



The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti

• St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children • Holy Cross Hospital • The Haiti Connection

Who We Are

The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti is a 501© 3 organization committed to providing support for the delivery of medical and educational services to the people of Haiti through St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children, Port-au-Prince, and Hopital Ste. Croix, Leogone. It also serves as an umbrella organization for related missions in Haiti and facilitates and organizes the Haiti Connection Conferences.

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Good News to Report from St. Vincent's for 2012

One of the most significant developments at St. Vincent's during the past year has been the shaping of its vision. Not only will it serve the handicapped children who call St. Vincent's *school or home*, it aspires to become a training center for the entire country – an advocate for the inclusion of handicapped persons in all aspects of Haitian life.

Beyond these broad goals, St. Vincent's plans to rebuild its facilities better than ever, to establish a vocational school for deaf children, and to become one of Haiti's premier centers for prosthetics and physical therapy.

These ambitious goals have been laid out by Pere Sadoni Leon, Director of the Centre, with support from a growing number of organizations that have stepped up to help since the earthquake in January 2010.

CMMH has been an ally and steady source of support for St. Vincent's during these post-earthquake years providing monthly wire transfers to pay for salaries and other expenses .

We have also paid for a security wall, the soil surveys, and architectural design for the new St. Vincent's. Various other groups have built on that foundation to provide special programming, training, a van, a water system, and much more.

As with most dreams in Haiti, the ideas are big, the resources limited. But never has a vision like this been as close or as achievable.

Please join us again this year in two important ways. Continue to send your regular contributions. This feeds the heart and soul of St. Vincent's and keeps the institution alive.

Secondly, think of people (perhaps yourself), foundations, corporations, or other sources of major contributions who might fund the reconstruction of St. Vincent's.



GOALS FOR ST. VINCENTS

"Our goal is to have an accessible building for the children. Our Goal is to rebuild back but better. Our goal is to see St Vincent becomes a training center for the entire country. Our goal is to provide service to children with disabilities as well as parents of children with disabilities. Our goal is to work with people living with handicaps and parents so the all society can recognize that they have the right to be included in all the aspect of the life. Inclusion is one of our priorities. That is why we are working with the OES and the Secretary of State on the application of the law on the inclusion which is just voted by the senate and published by the government. Our goal is to have a vocational school for the deaf children."

**Pere Sadoni Leon, Director
St. Vincent's Centre for Handicapped Children**

St. Vincent's Gains Friends and Allies

Relationship with the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston Grows

Perkins and St. Vincent's sponsored a week-long seminar in April in Port-au-Prince for teachers of blind and visually impaired children. This was the second in a series of training seminars. "The teachers were very happy to know more about blindness and how to work with blind children," Sadoni reports. "Teachers, parents, and students are more prepared." The team will return in 2013.

Also, St. Vincent's headmaster Junior Alexis, who spent three weeks at Perkins last year, returns this year to begin a nine-month training session on an educational learning program for blind and visually impaired children. "This is part of my goal to see St. Vincent's become a training center for the disabled," Father Sadoni continues.

St. Vincent's Gets a Van Equipped for the Handicapped

After many months and even years St. Vincent's received a 17-seat van that can carry two wheelchairs, thanks to a donor from Rhode Island. It was used for the first time this summer to take the children to a special camp at the Kaliko Beach Club along the sea north of Port-au-Prince. About 40 children attended the camp sponsored by the Red Thread Promise group.

The van makes it possible to take the children to special events and excursions outside of the Centre in downtown Port-au-Prince.

St. Vincent's Gets Its Own Water Purification System

With help from friends in New York and Save the Children a water purification system installed on the grounds of St. Vincent's. This frees the institution from having to buy purified water and will become a source of revenue.

Medical Team from Memphis Conducts Health Care Screening

A medical team from Memphis, TN led by Dr. Susan Nelson and assisted by nursing students, completed health screenings of all the children at St. Vincent's. They hold two clinics each year.

Save the Children Helps Out

Save the Children of Sweden through Save the Children of Haiti provided a 25 kw generator, an inverter system, as well as numerous musical instruments and equipment for the water purification system.

Friends of St. Vincent's Provides Vital Services

The Friends of St. Vincent's from West Hartford, CT continue to provide invaluable equipment and services. On a recent visit they brought an eye-pal reader that instantly converts printed materials into speech. This reader allows older blind students and teachers to "read" any book. They also brought a closed circuit TV system that can scan, magnify and display text on a large TV screen, a major tool for those with minimal vision.



Several St. Vincent boys address the special celebration of International Handicapped Person Day held at the school in early December.

In addition the Friend of St. Vincent's have teamed up with the United Deaf International Services, Team Canada, and Healing Hands for Haiti to form a St. Vincent's Sign and Praise Choir. This new choir will sign words and hymns at the same time that the hearing children sing.

Healing Hands/ Team Canada

Thanks to Healing Hands/Team Canada St. Vincent's now has two audiology booths where Haitians can come to have their hearing tested. The team comes twice a year to follow up with the children, test new children, and provide hearing aids.

Eventually there will be a permanent audiology clinic at the Centre where Haitians can be seen and have their hearing aids fitted. Two staff members are currently being trained to be in charge of the clinic.

The Red Thread Promise has provided new digital hearing aids to replace the older analog hearing aids used by the children. *(continued on page 4)*

Partnership Improves the Brace Shop and Training

A coalition of three organizations – Hanger, CMMB and Physicians for Peace – has teamed up to remodel the brace shop and modernize its equipment and practices. They have also helped to improve the physical therapy and prosthetics department. The new facility will be operational by March 2013.

Site #1



Clockwise from top left: Drawing of medical clinic, guest house, and location of the rehabilitation center (currently under construction below). Drawing of the school, dormitories, chapel, library/computer center and administrative offices. There will be room for 208 resident children living in 8-bed units with caretakers. The guest rooms could house as many as 12 people. There will be 21 classrooms.



Final Concept Design Completed for St. Vincent's

A final concept design for the new St. Vincent's Centre Campus was completed in August 2012 by MSAADA Architects, Minneapolis, MN who has had extensive experience in design and construction in developing countries.

Site #2, the location of what used to be known as the Foyer, and is now the temporary location of the school, will include classrooms, an open air chapel, a kitchen and dining area for the students, administrative offices and a library/computer room. Estimated costs: \$2,110,000.

Further detail on the proposed reconstruction and a breakdown of costs will appear on our website www.cmmh.org and will be available for review and distribution by contacting CMMH at 717-796-1852 or khquigley@comcast.net.

Bishop Duracin, Sikhumbuzo Vundla, Operating Office for the Diocese, Father Sadoni Leon, Director of St. Vincent's, and representatives from various groups involved in the ministry of St. Vincent's (including CMMH) participated on a planning committee that met during the year offering ideas, responding to plans, and researching best practices in facilities for handicapped children.

Site #1, where the original school was located, will include a Medical Clinic, a Guest House and a Rehabilitation Center (the old Brace Shop). Estimated costs: \$1,045,000.

Site #2





St. Vincent's held a special celebration on December 3 to mark the International Day of Recognition of Handicapped Persons. A packed audience came to hear the children sing, dance, perform on musical instruments, and read from Braille. Haitian government officials, church leaders, staff, students, visitors, and guests attended the celebration followed by a meal. At left is Father Sadoni, Director of St. Vincent's leading the service.

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St. Vincent's Connects to French Organization

Two organization from France held training sessions at St. Vincent's this year. The first focused on working with blindness, especially how to teach mathematics to the blind. The second focused on multiple disabilities and in particular those with intellectual disabilities.

Haiti Connection Planed for April 2013

CMMH will sponsor a Haiti Connection Conference for the 12th time since the mid-1990s from April 10-12, 2013 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The conference will focus on the redevelopment that has occurred in Haiti since the earthquake and the many new initiatives across the country.

Institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti will be featured as well as partner projects and other non-profit and governmental efforts. Detail of exact location, program, registration, etc. to follow. Visit our website www.haitiepiscopalconnection.org for the latest information.



Music Program Starts Again

Thanks to the donation of musical equipment the music program at St. Vincent's has started again. Earlier this year the bell choir performed in a concert at Holy Trinity Cathedral promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the nation.



The former Secretary of State for People with Disabilities and the representative of the OAS (Organization of American States) to Haiti attended.