

And now a quick word about St. Vincent's Trusteeship. This is a working Board - a very hard-working Board. We have no paid staff in the United States. Trustees work long hours to ensure that we raise the necessary funds to keep St. Vincent's operating, to meet all the IRS regulations and the regulations of the Haitian government, to communicate reliable information in a timely fashion, to work closely with Père Duveaux and other staff in-country, to help create work-arounds quickly when circumstances require it...for just a glimpse of our work. For some of us, SVC Trusteeship is close to a 40-hour week. It's about changing lives, and as we see these children blossom, that is the reward.

It Takes a Village

And you, dear readers and donors, are that village for St. Vincent's children. Yes, the staff on the ground are there every day, teaching, feeding, caregiving, comforting, encouraging, but without our steadfast support, they would not be able to serve. We provide fully half of the annual operating budget - some \$250,00 in 2024 - as well as many capital projects. The potable water system on campus? A New Hampshire parish provided that. The to-be installed solar power and anaerobic digesters? Individual donors responded to a newsletter article. Additional funds to meet the food needs this year? Again, individual donors stepped up, so that the children could continue to have a nourishing mid-day meal, despite the 100% inflation in food costs. St. Vincent's is blessed by your commitment, but we can never take it for granted, nor rest on our collective laurels.

Fundraising is a necessary part of being a non-profit organization. We follow IRS regulations to the letter, and our auditors double check everything, so that your generosity is fully tax-deductible. It is, however, the steadfast generosity of spirit rather than the tax-deductibility of the gifts which brings this remarkable village together. Together we create a safe educational and medical haven in an otherwise war-torn zone. Together we offer hope, and together we build a path to the future.

In this spirit, please continue your giving this year. You may give online or by sending your checks to:

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



Learn more and support our work at www.stvincentshaiti.org *Thank you for your support!*

Our Trustees

- | | |
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Give a gift today online by scanning the QR code. *Scan me!*

When you do, please consider selecting the box to cover the processing fees to ensure that all of your gift goes toward helping the children of St. Vincent's Center in Haiti.

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New London, NH 03257

Fall 2024 Newsletter
www.stvincentshaiti.org

Classes Started

The Haitian Ministry of Education decrees opening and closing days of the academic year. Usually, classes commence the second Monday in September, but this year, it is later. Also, usually students return in a trickle, not a rush. So, it's difficult to predict what our numbers will be this year, although we have had a number of new registrations. While we began robustly last year, gang violence dramatically reduced both student and faculty attendance until we closed with a strong showing of 165 students at the end of June.

At the close of academic 2023-2024, 113 students moved up a grade. Due to gang-related absences, 40 students remained in the same grade, and 11 graduated. **And, all of those eleven passed all of their state examinations:** a remarkable achievement!

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Monica is 20 and has been at St. Vincent's for 12 years. She is both deaf and a paraplegic.

Linda is 18. Deaf since birth, she has been at the school for 13 years, having started in pre-school.

16-year old Widlandia has no disability, but she came to St. Vincent's because of security issues.

Jennifer has no physical disability, but suffers from distraction as her entire family moved to a distant shelter for safety reasons. Our psychologist has been an immense help to her.

Cassael is 25 and came to St. Vincent's for his education after other schools had rejected him.

17-year-old Johncka came to St. Vincent's in 2012 because of her profound deafness.

19-year-old Melky, also deaf since birth, started St. Vincent's in pre-school.

Cassandra suffers from trypanosomiasis, a form of sleeping sickness. With our teachers' and doctors' help, she has overcome this illness.

Clifford has been at the school for only two years, but it is here that he has learned sign language so that despite his deafness, he can communicate.

Wondolph is 19 and has been at St. Vincent's for five years, during which time he has mastered Braille.

Gervens came to the school, aged 11, nine years ago. Blind since birth, he can now read and write Braille AND, play the piano!

These remarkable young people have not been deterred by their handicaps. And our equally remarkable and caring St. Vincent's staff has helped them reach this educational milestone. Our admiration and awe are unbounded.



Père Duveaux continues to work seven days a week to improve this ongoing reality. Our orthopedic surgeons and pediatricians rotate their days. There is currently a greater need for the orthopedists than pediatricians, by about three to one; and our Physical Therapist and Brace Shop workers are busy, too. We even have access to a portable x-ray machine. Families left without care after the downtown destruction peppered Père Duveaux and Dr. Moïse with fervent requests for services, and this is the immediate result. Longer term, we seek a partnership with an established medical facility where we might rent space, but we need to be assured that the location is secure. We're still looking.

Word of mouth has brought more patients from beyond our Medical Center population. So many hospitals and clinics have been destroyed or closed that when one is open with competent care, demand for services is great. Because St. Vincent's has been known country-wide for 75 years for the care of children with disabilities, it's axiomatic that we'd be a magnet for those seeking care.

Supplies are an issue, and not just for St. Vincent's. Because the gangs control the Customs area and usually stop whatever shipment might get through, medical equipment and medicine are close to non-existent. Pictures of medical facilities which gangs have seized show destroyed equipment strewn around the floor. Because anesthesia is in such short supply, few operations can be performed. Diabetics are unable to get insulin. The situation is dire. We are profoundly grateful that our medical staff is still willing and able to treat those in need.



Medical Annex Is Open

Last Friday, Dr. Jumelle rode his motorbike 15 miles to the Santo 17 school campus to evaluate and treat 22 children in need of his orthopedic wisdom and gentle, probing surgeon's hands. He, and the children's families, came through gang barriers to serve and be served.

The destruction of the downtown Medical Center and Brace Shop did not stop our work. It just took a few weeks to rehab and roof a dilapidated campus building into a waiting room and the Human Resources Office into an examination and treatment room. Et voilà! The St. Vincent's Medical Center Annex was born.



Thank You, Dr. Nelson

Dr. Susan Nelson has been a St. Vincent's Trustee since the current Board was founded in 2015. She has faithfully chaired our Medical Committee, meeting regularly (on Zoom, as the internet permitted) with our Medical Director, Dr. John Erickson Moïse, to determine supply needs and assess and address other concerns. From 2008 - 2018, she led a medical evaluation team to the school two or three times a year, assessing the health needs of every student. With the advent of Covid and then the gang violence, those teams have not been able to come. So, Dr. Nelson raised the funds with the West Tennessee Haiti Partnership for a local Haitian physician to come to the campus three days a week to evaluate and treat students and staff. While we shall miss her steadfast service as a Trustee, we are immeasurably grateful for her insights and her dedicated commitment and wish her well as she decreases her professional time and enjoys her growing grandchildren.



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