



Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

70th Edition

Editor: Marcia L. McBroom Small

December 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Board of Directors, volunteers, and I would like to wish all of you and your families a healthy, joyful, and prosperous New Year! However, as you set your holiday tables, I beg you not to forget the destitute Children of Lascahobas.

We are very happy to report that the children in the school are doing very well. This year, none of the students had to repeat their classes. Thus, they were all promoted to the next grade.

Although we are struggling financially, we had to accept more children because the cost of living in Haiti has skyrocketed.

It is tragic that food costs alone have risen dramatically.

At this time, we have 147 students in the school. I went to Haiti in September to have a graduation ceremony for the 6th graders. Fifteen students graduated this year and fifteen graduated last year. Last year, we were unable to have a ceremony because I thought that I could have rented some caps and gowns for them only to find that not only was the price exorbitant but the color was not satisfactory.

I am happy to report that I was able to purchase caps and gowns online at a reasonable price. In the picture below, not all of the graduates are present due to an uprising which caused the roads to be
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SOME FCLH 2019 GRADUATES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

blocked. I told all of the graduates to dress for a special occasion. As you may have noticed, some of the students are wearing sandals.

I always tell them not to be embarrassed to wear sandals to school if they don't have a pair of regular shoes because an education is one of the most important things one can have in life. That is all that really matters, but you may remember how hard it was to ignore the teasing of other children. Those in sandals do feel pain when watching others who have real shoes. However, by missing school, the children also miss a meal that is sometimes the only meal of the day. Poor nutrition and lack of education will keep them from getting what they need in life. I explain that after they finish school, they will be able to get a job which will enable them to buy whatever they need.

Some of you may recall that in 2016, I requested donations to purchase school shoes for the children. It's amazing to see how the parents make sure that the shoes are used only for school so that they will last. I am therefore appealing to you for donations so that I can purchase school shoes for the children for the coming year.

In addition, I want to explain that we now have to have our graduation ceremony in September instead of June as it is very important for me to be there to open the school in order to purchase the books and school supplies for the children. We can no longer afford two trips per year.

For those of you who shop via Amazon or who have friends and relatives who are Amazon shoppers, Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti is registered in the "Amazon Smile" program. Thus, whenever an Amazon purchase is made, the buyer can indicate that a donation goes to FCLH. We will then receive 00.5% of the total purchase price at no extra charge to the customer so please help spread the word.

Once again, I would like to tell all of you that we are forever very grateful for your continued support and well wishes for FCLH to continue to sustain our program for the destitute yet promising children of Lascahobas. It's amazing to realize that we have been working for the last 43 years!!

Determination will always win the day! Thank you and may God continue to bless you all.

Sincerely,

Estelle Dubuisson



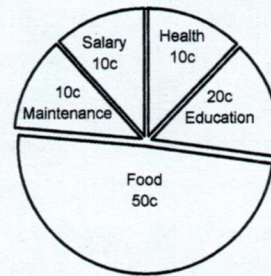
Some Graduates of 2018



HISTORY

Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, Inc. is dedicated to improving the lives of the children of Lascahobas. It started over thirty-five years ago when Estelle Dubuisson collected one dollar each from some of her co-workers at the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, New York. Those funds helped to build the Church of Lascahobas. She went on to organize dances, bus rides, and raffles to raise money for children's school supplies. A visit to Haiti in 1976, renewed her determination to improve the lives of the children in her native town; and realizing that she could not do it alone, she solicited the aid of Dr. Josephine English. Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, Inc. (FCLH) was officially formed and named in 1976 and was recognized by IRS as a non-profit organization in May 1981. By December 1981, FCLH was able to donate an ambulance to the town. In 1982, FCLH established a Child Care Nutrition Center and an Eye Clinic. The Center fed 300 children one meal per day, Monday through Friday, sent 97 6-year old to elementary school and 30 children, ages 10 to 15, to evening school. In 1986, FCLH erected a Child Care Nutrition Center building, then valued at \$42,000, primarily using funds raised through individual donations and supplemented by the USAID (United States Agency for International Development). FCLH has taken a medical team to Lascahobas yearly since 1982. In February 1987, FCLH was incorporated in New York State and, in September of that year, the government of Haiti recognized FCLH as a Non-Governmental Organization. A skills-training program was established for local youth in July 1988. Since 1982, an FCLH team of ophthalmologists has donated one week of services each year. To date, they have seen 21,750 patients, performed 1,227 cataract and glaucoma surgeries, and distributed 14,185 pairs of eyeglasses with corrective lenses. One major accomplishment is the hospital that FCLH built (June 1995 - December 1998). The Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti certified the FCLH Lascahobas Hospital in 2000. Visiting the more rural areas of Lascahobas in 2000, Ms. Dubuisson again saw the extreme deprivation that had prompted her to establish FCLH within the village.. To help rural mothers to develop a reliable income, FCLH began a Cooperative Economic Group Project. Each woman receives some training, a sum of money and membership in the local Credit Union. She usually purchases goods for resale - and uses her profits to feed her children and continue her business. Today, 2 groups remain active and more than 400 children are being supported by their parents who became independent after participating in prior groups through this project. The FCLH school was started in 2013 and currently has 147 children enrolled from first to sixth grade..

HOW YOUR DONATION DOLLAR IS SPENT



FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF LASCAHOBAS, HAITI, INC.

♥ I AM ENCLOSING A DONATION OF \$ _____

♥ I PLEDGE TO SPONSOR A CHILD / ____ CHILDREN AT \$15.00 EACH PER MONTH FOR:

- ONE YEAR
- TWO YEARS
- THREE YEARS
- FOUR YEARS
- FIVE YEARS

SEND DONATIONS TO:
**FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN
 OF LASCAHOBAS, HAITI, INC.
 P.O. Box 2047
 NEW YORK, NY 10025**

PHONE: **(212) 666-4664**

WEBSITE: **WWW.FCLH.ORG**

E-MAIL: **EDUBUISSON@FCLH.ORG**

♥ PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST. I, MY GROUP OR MY ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF LASCAHOBAS, HAITI, INC.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
 NUMBER STREET

APARTMENT NUMBER _____

CITY STATE ZIP CODE + 4

TELEPHONE NO. _____

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION _____

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE