



Who We Are

Members of the St. Vincent's Center Board

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- The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas
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- William S. Craddock, Jr.
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- Cynthia Jaar Handal
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- Dr. Diane Jean-François
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- Sister Kethia Jean-Simon
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- Elizabeth M. Lowell
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- Valerie Flambert Mathon
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- Régine Désulmé Polynice,
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- Kenneth H. Quigley,
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- Dr. Stan Shaffer
Kansas City, MO
- Ary Theodore, Esq.
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Full details on board members can be found on our website: www.stvincentshaiti.org

Our Mission

The mission of SVC is to provide children with disabilities in Haiti special opportunities, support and resources to learn, grow and reach their full potential in their young life's journey toward adulthood.

Contact Information

Website:
www.stvincentshaiti.org

Bill Craddock: (901-601-1979)
wscraddock@icloud.com
Ken Quigley (717-796-1852)
khquigley@comcast.net

Donated DecaDomes Provide Much-Needed Residential Housing for Disabled Children

A vision of the future is taking shape at the St. Vincent's Santo 17 Campus and it involves something called a DecaDome.

A DecaDome is a multi-sided polypropylene structure made of identical parts, easily shipped and assembled, strong, light-weight, and adaptable to many uses and climates. They are made in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Eric Lipson, the developer of the DecaDome, donated two units at Santo 17 that will be used to house residential students. The units are expected to be in place by early 2019.

Two units will house up to eight additional boarding students plus a staff member and can accommodate wheelchairs. They will be erected just outside the current dormitories where a soon-to-be-filled, non-usable swimming pool is located. In time, as the Board develops a master plan for the eight-acre facility, the DecaDomes could be repurposed as storage for non-perishable food items and replaced with more permanent dormitories.

St. Vincent's has a waiting list of students who live beyond the greater Port-au-Prince area who cannot commute to the school. To attend they need to live on campus. Additional residential beds will allow St. Vincent's to serve more disabled children.



A model DecaDome being assembled

A Bountiful Garden

Spend a day at Santo 17 and you will experience a marvelous natural environment – flowers, butterflies, grasses, hummingbirds, and a flourishing garden.

The garden, tended to by Dolphin Mentor, Groundskeeper and Physical Plant Manager, produces food for the children – from spinach, okra, corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and more. In addition, numerous fruit trees have been planted for future harvests. In time the garden could produce more food than can be used at St. Vincent's and will become a source of local revenue for the school.



Resident Rose Carmelle prepares spinach for dinner; Dolphin Mentor surveys a growing garden.

Where Are They Now?

Ever wonder what happens to students who graduate from St. Vincent's? Here are a few success stories that will warm your heart.



Mirlaine Georges, who is deaf, grew up at St. Vincent's in the downtown facility before the earthquake. She completed her studies, went to high school, then college where she continues to work toward her degree in education. Currently she is a first grade teacher at Santo

17



Gou Gou grew up at St. Vincent's and considers it his home. No one gets into or out of the Medical Clinic on Rue St. Paul without Gou Gou's permission. He is the Center's security guard.



Samuel Elizaire (right) – Being confined to a wheelchair has not stopped Samuel from studying accounting and obtaining an internship with the Eucalyptus Guest House and the owner's various companies in Haiti. The company provides a voucher to Samuel for transportation to the office. In his spare time Samuel is studying English.



Kenson Adrien likes his wheelchair with a low back so he can do wheelies. He is working with Wheelchair Works for Haiti to learn how to repair and maintain wheelchairs at SVC, for which he receives a monthly stipend.



Dieumene Cloristin grew up at SVC learning to function without arms. She graduated from St. Vincent's, went to high school, learned English, and after a long wait, obtained a sponsor to send her to the University of Kansas where she is studying psychology, a life-long dream. She hopes to become a social worker.

Hope to Walk Visits Brace Shop, Builds Prosthetic Legs for Amputees

A team from Hope to Walk (HTW), a non-profit organization located in Blacksburg, VA visited the SVC Brace Shop in June to introduce its “low-tech” prostheses to the workers in the brace shop.



High-tech prosthetics today are made with titanium, carbon graphite and other materials that are extremely expensive and out of the reach for most amputees in developing nations. HTW has developed an innovative design using everyday materials and a process that can be taught to local staff.

In May, Wilfrid Macena, a member of the brace shop staff at our clinic in Port-au-Prince, traveled to Blacksburg to participate in a prosthetic training program. He proved to be a quick learner and “exceptional young man” who persuaded HTW to prioritize a trip to Haiti.

“Many of the prosthetic techs at SVC are amputees themselves and are driven by their desire to help others in need,” wrote Dr. Ken Jones, M.D., from HTW about his visit. “These are obviously serious-minded, intelligent men who we found eager to learn new techniques in prosthetics as well

as bracing tips from HTW’s founder, Phil Johnson.”

The HTW team plans to return regularly to continue its work with the brace shop.



A young boy with a club foot receives corrective care from Dr. Kenny Joseph and the head nurse, Mrs. Mirlaine Fortil Noel, at the Medical Clinic in downtown Port-au-Prince.

Wheelchair Works for Haiti Returns, Repairs Wheelchairs, Provides Mobility Training

As part of their continuing commitment to St. Vincent’s, a team from Wheelchair Works for Haiti, located in the Boston area, spent several days at Santo 17 in mid-November modifying and repairing heavily-used wheelchairs.

The team worked on wheelchairs for ten residents – adjusting belts, straps, repairing covers, tires, wheels, arm rests, and more. Making a wheelchair comfortable and functional is critical for the health and well-being of the resident who sits in the chair all day.

In addition, the team provided in-service mobility training for teachers of students with visual impairment.



Kenson Adrien, a wheelchair bound resident, was trained in wheelchair repair techniques and will be able to keep the wheelchairs in good working order between visits.

A hot meal is served every school day at Santo 17 thanks to a grant from the West Tennessee Haiti Partnership.



Don Fredette, from Wheelchair Works for Haiti, replaced the seat belt and chest strap on Vundla’s wheelchair and adjusted the angle of the chair’s back.

A Special Night In Williamsburg, VA

Something special happened at St. Martin's, Williamsburg, VA on October 27 – a one-night event that raised more than \$20,000 for St. Vincent's.

St. Martin's Men's Fellowship held a silent/live auction for the Center. "The generosity of the community members who participated that evening will cover the gap in tuition for more than 30 students," Deane Gordon, one of the organizers commented. "What an amazing gift of a brighter future for so many children at St. Vincent's.

Irvika François, Principal at SVC, attended the event and talked about the school. A video was shown. Irvika also visited the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind where she spent time in elementary classrooms learning about the newest and most effective techniques for teaching blind and deaf students.

St. Martin's has signed a Covenant with St. Vincent's to support each other on a personal, spiritual, and financial basis. The parish has visited the school twice and expects to continue the relationship. If other churches are interested in forming a meaningful relationship with St. Vincent's, please contact the Rev. Cathy Boyd at cathy@stmartinswmbg.org or the Chair of the SVC Development Committee, Elizabeth Lowell at elowell236@aol.com.



The Rt. Rev. Rev. Jean-Zaché Duracin, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, visited Santo 17 on November 15 to spend time with the staff and students. Here he greets a class of deaf students with their teacher, Edruche Pierre. The bishop participated in a management team meeting and toured the classrooms and grounds. Aurelie Fievre, SVC Administrative Director, led the tour accompanied by other team members.

Using Your IRA to Make a Gift

Here is an idea for those who are over 70 and one-half years old and required to take a required minimum distribution from their traditional IRA. You can avoid paying taxes on the distribution and make a significant gift to SVC by having your fund manager make a gift directly to St. Vincent's.

Also, the remainder value of many retirement accounts can be heavily taxed when left to friends and family, but can pass tax-free to St. Vincent's upon your death. Talk with your attorney or financial advisor to learn if this is an appropriate gift for you.



Jimmie, a long-term resident of SVC teaches a young blind child how to read braille.

Please Join This Mission of Hope & Opportunity

Much has been accomplished at St. Vincent's in the past year and much remains to be done. Please join this mission of hope and opportunity for the disabled children of Haiti. Send a check by mail to:

St. Vincent's Center, Haiti
P.O. Box 771142
Memphis, TN 38117

Or go online to our website www.stvincentshaiti.org and click on the "donation" tab. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

To make a gift of appreciated stock, a gift from your retirement fund, or any other means of planned giving, please contact Ken Quigley at khquigley@comcast.net or 717-796-1852.