that supports leaders to build values-driven organizations. We learned about Barrett when our friends at [WorldBlu](#) suggested we apply for a grant from them for the social business bakery building. We did this, were awarded their maximum grant of \$10,000, and then they invited John. ([View John's talk here.](#))