

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2021 - JULY 2022



The Children of Haiti Project is a nonprofit school under the auspices of the Children of Haiti & Refugee Projects, a private non-profit corporation, that designs, develops and delivers a progressive education to a specific group of underserved children in Haiti with the mission of creating Haiti's future leaders. "IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CHAOS OUR CHILDREN PAUSED AND QUESTIONED THEIR OWN EXISTENCE. They wondered if their ill-fated surroundings should be thought of as an opportunity for self-enrichment and growth, or despair.

WE HAVE ONLY TAUGHT THEM TO MOVE FORWARD AND PROGRESS. THEIR FINAL ASSESSMENT COULD ONLY BE ONE OF HOPE AND CHANGE THAT THEY WILL BRING THEMSELVES."

- DOMINIQUE PIERRE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, 2010-2022





Since 2010, under the outstanding leadership of Program Director, Dominique Pierre, the Children of Haiti Project (COHP) has been supporting a program of education, nutrition and health care for over 145 of the poorest children in Haiti. Thanks to our extraordinary benefactors and great leadership, the children in this program are thriving in terms of their education, their personal development and their health. Our major challenge is sustainability. In order to meet our financial goals, we must raise significant funds every year to keep this program intact and to maintain our two rented facilities to effectively operate the program. A number of international schools, organizations and compassionate individuals are donors to this noble cause, which is creating Haiti's future leaders.

# SPECIAL CHALLENGES OF 2021-2022

The assassination of Haiti's president in July 2021 left a deep economic crisis, worsening insecurity and corruption: the situation went from bad to worse.

Powerful gangs are growing in strength and influence. According to UN reports kidnappings, including rape and murder, have increased by 200% from the previous year.

Children as young as 8 years old are exploited and armed to commit murder. An estimated 500,000 children have lost access to school in the metropolitan area of Port-au -Prince since April 2021.

Women and children are daily victims of the fights between rival gangs. The population is held hostage, the circulation of goods (food) is very difficult with a monthly inflation of 37%.

Most of the medical personnel has fled the country and many medical facilities were forced to cease operations.

Increasing numbers of people are risking their lives on makeshift boats trying to reach the shores of the US or neighboring Caribbean countries. Most don't make it. Some of our children's parents have used that perilous route.

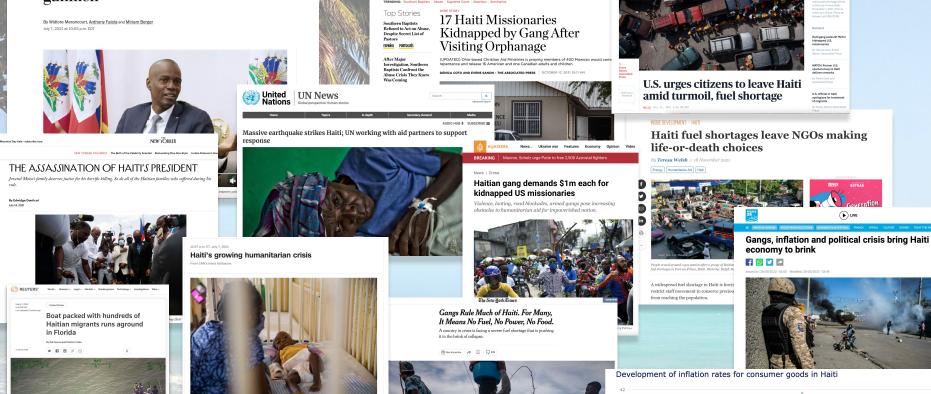
The citizens of Haiti are living from day to day with the grim thought that they may be kidnapped or killed in their own homes.

#### Haitian President Jovenel Moïse assassinated at his home by unidentified gunmen

arie Rose Emile wetches over her 6-month-old grandson Jonise as he is to snception, in Les Cayes, Halfi, on Wednesday, May 26. Joseph Odelm/AF

Halti's political crisis will only deepen in the wake of the president's assassination, but the impoverish Caribbean nation is also facing a dire economic situation.

Its economy had been contracting even before the pandemic, and shrunk a further 3.8% in 2020. About 60% of the population is now living in poverty, according to the World Bank.



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OUR LATES

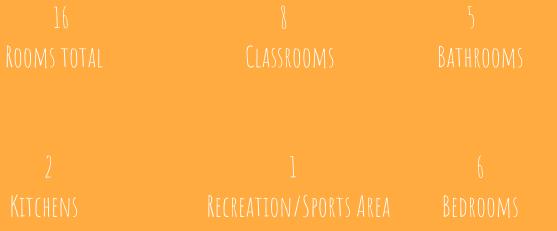
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We moved to a new locale in March 2021, to keep everything including dorms, on one property. We provided room and board for 100% our students challenged by food insecurity, personal safety, transportation and precarious home situations during the pandemic. Now that the pandemic has eased, this is a haven for 66% of our students during the week.



+ The living conditions of the COHP children continue to be challenging. Most of their families reside in gang-infested areas and overcrowded one-room dwellings without toilets, electricity or running water in small concrete or metal shacks. Relatives are cramped, often 10 to a room. + A group of our students with families in the most dire conditions live on the COHP campus 5-7 days a week in seven dorm rooms. We believe it is important for our students to keep a relationship with their families and communities, and we encourage them to go home on weekends, when it is safe.

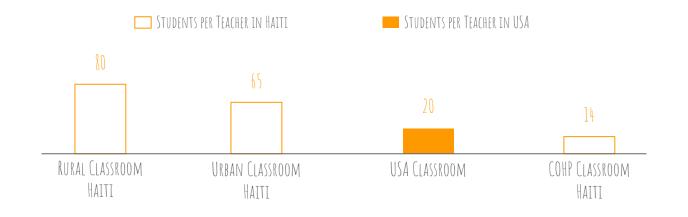


# 2021 PROGRAMS & SCHOOL STATS

Full/Part Time Teachers: French, English, Spanish, Creole, Social Studies, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Science, Physics, Math, Economics, Computer Literacy, Arts, PE

In 2020 due to the pandemic we had to halt special programs. The Program Director teaches TOEFL in preparation for potential foreign university admissions.

# CLASSROOM STATISTICS



+ In the past five decades the extreme shortage of skilled teachers has lead to extremely high illiteracy rates for Haiti, leading to an eventual unqualified workforce and leadership.

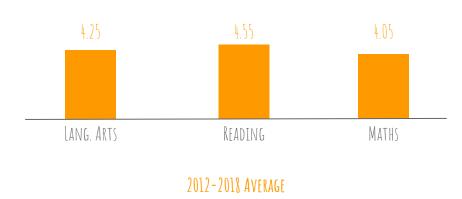
+ A nation cannot progress without educated and analytical citizens who question and change the status quo.

+ 10% of Haitian-schooled children drop out of school before reaching 6th grade; 40% before reaching 9th grade.

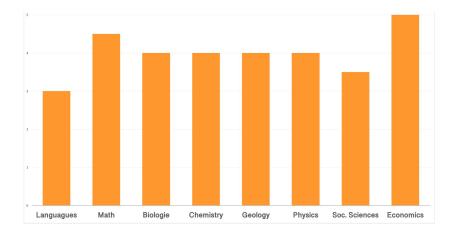
+ There are 4 times more students per teacher in public classrooms in Haiti than in US public schools.

+ The current crisis in metropolitan areas has affected a exodus of intellectuals further crippling the already poor Haitian education system.

# **EXTERNAL & INTERNAL EVALUATIONS**



+ Starting in 2012 unadapted annual evaluations selected from a school district in Nantes, France, were given to the COHP students. Their averages for 2012-2018 are compiled above. The highest possible score is a 5. Starting in 2019 due to the unrest, and later the pandemic and gang violence, it was not possible to conduct external evaluations.



+ In 2019 we sent our students to take Haitian National Evaluations at the Ministry of Education. The national average was 76%; COHP students averaged 92%.

+ The ongoing crisis in Haiti prevented any external evaluations; we conducted internal evaluations. 5 is the highest score. The lack of exposure to foreign languages is addressed with remote workshops.



# INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS SERIES

+ In 2012 COHP started the Inspirational Speaker Series to expose the students to life options and different ideas. Successful professionals are invited to share their life trajectories and experiences to open a dialogue for future aspirations. Writers, politicians, business experts, engineers, organization heads and notable scholars have visited. + Starting in 2019 with the unrest in the streets, it was difficult to invite speakers to the school. In 2020-2021 we hosted speakers via Zoom. In 2021-2022, we took a different approach using videos of speakers to incite conversation around current worldwide topics and ideas. After some of the videos, the speakers were later invited for Zoom sessions to discuss what led them towards ideas of change.

### CREATING HAITI'S FUTURE LEADERS

### + The Extreme Challenge:

Financial sustainability

# + Our Organization's Strategy:

Fairly paid, above average Haitian teachers; excellent and transparent leadership and operations

#### + Our Impact:

Measurable high results in academics, health, social behavior

#### + Lessons Learned:

Fast acceptance and adaptation to uncontrollable changing environmental factors are key to surviving



# DAILY ROUTINE

### + Schooling:

7 hours Monday - Friday in Modern languages: French, English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Technology, Art, Social Studies, Economics, Sports

#### + Group mentoring:

Daily after-school support every day, for students from peers

#### + Weekend Activities:

4 hours of reading and social activities every Saturday for COHP students





# MEAL PLAN & HEALTH

- Hour daily lunch break
- Meals a day
- Snack daily
- Vitamins distributed daily
- Health check ups and comprehensive inoculations



# HEALTH IN 2021

The first 2 years following the earthquake showed severe health problems, after which there was a sharp decrease due to our nutrition program and medical initiatives on the school premises.

Year after year we see solid health improvements. In 2017 we had no hospital stays. Typical broken bones or minor injuries led to medical visits. In 2020 and 2021 we experienced respiratory issues, and sepsis.

Both students and their families benefit from the healthcare program, including their extended family members.

# CONTINUING PROGRAMS



## SCIENCE

A program to enable students to understand and evaluate information that is scientific in nature and to make decisions that incorporate information appropriately. They are learning analysis, which is lacking throughout the Haitian education system.



# ENGLISH/ SPANISH

Our students are exposed to a variety of academic disciplines for their success in a competitive global world. Language acquisition is sometimes online; in a place like Haiti additional languages are a matter of survival and access to opportunities.



# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT 11-MONTH WORKSHOP INITIATIVE STATS:

+ In 2011, to reinforce the economic autonomy of women in the community, we launched an 11-month literacy and sewing workshops for women. In 2017 we added crafts. The political instability of 2019, the 2020 pandemic and continued insecurity has made it impossible to function. We hope to open our doors to the women again in 2023.

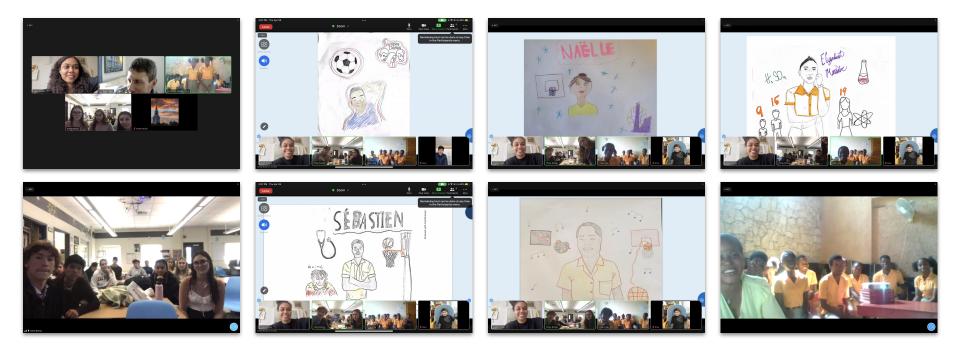
- + 108 Graduates since 2012
- + 86% Employed since 2012
- + 6 Continued Education in 2016

- + 8 Years of program
- + 3 Literacy hrs/week
- + 6 Sewing/craft hrs/week



# CARPENTRY WORKSHOP

+ In 2015 year we initiated Carpentry and Electricity workshops for both boys and girls. The students often opt to make useful pieces for their family homes. In their neighborhoods the children teach others these crafts for independent livelihoods. + Since 2020 due to the pandemic and continued social unrest the carpentry teacher has not been able to come due to unsafe transportation. However, after 5 years of experience, the students took over the repairs at the school as well as occasional innovations.



### VOLUNTEERS 2021

+ In 2011 we started a robust Volunteer Program where we were lucky to host various international school students, professors, teachers, specialists and various individuals who came to contribute at COHP. The pandemic and ongoing national crisis has put a stop to these activities in person. We have however, come up with different creative ways to engage with volunteers around the world.

+ COHP partnered through Pamoja United – a nonprofit that connects US-based high schools with in-need schools from across the globe. COHP has been paired with Redwood High in Marin County, California. Together, the students are developing relationships and creating a yearbook. The partnerships result in the raising of funds for continued education and the forging of international friendships.

## FINANCIALS

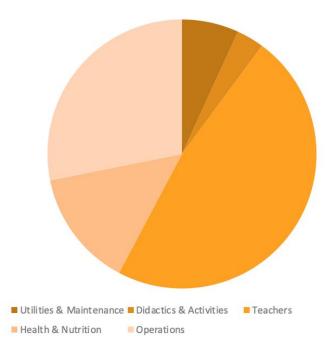
### TOTAL DONATIONS 2021

COHP

In 2021 COHP raised, through friends around the world, COHRP, the Kenbe La Foundation, Pamoja United, Redwood High, and private donors:

\$79,831

Of which **100% went to the school in Haiti.** However, we **incurred expenses of \$167, 986**. We had to use some of our limited COHRP reserves to make it through 2021-2022, leaving us in a delicate position for the remaining three years of the project for all students to graduate high school.



# BEFORE & AFTER 2010 - 2021



Sarafina has become one of our top 2 students; a sharp analytical thinker in both math and science.



Jerry, a Literacy Program student, graduated with excellence, and is continuing his education.





Mikerlange is one of our best students and is incredibly creative, gifted in reading, writing and art.



Makir & Michel-Angelo remain great entrepreneurial, tech-oriented students and are the best of friends.

# LOOKING FORWARD - 2022 AND BEYOND



### ASPIRATIONS

### CHALLENGES

12 Years ago we started with a base of 50 children aged 4 and 5 to create Haiti's future leaders. Today 48 have progressed beyond our wildest expectations, and we are soon propelling them through with a High School Program.

#### We need to raise additional funds per year to

continue permitting the high school program to be a reality. After 12 years of hard work, we have achievement statististics in our favor - and a group of gifted, dedicated students. Their future is bright!



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