

A young girl with dark skin and hair styled in two buns with large red bows. She is wearing a white short-sleeved collared shirt and red overalls. She is looking slightly to her left with a neutral expression. The background is a lush green garden with various plants and a wooden fence.

Haiti
Partners

QUALITY SCHOOLS
REPORT

Fall 2017

QUALITY SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

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

COMPONENTS

Children's Academy and Learning Center - P.3

Partner School Network - P.6

A photograph of a modern school building with a covered walkway and a garden in the foreground. The building has a dark metal roof and light-colored walls. The garden is filled with various plants and flowers. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER



Outcome

The objective of our Schools Program is to develop schools that help children realize their potential while driving community development and lifelong learning. We aim to cultivate a changemaker culture that empowers Haitians with the skills, confidence, and resources they need to improve their communities and their country.

The Children's Academy added another class of 30 students, bringing the total to 218 in six grades: three pre-K and first through third.

73,600 parent service hours were recorded during the 2016-17 school year. Parents provide 4 hours each week, doing a variety of activities including gardening, hand papermaking, landscaping, assisting in the classrooms, doing child protection and women's rights training and serving as community health agents.

Preparation for the new school year included some new construction, including installing a basketball court and new outdoor seating.

Retired veteran teacher, Lisa Reyes, continues to volunteer at the school for over six months each year, serving as an invaluable resource to staff and students.



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

The SASA! and ESK programs – training for parents on women’s and children’s rights and community activism – are thriving. After about one year of training, which includes weekly sessions, these groups evolve into village savings and loan groups.

There are currently 7 [Village Savings and Loan groups](#) with 235 participants going strong. Five new groups with nearly 150 members are getting started this fall.

In response to their parents’enthusiasm for the activity, the third grade class decided they wanted to start their own VSL group. In October, with limited support from school staff, they did this. The group currently meets each week.

The health clinic is open three days per week, serving over 600 people each month, and continues to receive groups of American medical professionals for periodic weekend clinics. A new accord is currently being worked on to extend these services for a another 3 years.

The [hand papermaking social business](#) initiative continues to move forward with enthusiasm. Parents gather and carry plant materials - the raw material of the paper - each day to the site in exchange for service hours. The 5 person team continues to work regularly in collaboration with US staff and other supporters to design and improve production techniques so we can meet fututre demand. Initial products can now be ordered from the [Haiti Partners web-store](#).



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

The community gardening project continues to go well. Students are in the gardens each day learning permaculture gardening techniques. Parents work regularly in the school gardens as well. Vegetables are sold wholesale to parents with profits reinvested into the garden. Expert agronomist, Jean Rene, visits parents' homes regularly to help them create and maintain their own permaculture garden plots.

A variety of structured afternoon activities are taking place each day: soccer, music (singing and recorder), dance, academic support, Spanish and English. About 40 to 50 local 3-18 year-olds participate in these activities each day.

Trainings, Community Meetings & Events:

- In July we held a graduation for participants in our Child protection (ESK) and Women's rights (SASA!) trainings. Over [60 graduates](#) celebrated together with family and friends.
- Recorders without Borders distributed hundreds of recorders and trained students and staff on how to play the recorder. This was very well-received. The Children's Academy has now been integrated in their standard 3 year program.
- In August we held a community-wide Open Space meeting on the theme, "What is the relationship between human flourishing and community development?" Over 60 parents, students and community members participated with enthusiasm, considering together the future of their community and their roles in it.



THE PARTNER SCHOOL NETWORK

Outcome

Develop an effective accompaniment approach that helps Haitian schools to improve education, work toward financial independence, and become democratic centers for community development and lifelong learning.



The Network

Bèl Platon

IMN

Cabois

Henri Christophe

Anonsiyasyon

Cité Soleil

OVERALL

The total number of students being educated in the Haiti Partners partner schools for the 2017-18 academic year is once again over 1000.

On July 12-14 we held our 6th annual [Teacher Summit training](#) in Darbonne, Leogane. This is the largest training we hold all year and the methods covered become the basis for what our schools will work on in the coming school year. Forty two teachers from our schools network participated. The training is organized with and led by our partners from Calvary CRC. This year the trainers group included 8 extraordinary teachers and administrators. The training focused on a host of fun and effective student-centered teaching techniques.



Bèl Platon

Added a new classroom space as well as made improvements to another classroom. They also built a space for the school administration.

90% parent participation at meetings

Launched a new partnership with CARE international to receive bimonthly trainings. Initial trainings have centered on children's rights and literacy in Haitian Creole.

In partnership with Concern International, after installing two 8000 gallon water tanks last spring, they held a training for the community on water treatment and hygiene.

Last fall as a part of our hurricane Matthew recovery assistance, the school distributed goats to students' families. This fall, in a continuance of the program, the school received 8 baby goats from parents of students to distribute to new students.

In the summer the school installed a new gate, enclosing the school yard from animals.

Bèl Platon has maintained its meal program feeding over 100 students each day, as well as staff members. This is crucial achievement in an area where hunger is all too prevalent.





In the summer IMN added another classroom to accommodate the addition of a 9th grade.

90%+ participation in parent meetings

The school has been making increased efforts to engage students in social justice issues. They conducted special activities to learn about child protection and children's rights. They also held special activities at the school, as well as attended a local conference, to educate students about violence against women and women's rights. The school also held a field trip to Martisan, a town about 30 minutes away, to visit a memorial to victims of the 2010 earthquake.

IMN has maintained its meal program feeding over 80 preK and kindergarten students each day, as well as all staff members. This is crucial achievement in an area where hunger is all too prevalent.



Cabois

85% parent participation at school meetings

In the summer the school completed construction of 3 new kindergarten classrooms.

The leadership at Cabois continues to strengthen its partnership with [Project Nourish](#). As a result of this partnership the school is able to offer its students meals three times per week. They are currently cultivating their partnership to find support to cover materials like books and uniforms.



Henri Christophe

80% parent participation at school meetings

Because of changing immigration laws in South America, many students' parents have been leaving to work abroad. This has been a challenge at the school as it has a negative effect on the students' family stability and can be disruptive to their studies.

Following the lead of Anonsiyasyon, in January Henri Christophe will be starting a Village Savings and Loan group. Long-time colleague and Darbonne resident, Xavier Abelard, will be supporting them through this process.



Anonsiyasyon

Anonsiyasyon started a Village Savings and Loan pilot group last February. Over 6 months they saved 15775 gouds (about US\$250) for credit and 880 for solidarity activities. They decided against distributing credit this time, but they were happy with the process and reformed the group in the fall to continue into the spring.

In the summer the school did some minor construction and replaced 4 roofing sheets, resolving a periodic leaking problem.

80% parent participation at school meetings

The school is exploring an accelerated academic program promoted by the state in the hopes of being able to help their students - many of whom are over-aged - catch up quicker.



Cité Soleil

Significant progress has been made on the yoga mat social business. Over the last several months CSCS has built out a new workspace where they can recycle the woven plastic rice bags found everywhere in the streets of Haiti into yoga bags for sale in the US and elsewhere. They have employed several parents of students at the school in the process. They are currently working on electrifying the space and are aiming to begin production in the coming months.

CSCS continues to serve over 200 students each day, including maintaining a meal program 3 days per week. This is crucial achievement in an area where hunger is all too prevalent.

