



Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative

Progress Report

October 2015 - June 2017

Highlights of the Year

-  3 additional Tilapia harvests
-  145 women graduated from the Pathway to a Better Life
-  220 Education Professionals were trained
-  4250 students were provided a hot meal daily
-  VFHI commission participated in the first ever commission meeting in Rome, Italy
-  Society of St. Vincent de Paul Haiti Advisory Council visited Haiti for the first time

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International Coordinator’s Message

Dear Friends,

This has been a year of major changes for us as our project grows into its next phase. As you know, we have decided to focus our efforts around the area of Savane Perdue, La Hoye in the Central Plateau of Haiti. To accomplish this goal we had to first bring to

completion our education program in the other areas of the Central Plateau and Port-au-Prince, the Capital.

I am happy to say that these have been successfully concluded. More can be found about this process in this report.

“*Things have to be done gradually. Grace has its small beginnings and its progress*”
- St. Vincent De Paul

Many of our current programs are continuing to run successfully in La Hoye, including the Tilapia farm and Fonkoze managed Pathway to a Better Life poverty alleviation program. Bringing these different programs together in one community allows us to connect increasingly with the locals and integrate synergistic future projects into the community.

None if this is possible without our collaboration with many people both locally and abroad. We are excited by the possibilities working with our local team, farmers, our Business Advisory Committee from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the US, the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity (ST’s), and Haitian institutions such as Fonkoze and ACCESO. And we also count on your continued support of our efforts both spiritually and financially.

In the name of those we serve,
Fr. Joeseoph V. Agostino, CM

San Lazare Aquaculture Grows



Last fiscal year, we had our first successful tilapia harvest. This year, we continued this trend with additional harvests. Our farming system has three phases, first we produce tilapia in two larger earthen bassin, next transfer these fingerlings (baby tilapia) to other earthen bassin, and finally plump them up in cages in the lake.

After our successful first round harvest, we were confronted with an issue of drought on our lake which reduced our production capacity. During this time, VFHI's agronomist Yamileh Jean Pierre and her team worked tirelessly to fill basins that would then produce our tilapia. This was a difficult and time-consuming process, as the original production model relied on a lake water source and a diesel generated pump. We had to adjust our production structure to include a larger capacity well and agricultural submersive water pumps and the electrical capacity to withstand such units. With the generosity of a family

foundation we were able to augment our electrical output and respond to the needs of the basins. The team was relentless and after almost 3 months, even the largest of the ponds is filled.

The availability of ponds on the farmland is a major source of competitive advantage for the VFHI Tilapia farm, as many other fish producers do not have the flexibility to continue the production cycle in times of drought. During our Good Friday harvest, our pink tilapia were in such high demand because of the drought people came from the capital to purchase.

Since this process was started no fingerlings have been purchased since. In 2016, fish sales resulted in a profit of approximately \$4000 USD. This was the first year in which the fish sales made a profit, which is only a slight deviation from our original projections of the farm's sustainability.

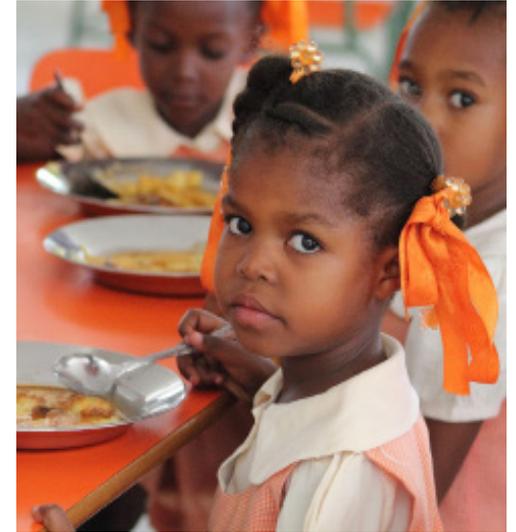
“Our works are worthless if they are not vibrant and animated with the intention of doing them for God”
-St. Vincent de Paul



Pilot Education Program Come to an End



With your help, we began a new education project in 2013. It was unique and true to the spirit of our motto of “Vincentian Creativity at Work in Haiti.” This three year program included strategic planning assistance and a daily hot meal for each student in 17 Port au Prince and Central Plateau area schools. Over the last three years, programs were developed based on a baseline evaluation comparing the schools to requirements of the Haitian Ministry of Education.



Over the years, 4200 students have been impacted, over 200 professionals trained and six multiday conferences executed. This year marked the conclusion of our pilot program, with

the majority of the 17 schools involved having successfully completed the program.



Moving forward, the VFHI will begin concentrating efforts within the La Hoye area near San Lazare Aquaculture, where little educational infrastructure support exists. This strategic location will allow us to build upon progress related to the Tilapia Farm and other exciting new developments. Focusing on this area will mean sponsoring 8 schools and 2,375 students, this decrease in capacity will allow the organization more face-to-face contact with the schools.

Collaboration in Savane Perdue - Trinitarians Visit Haiti

The VFHI is excited to announce the visit of Frs. Frank Conkle, S.T. and his colleague to Haiti on May 24, 2017. Frs. Frank and Jaime are Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, a religious congregation



founded in 1929 by Vincentian priest Fr. Thomas Augustine Judge, CM.

Welcoming these Trinitarians to La Hoye is the most recent step in collaboration efforts among the many branches of the Vincentian Family to push forward with the VFHI's mission based on the Gospel Values of charity and justice.

“*Let us give ourselves to God to go throughout the world to carry His holy gospel*”

-St. Vincent de Paul

“*Encourage one another, and may your mutual good example speak louder than any words can.*”

-St. Louise de Marillac

CLM: Pathways to a Better Life Graduation

21 months ago, you embarked on a journey with us to sponsor 150 women through a partner poverty alleviation program called CLM: Pathways to a Better Life. The program provided 18 months of training for women located in the Savane, Perdue, La Hoye area. Now over 96% of these women have graduated! Not only did they receive their diplomas, but also enrolled their children in private school and received a latrine. The graduation ceremony was filled with friends and VFHI members to offer congratulations and listen to the women's testimonials. One woman spoke about the program saving her life by sending her to the Dominican Republic to treat her cervical cancer. These CLM women are now working as our primary resellers of the fish from our San Lazare Aquaculture Tilapia Farm.



Income Statement**

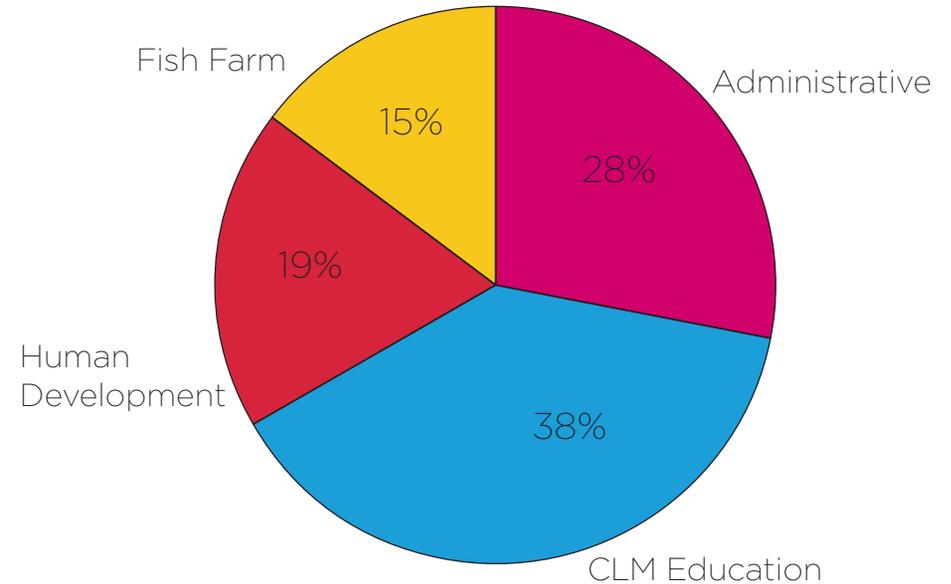
	2016	2015
Revenues	\$195,815	\$282,310
Expenses		
Total VFHI Expenses	332,576	488,019
Total Fish Farm Expenses	57,007	63,882
Total Expenses	389,583	551,901
Changes in Net Assets	(193,768)	(269,591)

**Fiscal Year: October 1, 2015 - September 31, 2016

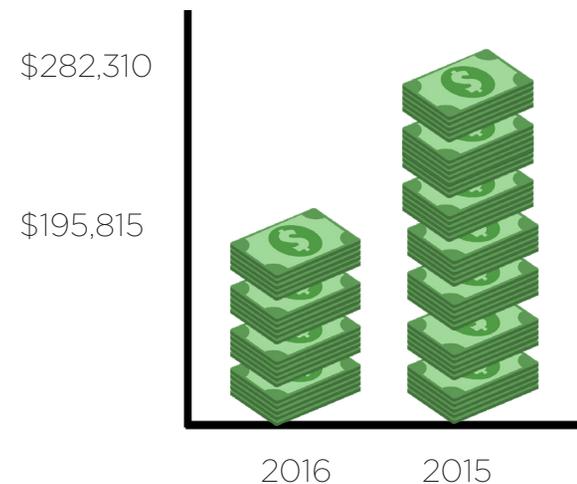
Financial Outlook

The VFHI operates with a low number of staff and spends the vast majority of their budget on sustainable and collective impact driven projects. While the VFHI has brought their operating expenses down by 29% in the past year, in order to continue fuelling the systemic economic development in the region of La Hoye, Haiti, as well as begin exciting new projects like greenhouses and a Farmers' Network, the VFHI needs the generosity of people like you.

Breakdown of Expenses



Decreased Expenses by \$86,495



Our Team

VFHI has a dynamic team both on and off the ground in Haiti. Our US based team consists of an international and advancement coordinator. In Haiti we have a national coordinator who oversees the operations of a team of 5 at the Tilapia farm, and two partnerships of consulting firms to execute our education and agricultural expansion.

Our Mission

Based on the Gospel Values of charity and justice, VFHI collaborates with partners in the creation of systemic change initiatives that build the capacity of Haitian people to meet their own needs and claim their human rights.

How to Donate

“ Grace is necessary to begin and we need more to persevere to the end ”
-St. Vincent de Paul



To include your support for the Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative: visit <http://vfhi.org/donate> OR mail in below

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to: Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative

500 East Cheltenham Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19144