

class, and it is this constituency that our teachers hope to address by successfully implementing remote learning. This high level of hands-on computer training will continue in seminars throughout the academic year, and the faculty are both enthusiastic and grateful to enhance their skill sets. This investment in intellectual capital will pay dividends for years to come. Students and staff alike are enriched by this specialized training.

What Are St. Vincent's "Capital Projects"?

Shoes are required for school attendance in Haiti. But, what if you own only one pair of shoes or if you're blind or in a wheelchair and the sole entrance to your school is flooded? That was the case in June at St. Vincent's campus, and we had to pivot quickly to address the situation. It was an emergency and so, of course, it was not in the budget. This "capital project" cost \$20,000 entailing a very deep sump pit (dug by hand), a septic tank, a toilet, and a rebuilt guardhouse.

Many of our "capital expenses" are really extra-budgetary expenses. This year, they range in cost from \$1,500 for new mattresses for our young student residents to \$54,000 for a small extension of three bedrooms and a bath to accommodate staff members who currently sleep on the floor. Père Duveaux has a list every year, but since our first priority must always be the operating budget, we often do not have the funds for these other expenses. Some languish on his list for several years. These expenses - a new computer for our accountant, a new industrial-sized printer for the school, a second well to expand and better irrigate the vegetable garden and many others - are not unimportant. But, because our funds are limited, Père Duveaux must make some hard choices. The entrance, at least, will be dry when classes commence on October 1st.

If you are interested in helping with some of these extra-budgetary projects, please contact our Trustee Chair of Development, Elizabeth Lowell, at elowell236@aol.com. She can detail the projects, their costs and enhancements to life on our Santo 17 campus.

What Your Gift Does

Among other things...

- You educate 200 children each year
- You instill confidence, self-esteem, discipline, hope, and ambition
- You pay 110 salaries of skilled teachers, doctors, and nurses
- You enable the lame to walk
- You provide 100,000 nourishing meals annually
- You make the difference

Please continue to do so. You may send your check to:

CMMH/St. Vincent's Center, Haiti
P.O. Box 1433
New London, NH 03257



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Fall 2025 Newsletter

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Celebrating TWO Medical School Graduates

Mackenson Saint Victor, a St. Vincent's graduate, and Mirlene Duveaux, Père Duveaux's daughter, both graduated from medical school in June. These two remarkable young people endured gang violence, days of closed school, make-up classes, and rigorous academics to emerge among the newly-accredited, much-needed, physicians in Haiti.

While not physically disabled, Mackenson and his younger brother matriculated at St. Vincent's because his mother was on the staff. Sadly, both mother and brother died in the 2010 earthquake. Thinking practically, Mackenson pondered a career in construction or engineering, but really dreamed of being a physician. A generous sponsor helped that dream to become reality. While in Medical school, Mackson would return with classmates to assist at St. Vincent's and learn from the resident

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physicians. "Dr. Mack" said that he wanted to help handicapped people "to show the world that they are the same as everyone else and deserve the same compassionate treatment." A motorcycle accident took him out of school for a year, but he recovered, returned to school, married, and has a son. Mackenson has persevered through many difficulties to now live his dream as a physician in his home country.

Mirnelle was one of the top ten students in her graduating class in the State University of Haiti's Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy. Hoping to begin a residency in Anesthesiology at Hôpital La Paix (where our Trustee Dr. Woolley operates), she is currently completing a short course in social services, and should the residency not materialize, she will work as a general practitioner. Mirnelle also enjoys playing the violin, painting, reading and volunteering in addition to spending treasured time with her loved ones and pets.



Meet Damenley Orvil

He is 15 years old and has been at St. Vincent's since he was three. Because he was not physically disabled, St. Vincent's would not accept him as a student, but his mother had no means to care for him, so she simply left him and walked away. Since then the St. Vincent's administration has cared for him, providing everything he needs. He graduated from ninth grade in June, having been the top student since starting in preschool.

Now, a newly-endowed scholarship will enable him to attend secondary school. The thousand dollar award will cover a year's worth of school fees, teaching materials, transportation and uniform. Damenley is the leader of the room he shares with five disabled people, where he organizes daily evening prayer and signs for those who cannot hear.

With Samuel Elizaire's death last year, St. Vincent's lost a son whom it had helped to train and who was a recognized leader. There is no current graduate who can be counted upon to represent St. Vincent's effectively, even though most of the educated disabled people in the country, especially the blind, have lived and studied at St. Vincent's. Père Duveaux deems it highly appropriate to invest in Damenley's training to prepare him for this role and to reward him for his academic excellence and personal commitment to his fellow students. The scholarship donor is delighted with Damenley's much-deserved selection for the award.



Please Tell Us Your Name

If you give appreciated securities, from a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or through a Donor Advised fund (DAF), your name does not always accompany your donation. And we want to thank you! So, please, always ask your donating entity to provide your name or email our Trustee Development Chair, Elizabeth Lowell, at elowell236@aol.com.



Food For The Poor is an Invaluable Partner

Based in Coconut Creek, Florida, Food for the Poor (FFTP) operates in the Caribbean and Latin America to provide food, medicines and other essentials to those who need help. Its largest operations are in Haiti and Jamaica, and St. Vincent's is one of its many beneficiaries. Before reaching out to other providers, we always talk first with FFTP!

For years, FFTP has regularly provided St. Vincent's with rice, beans and cooking oil for the staple of the Haitian diet. (We consume 225 pounds of rice each week. That's 11,700 pounds a year!) FFTP has two large warehouses in Haiti - one in Port-au-Prince and the other in the north in Cap Haitian. Because of Port-au-Prince gang activity, rice is now being shipped only to the north. We learned in September that FFTP will cease providing rice for the foreseeable future, as transport is too expensive and dangerous. While that means we must find - and now pay for - another source of rice, it does not affect our warm partnership, which has their staff and ours on a friendly first name basis.

Because it is such a trusted entity, Food for the Poor is one of the very few organizations currently able to transport items from the U.S. through Haitian Customs. Given gangs and corruption, the "schedule" is erratic, but FFTP containers are among the few which successfully arrive. While the 25 white canes for our youngest blind students took a full year to reach St. Vincent's, it was FFTP's custodianship which made their delivery a reality.

Gérald Oriol, Jr., Vice-Chair of the Children's Medical Mission of Haiti (CMMH), is the Board Chair of FFTP, Haiti. He has enabled close communication between CMMH Trustees in the States with the FFTP staff in Haiti. We treasure this close partnership.



FFTP
**FOOD FOR
THE POOR**



Teaching the Teachers

The Haitian Ministry of Education mandates that every academic year schools hold seminars to enhance the capabilities of their faculties. In September, St. Vincent's 62 teachers and teachers' aides gathered on campus for a weeklong session to improve their Braille and sign-language skills and, in a first this year, to learn how to teach well remotely. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the School averaged some 165 students daily (out of 200 enrolled) and 228 out of 240 teaching days. It's the in-country violence which determines attendance and days when it's safe to be open. Given this background, it's remarkable that St. Vincent's fared so well, and 174 students took final exams.

However, there were obviously students who couldn't get to

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