

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Old Friends, New Friends
February 19, 2014



Top: Mary and Will Alexander attend Volunteer Tommy Cody's Twazyèm (U.S. 10th grade) English class; William Schuyler teaches an impromptu English course in the Koukouy Sen Kler (Fireflies of St. Clare) early childhood education program; the Schuyler and Gilges families participate in a painting project. Bottom: William Schuyler and Hannah Gilges attend a Twazyèm (U.S. 10th grade) Spanish class, Hannah Gilges assists Ricky Saint-Fleur in the Koukouy program, Philo (U.S. senior +1) students Maria Felipe Mieses, Jothsaina Pierre, Jean Roudy Abellard and Christelle Jeune get to know William Schuyler and Alex Gilges..

First, let me be clear that the "old" above is meant only in the sense of "prior" friends. I haven't met anyone as young as Mary and Will Alexander, who are both in their later eighties, in a long time. Will and Mary, along with Will's son John and his wife Jane, came to campus yesterday and spent the day in our community. Will attended college with former Board Member Jack Talbott.

We were blessed to have two other families join our community this week as well. Kevin Schuyler, long-time supporter, old personal friend, and former board member, spent the week here with his son William. They were joined by the Gilges family, Kent, Liz and their teenagers Alex, Nick, Oliver, Hannah, and Avery. The families have brought a liveliness to campus that rivals that of our students.

Here are some impressions from both our old and new friends.

"The community is warm and welcoming. The Volunteers are dedicated servants and strong supporters for both each other and their students." Kevin Schuyler

"LCS is a well-oiled machine." Liz Gilges

“Everyone seems very committed to the school. I am impressed with how the students respond to the teachers.” Mary Celia Alexander

“Wonderful hospitality, lovely school. I fell in love with the staff and school.” John Alexander

“The students at LCS and I all have similar goals. We all want to do well in our classes, go to college, and succeed. Also, we all want to be cheerful.” William Schuyler (14 years old)

“It was fun to play soccer with the kids (in the Koukouy Sen Kler program) and hard for me because they are way better at soccer than I am.” Avery Gilges (10 years old)

“The teachers don’t waste any time in class and it seems like the students really want to learn. In the US, only one or two students interact in class with the teacher and here, every kid was invested in the lesson and asked a lot of questions.” Nick Gilges (15 years old)

Speaking of long-time friends, yesterday I saw that we had a donation from Mary Duffy from Lynnwood, WA. She is a parishioner at the parish in the Archdiocese of Seattle where I was assigned as a deacon over five years ago. Besides being long-lived, friends of THP are loyal as well. Thanks, Mary.

Peace, Patrick

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The Haitian Project, Inc.
Office of Community Development

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“What you receive for free, you must give for free.”
“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”
--Matthew 10:8