



## MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE NEWS

An occasional bulletin published by the Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation, Inc. to report progress of the children's orphanage in Hinche, Haiti. It is also available on the internet at [www.mfofoundation.org](http://www.mfofoundation.org) and at [www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/haiti)

December 2009

### A WORD FROM BROTHER HARRY ECCLES

Just a few days to Thanksgiving Day, but Brother Mike McCarthy and I will not be together that day—he'll be at the Sant Zaveryen in Port-au-Prince. Regardless of the day, we will celebrate. We have much to be thankful for! I'm grateful for Br. Mike's safe and spirited return from the States. I live better when my principal caregiver is close! Really, I'm grateful too for coming out of a month's wrestling with some kind of flu. Unpleasant but not disabling. Certainly I'm grateful to our friends in the States who make our ministry here at Maison Fortuné possible.

Many things, great and small, all tumbling from the hands of an infinitely generous God, who uses the likes of us to spread that generosity. Mèsi, Bondye!



Br. Harry with orphanage school principal Pettris Joseph and Activities Director Frenel Jean-Dieudonné

Many of our neighbors here struggle to keep their children in primary and secondary school, and many simply cannot. The girls and boys here at Maison Fortuné are indeed blessed, and I'm blessed too to be among them. At 4:00 a.m. some of them are reciting their lessons aloud, while others are preparing the breakfast for the St. Martin de Porres high school students who must be at school by 7:00. The sounds of happy children continue throughout the day, and I try to spend time each evening in the library, especially for those who want help with English. Brother Mike is into every activity at MF, and recently he's been extra busy with children needing medical attention.

I hope you agree with the theme of thanksgiving and joy. It's true that there are problems and disappointments, but the balance sheet calls for thanks and thanks and thanks to God who chooses unlikely tools to do beautiful things. God is among us, yes, and we also must prepare the way of the Lord. Let us do that together, regardless of distances.

### KEEPING THE KIDS HEALTHY

As our readers may be aware, the boards of directors of both the Haitian Health Care Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond and the Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation are working together to meet the health care needs of our 150 children.

As Maison Fortuné grows into a major child welfare institution and school, more health care needs are surfacing. In addition to the usual cuts and scrapes which our first-aiders can care for, more serious illnesses have arisen among the children, including flu, HIV (contracted in the womb), tuberculosis, and conditions requiring surgery. In addition, of course, there is a need for eye, ear, and dental care for the children who come to the orphanage from very poor situations—many of them have never been to a doctor.

While we have been blessed with occasional visits from American and Haitian health care providers who generously donate their time to the children, we are seeing a need for the regular presence of a nurse in the orphanage clinic, and we will be exploring the possibility of hiring one. We are exploring as well the possibility of contracting with a Haitian pediatrician who can make regular visits.

### A BUSY COUPLE OF WEEKS!

Orphanage director Lefort Jean-Louis was in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia last month to thank those who support the orphanage and also to help raise funds for its operations.

He spoke at all the liturgies on three weekends at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, and at the churches of St. Stephen Martyr and St. Thérèse—where special collections were taken up. All three are in Chesapeake, Virginia.

There were lots of other events to keep him busy as well. St. Mark Catholic Church in Virginia Beach held a well-attended Silent Auction benefitting Maison Fortuné, and the Board of Directors of the Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation hosted both social events and planning meetings.



Lefort Jean-Louis at a reception for members of the Church of St. Therese, Chesapeake, hosted by Karen and Joe DiRenzo



Jean-Louis with members of the Foundation's Board of Directors and their families at the home of Patty and Chip Wirth

There were school visits as well: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, Peninsula Catholic School, and, of course, St. Patrick School in Norfolk, celebrating a milestone in their Million Pennies Campaign.

If you would like to schedule a fund-raising visit to your parish or organization by Lefort Jean-Louis or a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors during 2010, this can be arranged through the Secretary, Br. Cosmas Rubencamp, at [crubencamp@comcast.net](mailto:crubencamp@comcast.net) or by telephone at 804-358-6210.



Jean-Louis with Sharon Neuhaus at St. Patrick School, Norfolk, Virginia. The school's Million Pennies Campaign was featured in this newsletter last month. At the liturgy celebrating nine months of the Campaign, Sharon announced that they had surpassed their goal of collecting 500,000 pennies by the time of Jean-Louis's visit! By the end of the week they had close to 600,000. When filled, this box will weigh three tons!

## PROGRESS ON PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING

For some time now we have dreamed about meeting two needs: replacing our dining building and providing a chapel/assembly space.

The current dining hall and kitchen can seat only about 75 children, and we now have about 150 residents. We also are providing a hot lunch to over 100 additional children on school days. Prayer and liturgical services have to be done outdoors, bringing school benches and chairs from the dining room for the children to sit on.

Now we have a plan to meet both needs with a single two-story building, with the kitchen and dining room on the first floor and the chapel above. The existing building will be turned into storage space for the kitchen and for clothing and other supplies used by the children.

A Haitian architect has drawn up plans and a construction budget. The estimated cost of the building is \$94,000. We have on hand \$4,430, most of it raised by a gentleman in Pennsylvania, Mr. Thomas Furlong. Just \$89,570 to go! We plan to apply to a Foundation for a grant to help with the cost, but we will need to have on hand a sizeable matching fund for the grant. Any help you can give will be welcome: donations, soliciting gifts from individuals or organization which have the capability of making donations of \$1,000 or more, and so forth.

## SPONSORSHIP - A GREAT WAY TO HELP

### Remember the sponsorship program?

It is a way to make a contribution each month towards the operating costs of the orphanage in the name of a specific child. It helps with food, clothing, education and supplies like books, computers, etc. Participating in this manner gives us a steady stream of income to support and raise the children. We can plan ahead and try to avoid emergency appeals.

### What are the sponsorship levels?

Gold Sponsor: \$100 to \$150 per month

Silver Sponsor: \$ 50 to \$ 99 per month

Bronze Sponsor: \$ 25 to \$ 49 per month

Note that you can contribute on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

### How can I begin sponsoring a child at the orphanage?

If you need more information before making a decision, please contact the Maison Fortuné Sponsorship Coordinator, Terry Allen at [terry78allen@gmail.com](mailto:terry78allen@gmail.com). If you are ready to begin sponsorship, chose your level of contribution and the frequency. Please send your first check to:

Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation, Inc.  
c/o The Treasurer  
P O Box 3092  
Chesapeake, VA 23327-3092

Please note on your check that it is for your beginning sponsorship or better yet, email Terry Allen to let her know that you have started. This will enable us to set you up and make sure you get future communications.

### What happens next?

We will let you know the name of the child you are sponsoring. We do not send out invoices in our attempt to keep costs down. If you would like a reminder, let us know by email [above] and we will send you a reminder at the beginning of each month/quarter/year, etc.

## READ-A-THON PROJECT

Last summer, Brittany Cochran, now a senior in the International Baccalaureate program at Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach, and a member of the Church of St. Mark, raised \$150 for the library at Maison Fortuné.

As a service project, she conducted a Read-a-Thon, whereby students got sponsors for the books they would read during the summer, keeping up their skills while working on summer assignments. Way to go, Brittany!

## LAST CALL [for 2009]!

With the tax year coming to an end, please consider using the enclosed envelope for a major gift to the operat-

ing budget of the orphanage or to its endowment fund. Our Treasurer will get you the receipt the IRS requires to document your contribution of \$250 or more. Along with that will come the gratitude of the boys and girls of Maison Fortuné and those who care for them.

Perhaps you might think about using your contribution as an **Alternative Christmas Gift** to someone who doesn't really need your gift but who would be honored to know that you were providing for an orphan child in Haiti in their name.

## COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN OPTION

For those considering a donation to a worthy charitable organization through the **Combined Federal Campaign**, please consider Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation as the recipient.

The Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation is an approved charity of the U.S. Government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), and is listed under the CFC's *National and International Independent Agencies* at number 12234.

All federal civil servants, military and postal donors can designate Maison Fortuné to be their supported charity during this year's appeal. If you are a potential CFC donor, please consider designating the orphanage as a recipient of all or part of your contribution.

The children at the orphanage will be the direct beneficiaries of your kindness because *less than 3%* of all funds raised are spent on administration and fund raising.

Last year [our first year to be listed] we received over **\$33,000.00** through this campaign!

**The Campaign ends on December 15, 2009.**

## OUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

You will note that our reply envelope for your contribution is addressed to us at **Commonwealth Catholic Charities** on Willow Lawn Drive in Richmond instead of the 7800 Carousel Lane address of the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

The operations of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace and its Haiti Ministry are now headquartered at Commonwealth Catholic Charities where your donations will be processed. The Haiti Ministry will continue in the same manner it has in the past without disruption.

If you have any questions about the transition to Commonwealth Catholic Charities please call or email Patrice Schwermer at 804 545 5974 or [patrice.schwermer@cccova.org](mailto:patrice.schwermer@cccova.org).

# MAISON FORTUNÉ ORPHANAGE

## INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP CONTRIBUTORS: July 2009—June 2010

*Listed below are the individuals & groups that contributed since July 1, 2009 to the day-to-day operating budget (food, clothing, salaries, furniture, etc.) or to the capital budget (for building construction), or the Endowment Fund. We are very grateful; the orphanage could not survive without them. Note: this list is incomplete, pending receipt of a list from CCC of the donors who contributed through them.*

Anonymous Donors	Nancy Layne
Cynthia Anstrom	Ted Lepski, Greenville Transport
Colleen Aucoin	Earl & Carol Lienemann
Pearl Baird	David & Lisa Linnell
Charles Baker & Regina Dufresne	Chris & Stephanie Lowman
Roy & Jerrie Beal	Br. Daniel Lynch CFX
Bon Secours Health System, Inc.	Br. John Mahoney CFX
Cassie Booth	JoAnn McCaffrey
Anthony Breen	Greg & Michelle McCracken
Bernard Brennan	Michael & Shelby McGeehin
Ann-Marie Carothers	Thomas & Maureen McGeehin
Mark & Sharon Carscallen	George & Louise McInnis
Frank & Linda Carter	Lois McNally
Peter & Kim Catoe	Joseph & Joanne Meagher
Laura Charette	The Merck Company
Elisa Charters	Donald & Margaret Moore
Dolores Christian	Art & Kerry Mowbray
Brittany Cochran	Kevin & Mary Murphy
John & Ann-Marie Cochran	Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Chesapeake Va.
Mary Ann Collins	Br. Cosmas Rubencamp CFX
Troy & Karen Constance	John & Susan Sanganario
Richard & Gwen Costello	Maribel Santiago
Bob & Sandra Coyle	Perry & Kathy Sassic
Rev. George Cowan	Susan & Kevin Schrack
Lisa Czora	Lorraine Sharpe
Ron & Shirley De Bacco	Lynn Simmeth
Frank & Carla Delgado	Yvonne Smith-Philips
Dr. Thomas Diehl	St. Mark Catholic Church, Virginia Beach
John & Marilyn Dohanich	St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church, Chesapeake Va.
John & Pamela Dragon	St. Therese Catholic Church, Chesapeake Va.
Milton & Agnes Ebbert	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Monaca Pa.
Pauline Eccles	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Beaver Co. Council
ECR Software Co.	Bishop Walter F. Sullivan
Marcos & Isis Espinosa	David and Diane Swift
Bruce & Susan Everett	Beth & Paul Szczbor
Rev. Neil Fackler	Ralph & Erlinda Taguba
Mary Fitzsimons	Valiant Tan
Fred & Carol Flach	Fred & Marguerite Thomas
Sharon Forni	John & Ellen Thompson
Karen Gdula	Cameron & Jane Thornton
Martha Goedert	Joseph & Susan Tofalo
Rev. James Griffin	Thomas & Elena Trotter
Joseph Grim	Loren & Marcia Tschohl
Drew & Doris Grivna	Rita Unis
Timothy & Christina Hayes	Mark Urben
Haiti-Not-Hilfe	Bradley & Cheryl Van Buren
Haitian Health Care Foundation, Inc.	Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Travis & Vicki Hale	David White
Hands Across the Sea, Inc.	Melanie & Matthew Wilhelm
John & Susan Harnett	Celia Woodham
Patrick & Kollette Hillard	Xaverian Brothers USA
Michael & Jessie Johnson	
Betty Jones	
Jon & Ginny Kehoe	
Margaret Koep	
Leonard & Frances Komoroski	
Rev. William E. LaFratta	

I am enclosing a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage operating budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel/Dining Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Program     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage Endowment Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Project        | <input type="checkbox"/> Solarization project |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Please make checks payable to *Commonwealth Catholic Charities* and mail with this form to:  
P. O. Box 6565, 1512 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond VA 23230-0565

I am enclosing a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage operating budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel /Dining Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Program     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage Endowment Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Project         | <input type="checkbox"/> Solarization project |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Please make checks payable to *Commonwealth Catholic Charities* and mail with this form to:  
P. O. Box 6565, 1512 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond VA 23230-0565

I am enclosing a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I would like to designate it for (please check one):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage operating budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel/Dining Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Program     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage Endowment Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Project        | <input type="checkbox"/> Solarization project |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Please make checks payable to *Commonwealth Catholic Charities* and mail with this form to:  
P. O. Box 6565, 1512 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond VA 23230-0565