



Haiti Partners
Quality Schools Program Quarterly Report
September - November 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 56 kids. This brings the total number of students at the school to 116 – 41 more than aimed for in our original objectives.
- 5,823 parent volunteer hours were clocked between September and December 2014 at the Children's Academy, making it possible to get substantial projects done like [improving local roads](#), [landscaping and beautifying the front of the school](#), and visiting sick parents.
- On the advice of Calvary Church partner master teachers Sarah Genzink and Laurie Poll, this fall the Children's Academy started inviting parents to volunteer in the classrooms at the school. This allows parents to fulfill their volunteer commitment while getting a first-hand experience of what and how their children are learning. It has also served to promote a much better understanding and appreciation among parents for the job teachers are doing. Critically, it has given parents a direct experience of how children can learn without the need for corporal punishment.

- Inspired by Haiti Partners' experience with clarifying [our values](#) with the help of a [Barrett Values Centre](#) consultant last spring, this November [Children's Academy staff engaged over 70 students, parents and community members](#) to identify the values that they thought the school should be teaching. After much open discussion, we identified the following, each of which was given its own month during which the school will focus on it: Love, Wisdom, Smiles, Joy, Dialogue, Patience, Trust, and Creativity.
- This fall the school started hosting [Community Assemblies](#) each Sunday from 4 to 5pm. People are also referring to these meetings as *Rendezvous Dimanch*. They're attended primarily by youth and children, and have 3 objectives: 1) personal development, 2) ethical and moral development, and, 3) spiritual development. At each meeting the objectives are revisited and participants are invited to propose topics for small groups. Typical topics include: citizenship, environment, playing marbles, exercising, soccer, community development, Bible study, French conversation, etc. At the end of the meeting, small groups report in a large circle on what they did and the Wozo choir closes with a song. Attendance has typically been 50-60.
- In addition to the Wozo choir – which meets regularly each Saturday and Sunday from 3-5pm - a second choir with about 30 members has been forming with their support and leadership. Five Wozo members lead by writing songs and choreographing dances. Choir members hold performances and visit neighbors' homes, where they raise awareness about planting trees and keeping the community clean.
- This fall [ESL classes](#) were launched at the school each weekday at 4pm. Participants pay a nominal fee (US\$3). 35 attend regularly. As many as 60 come on a given day.
- In November a community-wide Open Space meeting was held on the theme of "What is our vision for our community and what is each of our roles in achieving it?" 80 people participated.
- On November 20th the school celebrated Universal Children's Day by sharing bread from the bakery with the students, distributing select books, and talking with them about their rights as children and responsibilities as citizens in Haitian society.
- Long-time colleague and education expert, Steven Werlin, continues with us on a part time basis. Lately, he's been regularly visiting the Children's Academy to write [individual stories](#) detailing how the school works and the impact it's having on students and others.
- Our partner, [Haiti Clinic](#), held their bi-monthly weekend clinic with visiting doctors and nurses on December 5-7, where they served hundreds of local patients.
 - Haiti Clinic recently hired an accomplished new Haiti-based head physician, [Dr. Dubique Kobel](#), to organize and oversee their work at the Children's Academy and elsewhere. In addition to a nurse and health agent, Dr. Kobel is on-site three times per week, serving as many as 40 to 50 patients each day.

- At Dr. Kobel’s recommendation, 10 parents from the Children’s Academy have been enlisted as local health agents to deepen the clinic’s reach into the community. These volunteers receive training from Haiti Clinic, visit community members’ homes regularly, and serve as a first contact when a friend or neighbor is facing a health concern. This arrangement leverages our partnership by allowing these parents to work off their four hour per week volunteer commitment in this role.
- The build-out of the clinic space is underway and [provisional facilities were in place for the December clinic](#).
- There is a steady flow of international and Haiti-based visitors coming to see the school, the bakery, and the training and meeting center under construction.

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:

- 978 students regularly attended our 6 partner schools this fall
- Partner Schools program coordinator, Benaja Antoine, visited the partner schools providing over 20 hours of direct support in preparation for the beginning of the school year, with implementation of the Gattegno alternative math program, classroom management and positive discipline.
- On December 5th we held a [partner school meeting](#) in Port-au-Prince. Representatives from all the schools were there. We discussed current financial challenges, heard updates from all the schools and social businesses, and discussed present challenges and successes.
- Regular discussion-based parent meetings were held at Henri Christophe and Jean-Jacques Dessalines Community Schools to improve parent engagement with the schools and their children’s educations.
- Despite great financial challenges this year, Cité Soleil Community School found a donor to support the school’s meal program for 3 days each week. This is a great boon in an area so harshly affected by hunger and extreme poverty.



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:

- The [Children's Academy social business bakery](#) – Babou (short for “Baocia Bakery”)
 - Began baking and selling bread in November. Initial staff of 9 has been hired, and the manager is working on bread recipes and marketing and distribution.
 - Logo created and finalized (see above).
 - Babou staff met twice a week to hold Reflection Circle meetings to improve their communication and collaboration skills.
- [COPRABEP](#) (La Gonave/Bèl Platon Community School) is fully operational, with over 1300 chickens currently being raised. Their capacity is 2400. Their current challenge is to increase their sales in order to meet business plan goals and start paying back their loan. With the hire of the new manager and the addition of a three-wheeler for deliveries, sales have improved dramatically from about 250 per month to over 800 per month. Social Business coordinator, Troy Sanon, is working with the Board president, Benaja Antoine, and the business manager to continue to increase sales.
- [HAJICA](#) (Darbonne/IMN-Henri Christophe-Cabois-Anonsiyasyon Community Schools) is fully operational, presently with over 5000 chickens being raised on site. The capacity is 9000. The slaughterhouse is not yet operational. Most of the equipment for the slaughterhouse was received late in the summer, but a couple pieces were missing from the shipment and they are working to have the final ones purchased or fabricated in Haiti. The staff received training from a similar sized poultry farm in November.