

## If "It Takes A Village To Raise A Child..."

then St. Vincent's is blessed to have a village of 305 donors. All of you - individuals, dioceses, and parishes - reached out your loving arms in 2021 to help the 200 children at the school, their teachers and caregivers and the several thousand more who come to the Medical Center and Brace Shop.

You provided dedicated faculty and physicians' salaries, a potable water system for the campus, solar power for the administration, Electronic Medical Records hardware and software for the Clinic, materials for the Brace Shop, a medical analysis lab, and so much more. You provided a home - and hope - in a country where both are in short supply. Everyone at St. Vincent's sends heartfelt gratitude for your support. **Mèsi anpil.**



"Let me count the ways." Elizabeth Barrett Browning's words find their home in SVC's art classes on Valentine's Day. Haitian art has always been vivid and colorful; SVC students continue this lively tradition.

...and we hope that you will stay the course with us in 2022. This year, we must raise \$250,000 in operating expenses and an additional \$140,000 to outfit and retrofit four shipping containers for physical therapy space (two at the Medical Center, two at the School.) This will help keep hope - and healing - alive in the part of Haiti entrusted to St. Vincent's.

Tax-deductible gifts can be made online at [www.stvincentshaiti.org](http://www.stvincentshaiti.org) or by sending a check to:  
**St. Vincent's Center, Haiti**  
 925 Hertzler Road  
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

## Thank You, Connecticut

'Twas the week before Christmas and...Trinity Church in Wethersfield, Connecticut notified St. Vincent's that it had received a diocesan Sustainable Development Grant to purchase the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) hardware and software requested by the Medical Clinic staff. Furthermore, Trinity itself is funding a solar panel, inverter, and batteries for the administrative section of the School, to lessen the reliance on a generator, which runs on severely-scarce and hugely-expensive diesel fuel.

Despite the violence and the pandemic, these critical projects are moving St. Vincent's forward, strengthening internal resources for the long-term. In the best sense of the term, both EMR and solar power are helping to make St. Vincent's more sustainable and thereby, enhancing our mission to serve the Haitian children with disabilities. With one voice, we say "Mèsi anpil" - Thank you very much! - to both the Diocese of Connecticut and Trinity Episcopal Church in Wethersfield.



The Carnival Queen and her court may look different from New Orleans pictures but the occasion is no less joyful at SVC, physical disabilities notwithstanding



Mme. Yolenny Rodriguez and Mr. Jorge Royas, psychologists, meet with parents to discuss ways to help them raise a child with disabilities.



### Who We Are

#### Members of the St. Vincent's Center Board

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas  
 Roanoke, VA  
 Aurélie Fièvre  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
 Cynthia Jaar Handal  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
 Sister Kethia Jean-Simon  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
 Elizabeth M. Lowell  
 New London, NH  
 John Mutin  
 Memphis, TN  
 Dr. Susan Nelson  
 Memphis, TN  
 Cassandre Shekinah Paul  
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 Kenneth H. Quigley, President  
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 Ary Theodore, Esq.  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
 Dr. Mary White  
 North Haven, ME  
 Dr. Pierre Marie Woolley  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The Rev. Innel Duveaux  
 Director

#### 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

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Our Federal Tax ID number is:  
 62-1564456

# N'AP Kanpe Ansanm

"We Stand Together"

SPRING 2022

## St. Vincent's Expands Service, Adapts to Circumstances

Despite the daily in-country violence, St. Vincent's is both expanding its services and adapting its practices to meet the exigencies of the current situation.

#### Expanding

Our orthopedic surgeons and Brace Shop workers have long clamored for a "real" Physical Therapy Department. With the January 2022 hiring of noted PT, Sophia Lainé, St. Vincent's has begun the expansion of that Department. Mme. Lainé works at both the downtown Port-au-Prince Medical Center and at the Santo 17 campus, where she began by evaluating the students' needs.

A graduate of the Pontifical Universidad Madre y Maestre in the Dominican Republic, Mme. Lainé did her training in Boston, Massachusetts. Returning to Haiti, she worked eight years in Physical Therapy at a large hospital where she also coordinated all the rehabilitation and was an internship supervisor. In addition to her work now at St. Vincent's, she is a Professor of PT at l'Université Fondation Aristide (UNIFA).

Dr. Yolenny Rodriguez, who joined the Medical Clinic staff last year as our psychologist, is a native of Cuba where she attended primary and secondary school and university, majoring in psychology. She moved to Haiti in 2013 and began teaching Spanish and medical psychology at a university. In 2021 she began work at St.



Mme. Lainé at work at Santo 17.



Sophia Lainé starts a physical therapy session with one of our young students.

Vincent's and this year has expanded her time from three to four days per week. She splits her time evenly between the Clinic and the School. Working with both students and parents who have been scarred by the trauma of ongoing violence, kidnapping, food scarcity, and Covid, she has already made a difference in many families' lives.

#### Adapting

Given the fuel shortage in Haiti, the school buses have not run. Unwilling to sacrifice their children's education, parents have banded together to rent TapTaps to take them to the campus. For those unable to reach the school, St. Vincent's started to print lesson booklets to cover a week's worth of work at a time. The purchase of an additional printer and much more paper made this possible. And Trinity Church, Wethersfield, CT provided solar power equipment, thereby enabling Père Duveaux and others to work after hours without burning precious generator fuel, keeping everyone and everything mission-focused.

It has not been easy, but St. Vincent's is blessed with dedicated staff at the Clinic, Brace Shop, and School. The risks to which they are exposed daily are truly beyond our comprehension, but they continue to show up and dedicate their skills, time, and energy to the health and education of others.



## Message from the Director — Père Duveaux



*Père Duveaux gets into the spirit of Carnival with the Queen and her friend.*

On behalf of the Management Committee of the Saint Vincent Center for Disabled Children, employees, and beneficiaries, I greet you in Christ. I am very happy to speak with you in this first newsletter of 2022.

Thank you for your support of all kinds and your determination in working to improve the situation of people with disabilities living in Haiti and to offer them a better future.

The socio-political and economic situation of the country as you follow it through the newspapers, the media and the various reports during the year are not favorable and does not inspire confidence: which has slowed us down. Haiti is at the polls of national and international newspapers and media because of the phenomenon of kidnapping and news of assassinations of peo-

ple, especially in the capital and surrounding areas. This alarming situation is not confined to a specific area but is becoming widespread and in this sense no one is immune.

Despite this situation, we do not want to give up and let go. It is in this sense that all our employees are in agreement with the administration, while being vigilant, they meet their responsibility to continue to operate the Center. We cannot say considering the situation that we are operating at one hundred percent of our capacities, but we are putting a lot of effort at all levels to offer our services to the Clinic and Brace shop, the School, and the Pension. My wish as a local leader is that we continue to execute our plans looking forward. May God watch over you and this colossal work that we are doing.

Father Duveaux

## How Are Things, Really, at St. Vincent's?

To add some detail to Père Duveaux's message, the SVC Board wants to share some specifics.

Our physicians and brace shop workers are showing up daily for work. They carefully monitor where hotspots are and call the Medical Clinic in advance of their arrival so that the gate is opened in a timely fashion.

The patient count is down, because so many people come from the southern part of Port-au-Prince and the country. They must travel through Martissant, a section of PaP now controlled by gangs.

While there are gangs in the area of Port-au-Prince where the Medical Clinic is located, to date, they have respected St. Vincent's. They are well aware of our 76-year history of treating the poorest of the poor in Haiti; and they have not interfered with our operations...as

has been the case with other medical sites in-country.

Our teachers at the Santo 17 campus have also come daily.

Of our 200 students, as of early March, 189 students were in class. TapTap transport is not amenable to wheelchairs, so it is mostly our students who

are mobility-challenged who are unable to get to campus.

Your contributions have helped to purchase additional printers, a thermoform duplicator and Brailon (brand name for the plastic sheets on which Braille is imprinted for copying), so that faculty can create weekly workbook lessons for students unable to come to class.

SVC still provides the nourishing hot mid-day meal

This is not to say that daily life is not a challenge. It is, but for every challenge there is at least one work-around. Your prayers and support daily make the difference.



*This annual December observance brings the SVC family together to acknowledge the global family of people with disabilities. A powerful Thanksgiving Service demonstrates that joy has no physical boundaries.*

## St. Vincent's Distributes Earthquake Relief Funds

Within a month of the August 14th earthquake, St. Vincent's raised some \$30,000 and sent it directly to Père Duveaux for distribution in the south of the country.



*Before, left, and after, above*

Because he had come to SVC from Jérémie, close to the earthquake's epicenter, he was uniquely positioned to know who needed help most urgently and how to safely deliver those funds in cash.

The larger relief agencies didn't get into the far-flung corners where Père Duveaux's team sought out those forgotten families who needed food, tarps, and wood to survive and repair their homes. All gifts were accounted for with signed receipts and pictures of the work done to date. A little can go a very long way in Haiti as these pictures attest. We helped some 100 families.



## Plans for the Retrofitting Of the Medical Center Containers Move Ahead

It is hard to believe but this design shows how two metal containers will be transformed into a new physical therapy room and pharmacy at the downtown Medical Center. Notice the solar panels providing power and shade and the cooling plants on the roof.



*Waiting to see the physical therapist.*



*The St. Vincent's Dance Team proves that deafness and blindness are no barriers to the joy of movement.*