### QUALITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Haiti **Partners** 

### **January 2015 - March 2015**

1.00

# QUALITY SCHOOLS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

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

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#### **COMPONENTS**

Children's Academy and Learning Center - P.3 Partner School Network - P.8 Social Business - P.10

#### CONTACT US

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### 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 Haiti's Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other schools.

### January

**Language Hangouts launched** - An effort spearheaded by HP Board member, Jesse Engle, to connect Haitian ESL students with native English speakers via teleconferencing technology for conversation practice. (Watch the video) After a successful pilot with 50 participants, the first formal 8-week session began - where 21 Haitians convene one on one with 21 American tutors for 30 minutes each week to augment the English classes provided at the Children's Academy. (bottom photo)

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In conjunction with Haiti Clinic, in early January we organized <u>a presentation on the importance of good</u> <u>dental hygiene for the kids</u>. The presentation was led by Dr. Joseph Antony – the dentist that works with Haiti Clinic – and new teacher, Ms. Wilène.

**Jan 12** - A remembrance was held at the Children's Academy to honor the lives of those affected by the 2010 earthquake and to help the community heal. (<u>View post here</u>)

**Jan 30** - The school leadership committee met with the entire school staff. To improve communication and coherence among the different activities at the school, the following calendar of regular meetings was established:

Monthly: school leadership committee and the school's administration Bimonthly: school leadership committee and teaching staff Every Thursday: teaching staff Every Tuesday and last Friday of the month: all staff Three times each school year: all parents, teachers and school administration Bimonthly: parents and teachers by class Throughout the year: parents and teachers individually Last Friday of each month: in-service day with the school staff, Extollo and bakery teams

#### **Visitors**

**Lisa Reyes**, a retired ESL teacher from the US, has been volunteering extensively at the Children's Academy. She has played a key role in organizing and executing afternoon ESL sessions for both students and teachers, and has done an excellent job of organizing and accounting for inventory for Haiti Clinic.



## February

In early February three **Education is Conversation** (ESK) groups with 45 total participants began. During ESK, participants confront through conversation, role-playing, and interventions, critical issues that afflict their communities including child abuse, sexual harassment, restavek, and others. The groups will last for eight months and are being led by trainers with Beyond Borders.

**Feb 8 -** 130 people attended a community meeting at the Children's Academy. Updates were given on the different site-activities followed by Q&A and discussion about upcoming events.

**Feb 16-20** - The teaching staff participated in a training with <u>Amurt</u> on **student evaluation**.

**Feb 22** - We celebrated the 3rd Anniversary of the Children's Academy. An estimated 3,000 students, parents, and other community members came to the celebration which included a DJ, a performance by WOZO youth choir, and awards given out to outstanding contributors to the success of the school over the last year. Sandwiches made with bread from Babou, the social business bakery, were distributed to the entire crowd. (Read the blog post) (bottom photo)

**Feb 28** - <u>Life is Good</u> led a follow-up training for the teachers from the Children's Academy on how to use games as educational tools. (An initial training was held last November.) Eight teachers and teacher aids along with three members of the WOZO choir participated.

#### <u>Visitors</u>

**Lisa Victor and Thomas Crowley**, the principal architects from **BAR Architects (**the firm that created the blueprints for the Children's Academy and bakery) came to visit the Children's Academy for the last week of February. (<u>View their project page</u>) In consultation with HP, Extollo, and many members of the school and community, they began work on the plans for the next building and the evolution of the campus. BAR has been an extraordinary partner, volunteering hundreds of hours to date, and plans to stay engaged for the long term. (<u>View Lisa and Thomas' blog post</u>. View their latest site drawings - <u>1</u>, <u>2</u>.)

At the end of February HP hosted another team of **Haiti Clinic medical professionals**. They held a clinic at the Children's Academy, seeing over 500 patients in just 2 days. Their on-site staff continues to serve about 120 patients each week.



### March

**Mar 2** - The Children's Academy opened registration for the 2015-16 school year. Without any promotion, 45 students applied. We are pleased to see such continued enthusiasm for the school in just our third year of existence.

**Mar 8** - The school hosted a gathering to raise awareness and promote women's rights on International Women's Day.

**Mar 21** - The WOZO youth choir is in the process of creating a professional quality music video. The video will be shared at the WorldBlu biannual conference in Miami in May. WOZO also recorded jingles both for Babou and Children's Academy. (<u>Watch the video</u>) (bottom photo)

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**Mar 22** - Sunday movies began showing at the Children's Academy from 5 to 6:30pm. This serves as entertainment for the community, but is also an opportunity for people to improve their language skills since the movies are in English or French.

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#### Visitors

**Lisa Reyes** returned and continuted her work with the ESL sessions and organizing and accounting for inventory for Haiti Clinic.

Lori Larson, an accounting professional from the US, spent a week helping improve accounting techniques and procedures for the Children's Academy, the bakery and Extollo.



## The Rest

In January and February **Children's Academy parents volunteered 2,475 hours**, making it possible to get substantial projects done like <u>improving local roads</u>, <u>landscaping and beautifying the front of the school</u>, and visiting sick parents. (bottom photo)

Long-time colleague and education expert, **Steven Werlin**, continues to regularly visit the Children's Academy to write stories detailing how the school works and the impact it's having on students and others. (Read Steven's blog posts)

The new community youth choir that the WOZO choir organized last November **has 73 registered participants**. They meet every Sunday afternoon to rehearse at the school. They are using democratic process to select a name. So far each participant has had the chance to suggest a name. They then voted to narrow it down to 15, and on March 29th they'll vote to narrow it down to 3 and then finally to 1.

#### **Upcoming Visitors**

A new arrangement with Waterloo University is making it possible to host two student interns this May through August. The students will help us with ESL classes and other activities, and will receive college credit from Waterloo as part of the experience.

In September another student intern will come stay with us during her gap year (between high school and college), for seven months. This new person learned about HP through Nicole Groves, who interned with us last year at the Children's Academy.

We're hosting steady flow of potential partners from <u>Plant with Purpose</u> as well as Matt Damon's <u>water.org</u> organization to pursue partnership.



## **The Partner Schools**

### <u>The Network</u>

Anonsiyasyon Cabois Henri Christophe IMN Bèl Platon Cité Soleil

### 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.

## Updates

**Jan 23** - Our liaison to **Henri Christophe** Community School held a meeting with parents from the kindergarten section of the school. The focus of the meeting was on parents' role in their children's education, and how they can help their children' succeed both personally and as students at the school.

**Feb 13** - The Leogane partner schools held activities for Carnival, including a movie at **Anonsiyasyon** and skits created to educate students about the holiday.

**Feb 16-20** - The Ministry of Education did a 40 hour follow-up training on how to best utilize the national curriculum with the teachers at **Bèl Platon** Community School.

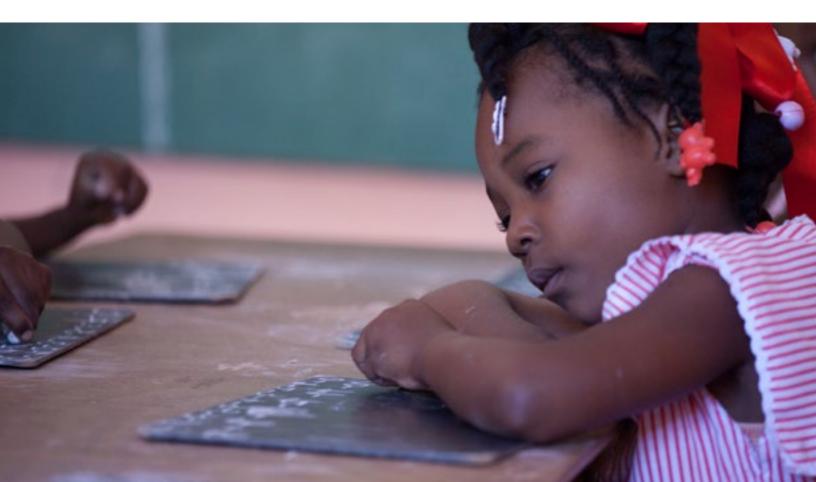
**Dec 18-19** - **Bèl Platon** Community School received a significant training for parents on health issues and how to take proper care of their animals including goats, cows, donkeys, horses and mules.

At the end of December each of the Leogane partner schools organized a party for students and parents to celebrate Christmas and the end of the calendar year. They ate and sang songs together, and some of the classes presented skits they had created. The skits touched on topics like **environmental protection**, **health**, **cleanliness and Christmas**.

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Henri Christophe and IMN community schools are offering computer classes to students on a regular basis.

**IMN** Community School joined a network of local schools aiming to raise awareness about environmental protection.



## **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.

## Updates

#### Babou (Bakery) - The Children's Academy

- Four recipes for quality bread have been created.
- Sales are up to about 100 bags of bread each day.
- Bakers are exploring putting moringa in bread to fortify it as well as making bread using locally grown breadfruit.
- A new website for the bakery has been developed: <u>babou.ht</u>
- Staff has begun promoting the bread at local markets and throughout the area.
- A raffle has been created to generate interest and promote sales.

#### **COPRABEP** (Poultry Farm) - La Gonave/Bèl Platon Community School

- COPRABEP has been increasing sales with help of a 3-wheel vehicle that allows them to reach farther away markets in the mountains.

- They continue to struggle with the simple lack of purchasing power on the island, coupled with not having a slaughterhouse which would enable them to sell butchered meat, as well as competition from subsidized, imported chicken from the United States.

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**HAJICA** (Poultry Farm) - Darbonne/IMN-Henri Christophe-Cabois-Anonsiyasyon Community Schools

- HAJICA has been selling chickens to the <u>new Marriott Hotel in Port-au-Prince</u> since their opening in February. HAJICA is their primary provider of chicken not only for special events and their restaurant, but also to regularly feed their staff.

- Through a partnership agreement in January, HAJICA acquired access to a refrigerated truck allowing it to safely make daily deliveries to Port-au-Prince and elsewhere.

