

Haiti  
Partners

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014/15





# PITI PITI ZWAZO FE NICH LI

*Little by little the bird makes its nest.*



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# A NOTE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS

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First and foremost, thank you. We hope through these pages you feel the joy of joining meaningful work and of helping to accomplish important things. It's with much gratitude that we share stories and photos of Haitian students we're inspired by. We hope you're inspired too.

As we reflected on the past year, we thought of a common Haitian proverb: "*Piti piti zwazo fe nich li*" - *Little by little the bird makes its nest. Piti piti*, little by little, is many things.

**Piti piti is incremental** - lasting change often comes slowly. The building of a nest comes one little piece of straw and string at a time.

Like building a nest, change in Haiti comes one small piece at a time. The things we're most proud of usually take time: getting in shape, finishing your degree, raising your children. Good work requires time too. Investing in education is for the long-term. We see the immediate gratitude of parents who can send their child to a good school, and in a seminary student who gets the opportunity to follow God's call in her life. But the ultimate payoff is down the road, when the child grows up and can provide for his family, when the young seminary student becomes a leader in her community.

**Piti piti is transparent** - in Haiti, a common answer to "How are you?" is "*Piti piti*." You're making it, little by little. Instead of the canned "Fine" or "Doing great," "*Piti piti*" speaks honestly, because life is a daily struggle.

Our programs are run by Haitian and American staff who have long and deep commitments to Haiti and are committed to what Haiti Partners feels called to: *helping Haitians change Haiti through education*. We're committed to being honest with you about both the challenges and the progress.

**Piti piti is hopeful** - indeed, the nest is getting built little piece of straw by little piece of straw.

Parents who never had the chance to go to school, or even learn to read or write, work service hours at one of our schools so their child gets the best education possible. They see hope in their children. This relates to the way many visitors to Haiti talk about the inspiration they draw from witnessing Haitian grit and determination. Parents make huge sacrifices for their children's education.

Or take a problem like child exploitation through the restavek system, where children live away from their homes and work for other families. There is hope because a generation of young leaders (on seminary scholarships because of you) who follow Jesus are passionate about changing this. Through them churches have changed, and children have been returned to their families.

\* \* \*

In these pages we invite you to see the change that happens *piti piti*. We're committed to **incremental change**, like we see in Farah at the Children's Academy (page 6). We're **transparent** so we can make a profound and lasting difference (see financial report on page 11). We're **hopeful**, as you'll see in our first class of seminary graduates like Keda (page 8).

*Piti piti* isn't a small dream. It's a tenacious dream, and we're grateful for your commitment to helping to make it a reality. *Little by little* we see Haitians changing Haiti through education.

**And this little by little is a BIG, BIG reason to keep working for change!**

In Christ's hope,



Kent Annan



John Engle





13 SEMINARY GRADUATES

Five of the graduates: Fred, Rosene, Etienne, Keda, and Romane



Kesnel, a parent volunteering at the Children's Academy

SOME OF  
**WHAT YOU  
MADE  
POSSIBLE  
THIS YEAR**



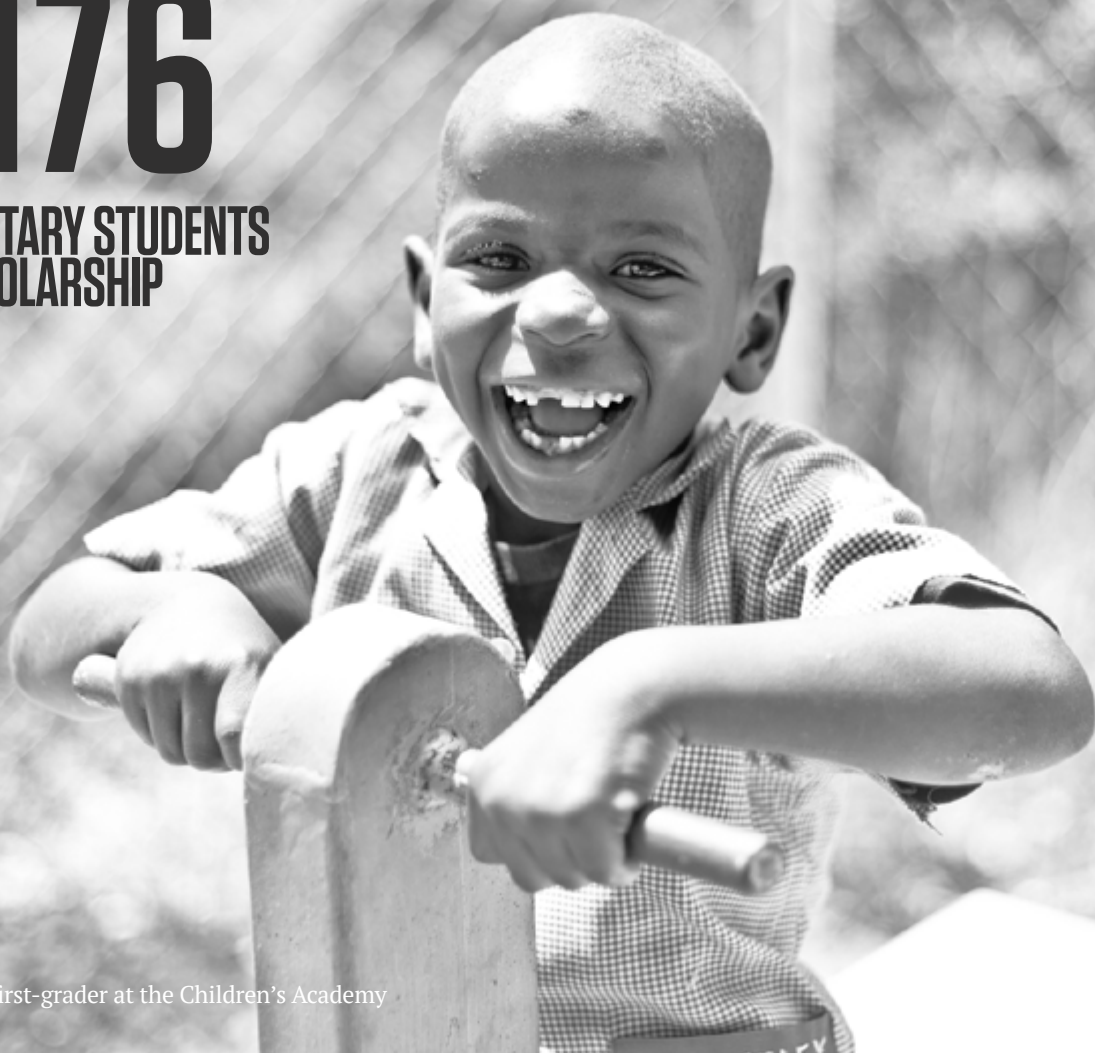
200  
HAITIAN EMPLOYEES  
AND PAID INTERNS

Junia, administrative/finance coordinator in Haiti

21,429  
PARENT SERVICE HOURS

# 1,176

**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
ON SCHOLARSHIP**



Princeley, a first-grader at the Children's Academy

# 43

**MICAH SCHOLARS**



Micah Scholar graduate Eliodor leading a prayer at Church





Farah, a first-grader at the Children's Academy

## QUALITY SCHOOLS

**We develop schools that help children realize their potential while driving community development and life-long learning.**

Farah was the first one to notice the tiny, crying child approaching the Children's Academy for his first day of summer camp. He gripped his parents as they explained that they had to leave. But this was cold comfort to a 3 year old who'd never been to camp before. Understanding his distress, Farah put the young child on her lap and began to comfort and convince him that it would be okay and that he'd enjoy camp if he gave it a try.

Farah understood the boy's distress because it was only three years ago that she was the one parting with her parents to attend her first day at the Children's Academy.

Rather than seek out an adult or simply stand by, Farah, who had just finished kindergarten, took responsibility for helping the young boy and solving the situation on her own.

Though just a brief moment, Farah's behavior is emblematic of the broader goals of our Quality Schools Program: She identified a problem, recognized that she could help, and then took responsibility to resolve it. It is exactly this kind of character that we hope to cultivate in all our students.

# PURSUING DEVELOPMENT

We strengthen the quality of education at the Children's Academy and our six partner schools

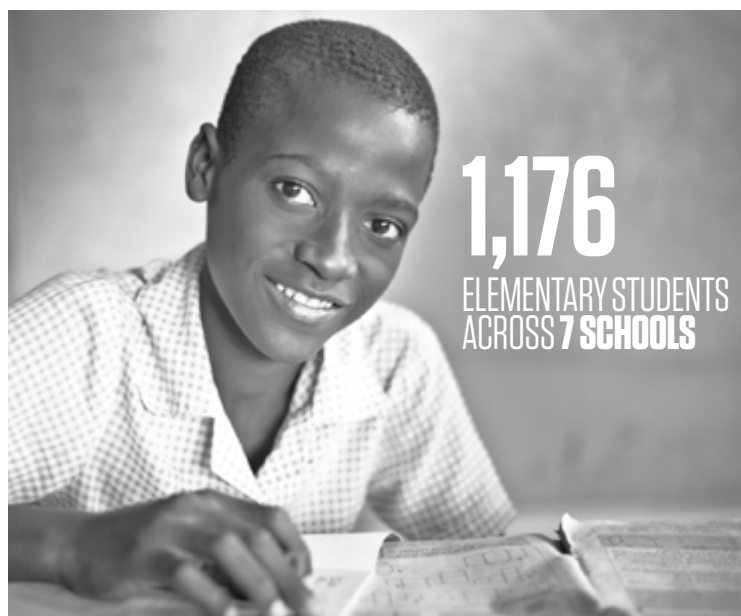
through improving pedagogical and administrative practices, and increasing parent involvement and community engagement.

This year was very productive. A total of 1,176 students attended our schools, benefitting from the pedagogical, administrative, and financial support your gifts provide.

At the Children's Academy and Learning Center, enrollment doubled from 60 to 120 students, 63% above our original 3-year objective. Parents worked 21,429 service hours in the school and surrounding community and 45 parents participated in weekly seminars designed to help them confront critical issues in their community, including child abuse, sexual harassment, domestic violence, child servitude and others. Students and WOZO youth choir members participated in reforestation efforts by planting over 1,000 trees.

Daily English classes and Language Hangouts—a program that connects North Americans and Haitian language students through online video chat—were held at the Children's Academy. Over 100 people participated throughout the year.

In July we held our fourth annual Teacher Summit training. It lasted 3 days and was attended by 38 of our lead teachers and administrators from our schools. The training was led by an exemplary group of 12 expert teacher trainers from Calvary Church in Holland, Michigan.



# SNIPPETS OF HOPE

• Islande, who is 28 years old, appeared at Anonsiyasyon Community School in January insisting they enroll her in 1st grade. "I want to learn to read and write before I die," she said. Despite the extraordinary circumstances, they accepted her and she not only caught up, but finished in the top 5 of her class.

• In addition to being a leader in school service hours (1,403!) and a community health agent, Marie-Ange, a Children's Academy parent, is training to be a "local activist" for the SASA! program that will launch this fall. In this role, she will become an advocate for women and girls in her community and a resource for others.

• Yara, 4, has become a regular participant in the afternoon English class. Having lost her mother about a year ago, she and her father have become very active in Children's Academy activities. For his part, her father satisfies his service hours by fixing wheelbarrows for the school.







Keda, a seminary and Micah Scholar graduate

## HOLISTIC CHURCHES

**We mobilize churches to help people engage for justice and deepen in faith.**

“A woman of valor, who can find?” asks the author of Proverbs. We see an answer in Keda, one of the many women of valor in the Micah Scholars. She is graceful, often quiet and soft-spoken, but fierce in her convictions, her faith, and her passion for justice. Most of all, she has a spirit of strength and courage that is evident in her fearless drive to preach and lead in a way that makes change possible for vulnerable women and children in Haiti.

This past spring, in partnership with Compassion International, Keda and 9 other Micah Scholars led a weekend training conference on children’s rights for over 160 pastors and leaders in northern Haiti. That Sunday, all 10 of them had the chance to preach in churches across the region. For the church where Keda was,

the first time a woman had preached the sermon in its history. A potentially intimidating experience, but Keda courageously forged ahead. Balancing passion and humor with sound theology, she preached for nearly two hours on how the church should be involved in doing justice for vulnerable children. It was a moment that marked everyone involved.

Keda graduated this past May as part of our first class of Micah Scholars. In a few weeks, she will be installed as a pastor at a church in the Central Plateau. As a pioneer for women in church leadership, she knows she still has many challenges ahead. Change can be slow and hard to see, but with the strength and courage of Keda and her fellow graduates, we know that, *little by little*, it is coming.



# PURSUING JUSTICE

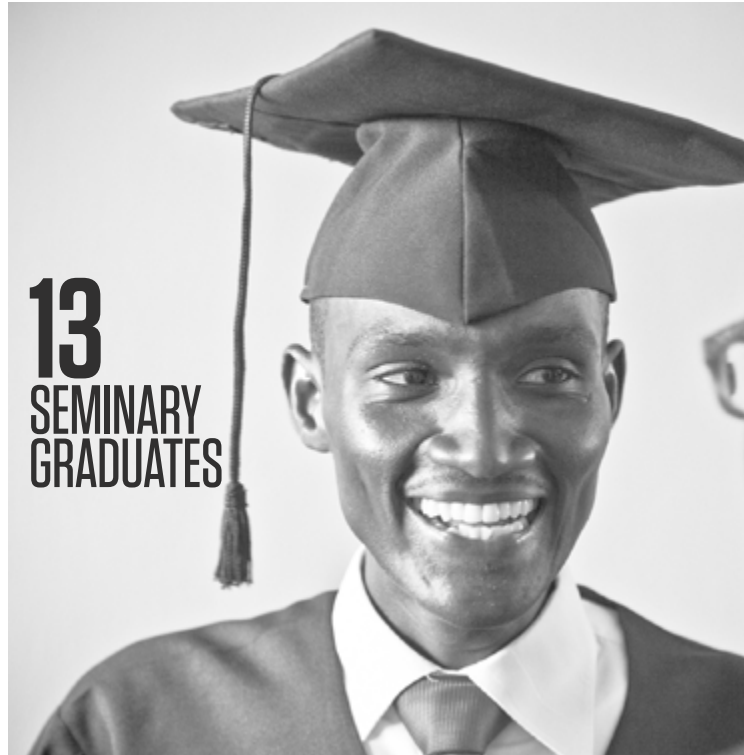
This was a milestone year for the Holistic Churches program. In September, we added 8 new Micah Scholars, bringing our total to 43.

That same month, we kicked off a 6-month project to mobilize 15 churches to address the challenge of restavek (forced child servitude) in their communities, while at the same time, we tested survey tools to evaluate our impact.

In November, the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, co-author of *Faith-Rooted Organizing*, led the Micah 6:8 Summit, helping the Micah Scholars develop new strategies to mobilize churches and communities. We ended the Summit with our 1st Rally Against Restavek, bringing together over 500 people to experience dance, music, and drama to raise their awareness on this key issue.

This year, we published two new study guides on women’s rights, and we’re already seeing this material transform churches and communities.

In the spring, we partnered with Compassion International to train hundreds of pastors and leaders on children’s rights. And we capped off the year with another Micah 6:8 Summit, led by the Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, a leading expert on reconciliation and justice, and Andy Crouch, executive editor of *Christianity Today*. The Summit ended with the graduation of our first class of 13 Micah Scholars, an incredible moment for all of us to share.



**13**  
SEMINARY  
GRADUATES

# SNIPPETS OF HOPE

- During our Micah 6:8 Summit in May, Frodelyne studied the way that leaders can use their power to change communities in the book of Esther: “I’ve learned to depend on God in everything that I do, as He gives me the opportunities to help others in need.”
- Eliodor was ordained to ministry in the church where he was interning: “I want to help build a church where each member looks more like Christ, with a heart of justice, love, and humility.”
- Fred (photo below left) worked with Andryna to pilot our new Bible Study guide on women’s rights in his church: “When they learned the stories of women in the Bible and the ways God made them leaders, it changed how they view the rights and roles of women today.”



OVER  
**500**  
PASTORS TRAINED ON WOMEN’S  
AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS



**5,000**  
BOOKS PUBLISHED

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**788**  
**PEOPLE**  
**CHURCHES**  
**BUSINESSES**  
**& FOUNDATIONS**  
**GAVE**



**1,838**  
**HOURS**  
**VOLUNTEERED**  
**IN THE U.S.**



# TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Last year you helped send 1,176 students to primary school and 43 young adults to seminary. This work also rippled out to touch thousands of people’s lives through schools and churches. Thank you!

Haiti Partners’ Board of Directors takes seriously your generous support of education in Haiti. Here you’ll find a report of our finances from the past year. In addition to this report, we undergo a rigorous annual audit (that is available on request). We follow policies to ensure gifts are handled carefully. And we regularly review detailed reports to ensure your support goes where you want it.

Your faithful support makes possible what you read about in this report. Thank you for trusting Haiti Partners with your valuable gifts and for continuing to help Haitians change Haiti through education.

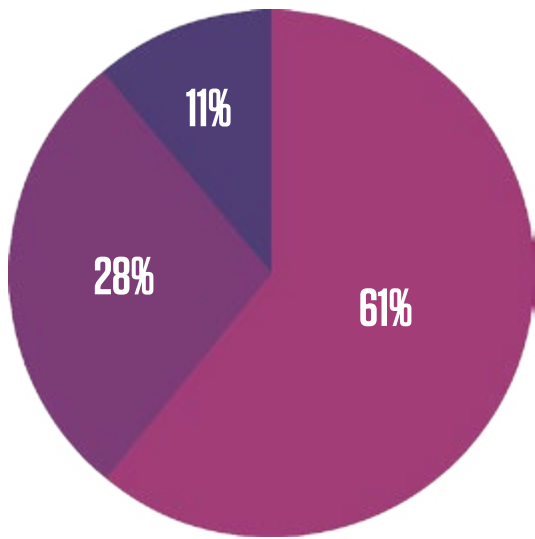
Gratefully, the Haiti Partners board of directors

Laura Timm, chair  
Adam Bolinger, treasurer  
Linda Aiken, secretary

John Simonton  
Jim Kitchen  
Fequiere Vilsaint

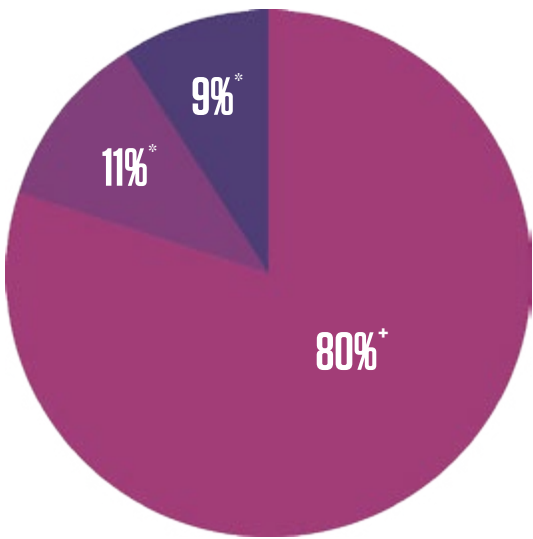
Tamara Simmonds  
Jesse Engle  
Yanique Edmond  
Chip Hardwick

## REVENUE: \$1,412,985



- Individuals: **\$860,518**
- Foundations: **\$401,507**
- Churches & Businesses: **\$150,960**

## EXPENSES: \$1,657,509



- Programs: **\$1,328,759<sup>+</sup>**
- Administration: **\$185,507<sup>\*</sup>**
- Fundraising: **\$143,243<sup>\*</sup>**

<sup>\*</sup>This past year we received a designated gift of \$50,000 from a generous supporter to build our fundraising and administrative capacity, which included a new website, brand refresh, and a better system to process donations and communicate with supporters. Because of this gift our fundraising and administration percentages are higher than previous years. We are grateful for this investment that builds our capacity to help Haitians change Haiti for years to come!

<sup>+</sup>Our program spending breakdown is \$587,804 in Quality Schools; \$387,826 in Holistic Churches; \$151,422 in Entrepreneurship; \$190,098 in Partners; and \$11,611 in Organizations. These numbers include all capitalized expenses.

Haiti Partners is committed to the highest standards of accountability. Because we were in the process of our annual audit at the time of press, the 2014-15 numbers reported here are based on unaudited cash-basis financials. Our total net assets (school buildings, vehicles, computers, equipment, etc) at year end were \$1,339,165, including \$174,305 cash on hand. For audited financials, contact our office or visit [haitipartners.org](http://haitipartners.org)

# FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP HAITIANS CHANGE HAITI

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## 1. GIVE A SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship is a monthly gift that helps provide a Haitian student with a quality education.

## 2. MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT

This is a gift of empowerment and purpose.

## 3. PLANNED GIVING

Donate stocks or leave part of your legacy to help Haitians change Haiti.

## 4. JOIN IN

Take a life-changing trip to Haiti. Host an event in your area. Keep us in your prayers.

## OUR MISSION

Helping Haitians change Haiti through education.

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## OUR VISION

We believe Haiti can and will inspire the world as we join together in God's story of justice.

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## OUR VALUES

**RESPECT** Respect the dignity, voice, and potential of each person.

**COLLABORATION** Collaborate for more effective, productive, and joyful partnerships.

**ACCOUNTABILITY** Be responsible to everyone connected with this work.

**FAITH** Follow Jesus in pursuit of justice and compassion.

**LEARNING** Learn, improve, and share in humility and gratitude.

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