

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Back At It (Not That We Ever Stopped)
August 17, 2011



The Haitian Project community is constantly in motion, so it never really stops or restarts. However, it is exciting to note with some attention that Louverture Cleary School is headed into our 25th year of service.

Today, itself, was a mixed day of new and old. For the old: Jon Kennedy returned to continue to head the Office of External Affairs. His first call to action will be to work with the local business community toward our goal of providing 100% of the dry and canned goods in our kitchen through in-kind giving by local distributors of those products. Second-year Volunteer Rebecca Finney also returned last week to help us prepare for the return of new Volunteers. She will continue her role with the Timoun Program and will also take on the role of the Spiritual Leader. John DiTillo will come back Sunday for yet another year. He will serve on staff this year as LCS Vice Principal/Dean of Students. Joining anew are Amanda Gaal from Tinton Falls, NJ, Abigayle Roznowksi from Greenbay, WI, Emily Marquet from Reston, VA and Rachel and Nick Carter from Providence, RI.

Something new about our veterans, Jon Kennedy and John DiTillo completed their special language courses in Guatemala this summer, so they will actively contribute to our language program at the school—giving Spanish an additional boost. We're very excited about this, as language continues to be a priority of formational programs at LCS.

Something new about our new Volunteers, Nick Carter is a fourth year medical student from Brown University and will be sharing his time between St. Damien's Children's Hospital and LCS. This is another fruit of the Brown/UNDH medical school exchange program that we are facilitating.

It is great to have the family back in Haiti, except as a smaller contingent than in years past because our oldest son, Robert, will not be with us this year and is in his first year at West Point. Mikhaila will also not be joining us and will be a sophomore this year at Mary Baldwin College. Something new about us – due to the positive reception of the Rag-a-Muffin Program, which provides funds for the employment of our LCS neighbors and the Timoun Program, Christina will be picking up some of the travel for THP for me. As travel shifts a bit, I look forward to having more time to participate directly with the activities at LCS, which is a bit of how it used to be in the old days. One thing I've learned in the past three years is it takes a lot more time to know 350 students as opposed to 175. But it's worth the effort in time because the most rewarding thing about being at LCS is getting to know its fabulous graduates early in their education.

I also want to make a special mention of thanks to those working in the United States who keep the mission strong and well-funded. It's great to have had the opportunity to spend more time than my schedule usually allows with our home community this summer.

Under the current economic circumstances, the breadth and depth of our support community at home is more important than ever to the success of our mission. We are assured knowing that we have a strong community, which in turn makes our mission strong. As we move into the second half of the year, let's pull together, as we have so well throughout the history of THP, so we can continue to stay strong together into the future.

I hope you enjoy the pictures above of activities getting back at it. You will notice Tim, my youngest son, and his friend and fellow LCS student Stern Kadet helping to clean the campus as Rebecca Finney and the Carters lead a group of workers at the incinerator. In the last photos, Christina is working with two boys from the neighborhood as part of our Rag-a-Muffin Program. Look forward to future updates and pictures about the incoming class and history of the school, which we are happy to report is getting older all the time.

Peace, Patrick

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"What you receive as gift, you must give as gift."
"Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay."

---Matthew 10:8