



# Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, Inc.

## *NEWSLETTER*

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81<sup>st</sup> Edition

Editor: Marcia L. McBroom Small

June, 2025

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our distinguished Board of Directors, faithful volunteers, and I, hope that you and your families are having a healthy, joyful and prosperous year.

As you are enjoying your holiday get together with your families and friends, please remember the destitute children of Lascahobas, Haiti.

Unfortunately, many people are still feeling the aftermath effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic which devastated the lives of many. It has been difficult to cope with the tragedies brought on because of the pandemic, but we must thank God for what we have. However difficult it is for one person; it can be even more disastrous for others. It's important to keep the faith and not despair.

Haiti has experienced so much natural and political devastation, thereby making life almost impossible for Haiti's poorest. We all continue to pray that the country can be lifted out of this dark period of constant strife and affliction. That is why we are so grateful for our supporters who have been consistent in helping the Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti sustain our life transforming programs over the years and hope that new supporters will join us.

Most of our donors have been impacted by COVID-19 as well. Donations have decreased as many of our supporters are now in nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, or have transitioned. Nevertheless, we are doing our best to provide for the school and our precious students who serve as an inspiration to us all.

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### **FIRST AND SECOND GRADES**





## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, (continued from page 1)**

As I reported in our last newsletter, there are currently 163 students in the school, and they are all doing very well in their classes. We used to show only pictures of the graduating class, but this year we are excited to include pictures of all of the children which show the diversity in their ages. This came as a special request of one little boy who, when during my recent trip to take shoes and other supplies for them, asked why I only included pictures of the graduating class!

I was recently forced to go to the school to hand deliver shoes, uniforms, and other needed supplies for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade class as we are no longer able to ship the needed items due to the current unrest. My family and friends didn't want me to travel as they feared for my safety, but I decided to take the chance anyway. I'm so happy that I went, as I was able to stay with the children for three glorious weeks! It was fascinating to hear how open they were with me, explaining things that they liked and didn't like such as not seeing their pictures in the newsletter! Sadly, I had to depart secretly due to the unstable condition of the country. I was subsequently told that the children began to cry when they found out that I had to leave without wishing them farewell.

We are very proud of FCLH's school École de Constant and Emilie Marcellus de Lascahobas. It is special in that we accept children of any age. This is the only opportunity for these vulnerable children to break the cycle of poverty by learning how to read and write (skills which many in more developed countries take for granted). For example, when we first opened our school in 2013, we accepted a 16-year-old girl. She was very eager to learn as that was her first opportunity to attend school. We were as excited as she was to provide her with that priceless opportunity. We are happy to report that she was among the 2019 graduating class. In 2024 we had 39 graduates.

For the first time since 1982, the last Medical Mission was in 2020. In 1982, the Medical Mission was started by Dr. John Mitchell. After 20 years he retired. The program was then continued under Dr. Kenneth Westfield who worked for 24 years. Since then, it has been cancelled due to the pandemic and then due to the political instability of the country. The Medical Mission usually takes place in February.

The people from Lascahobas and the nearby towns were very disappointed. Registration usually started as early as December to ensure that they were seen by the doctors. Many of the patients have glaucoma. They would have received free medication for a full year. Others need cataract surgery or are in need of glasses. If an Ophthalmologist didn't go to perform these services, many people would have lost their eyesight. Let us hope that sometime in the near future, we shall be able to resume this vital project. The most unfortunate aspect of all of this is that not only was the project suspended for four years but our ophthalmologist, Dr. Kenneth Westfield of Las Vegas retired. We now hope that we can find new doctors and nurses who will be willing to volunteer their skills and services to continue this crucial program once stability has returned to the country.

FCLH continues to provide the traditional New Year's pumpkin soup and dinner for the community of Lascahobas. This past year, we served 300 people. This meal is like the Thanksgiving dinner we have in the United States.

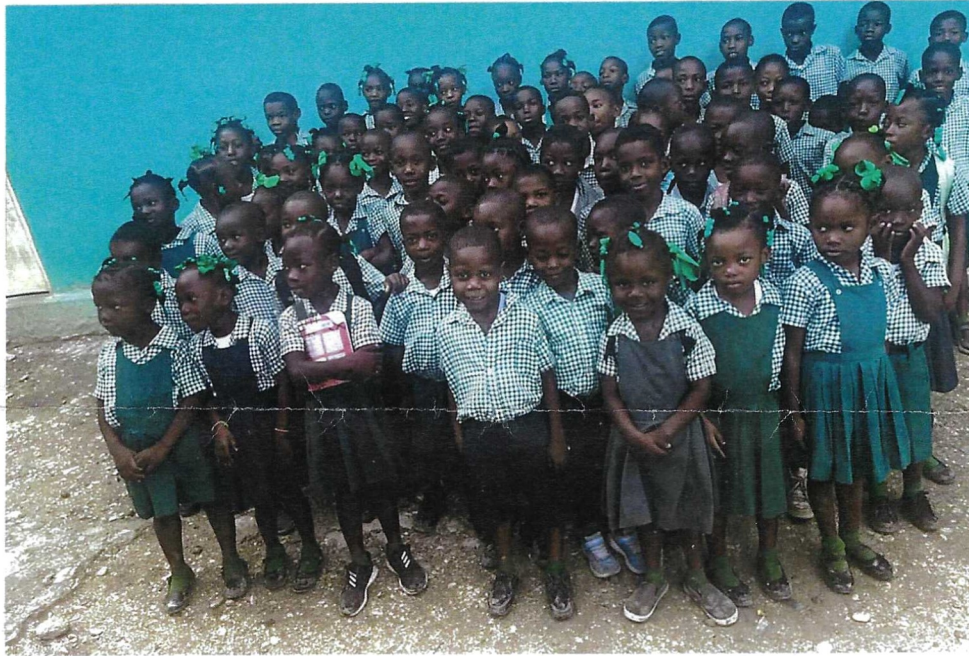
May God continue to bless you for your compassion and continued support for the people of Lascahobas, Haiti. You can also donate through the Program SMILE at Amazon.

Sincerely,

**Estelle Dubuisson**  
President



### **THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES**



### **FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES**

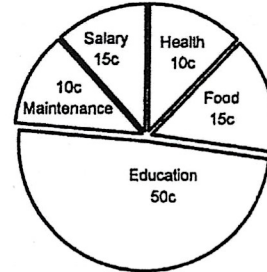




## HISTORY

Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, Inc. (FCLH) is dedicated to improving the lives of the children of Lascahobas. It started over forty-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 Childcare 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 Childcare 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 29,750 patients, performed 2000 cataract and glaucoma surgeries, and distributed over 15000 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. Going forward, FCLH will dedicate all funds to preventing malnutrition, providing micro-economic development loans for women with children, and providing educational support. 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 uses her profits to feed her children and continue her business. Today, 1,187 adults in 32 groups are supporting their 3,131 children through this project. The FCLH School was started in 2013 and currently has 163 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](http://WWW.FCLH.ORG)

E-MAIL: [EDUBUISSON@FCLH.ORG](mailto: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**