

APFnews

FALL 2015



Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa
Association of the Peasants of Fondwa



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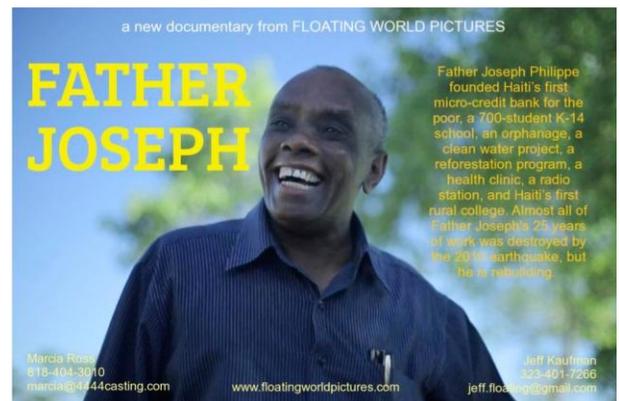
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Lights, Cameras, Action! The Father Joseph Documentary is a Wrap.

After years in the making, the Father Joseph documentary is now finished and will debut in 2016.

While it's been a struggle completing the film, we are pleased that this inspirational story of APF founder, Father Joseph Philippe, will finally be shared with the world. We hope this film will raise awareness and interest in supporting Father Joseph's grassroots efforts to rebuild Haiti.



[Click for the preview](#)

“Never Give Up” is a main theme of this film, yet at times, it seemed this film would never see the light of day. Filmmaker Jeff Kaufman never gave up. A supporter of Father Joseph's work, he persevered and completed this beautiful and relevant film.

This film would not be possible without producer Marcia Ross and the generous financial support from Buddy Steves, David Raethorne, Emmet O’Neil, Damian Blackburn along with Leila Conners, Mathew Schmid, and George DiCaprio from the Tree Media Foundation (www.treemediafoundation.org).



Sound Engineer, Ken Johnson, from Artistry in Sound puts the finishing touches on the Father Joseph Documentary with Director, Jeff Kaufman, and Father Joseph at his sides

While our hope is that this film will raise awareness of Father Joseph’s grassroots efforts in rebuilding rural Haiti, APF is struggling to keep the lights on. While we expect donations should pick up upon the film’s release in 2016, we are at a financial crossroad and urgently need your help to keep APF and Father Joseph’s dream alive.

Visit our website (www.apfhaiti.org) for updates on the film’s release schedule.

Yannik Bergmann – A Life Change in Haiti

Yannik Bergmann, who was born in Stuttgart, Germany and raised in Southern California, came to the United States with his mother when he was seven. He graduated from culinary school and worked at some of the top restaurants in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. In mid-2014, he heard about the work of Father Joseph Philippe, who founded the Association of the Peasants of Fondwa, The University of Fondwa, and Fonkoze (Haiti’s largest microfinance institution).



Yannik Bergmann with Enel Delice

In his early twenties, Yannik felt a yearning for greater purpose in life and volunteered as Father Joseph’s executive assistant, and used his restaurant experience to help improve a community restaurant “Restaurant Lakay” that supports the region’s farmers.

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Antoine – Needs your help!

By Vlad Petrov

The sisters of St. Antoine, in my opinion, are saints themselves. They work tirelessly every day taking care of the orphans, running the school, cooking meals, helping others in outlying villages traveling on rough, mountainous roads... they do just about everything to make this community work. If you ever have the pleasure of visiting Fondwa, you would be very impressed with these sisters. They have such grace, and never complain. I'm amazed at how they do all this hard work, especially under such difficult circumstances.



My hero Sister Claudette needs a home

Since they lost their home in the earthquake of January 12, 2010, they have been living in temporary barracks. Now, six years later, they are at risk of being homeless again soon. The temporary structure is failing and may not withstand another season of hurricanes.

A decent living place for the sisters, staff, and international volunteers is urgently needed. We have started work on the foundation of this new residential center, but we are still in need of grants and donations of \$220,000, and we only have \$15,000.



Building a new foundation

A UNIF Success – Junior Beauvais Wins International Competition!



Junior Beauvais

Junior Beauvais, a UNIF alumni, won an international competition in Milan, Italy earlier this year with his Haitian Heirloom Seed Bank Project.

Working with another former Language and Culture Institute student, Fang Wan, a Chinese student in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, and Enel Delice, a student at the University of Fondwa (UNIF), Beauvais developed an idea to reintroduce native seeds in the region.

We are so proud of Junior who is now an honors student at Virginia Tech. A Fondwa native and a true success story of APF's education system, Beauvais said winning the competition is a good first step to making the seed bank a reality, but hurdles remain. "It's my mission to return to Fondwa to help people there," Beauvais said. "We want to eradicate the genetically modified seeds in the area before things become worse."

Please read a full article on Junior and his project "[STUDENTS' HAITIAN HEIRLOOM SEED BANK PROJECT WINS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION](#)" on Virginia Tech's website.

Also, please watch this Virginia Tech video "[How Change Grows](#)" featuring Junior Beauvais.

RECENT NEWS FROM FONDWA AND APF

St. Antoine School

Since completion of the first phase of our beautiful new earthquake-resistant primary/secondary school for the 700 + children of the Fondwa region, with the financial support of JDC (Jewish Distribution Committee), FHM (Family Health Ministries), PIP (Partners In Progress) and Fonkoze (Fondasyon Kole Zepòl), we are still seeking donors who can help complete the second phase of construction, which will cost about \$600,000. Our very youngest school children still remain in the temporary plywood classrooms built after the earthquake.



Again, special thanks to Family Health Ministry and Partners in Progress for teacher's salaries at the school, and for being a big part of the rebuilding.

The Orphanage

The Home for At Risk Children (Orphanage) is home to around sixty children who are either orphans or have parents too poor to care for them.

Three young women from the orphanage graduated from UNIF. Routh Geneste BA now has a good job. Wilda Fleurimond, graduating in agronomy, is working as an intern in the southwest of Haiti. Evelyne Marta works at UNIF. LouLou is working in Brazil. Junior Beauvais, who attended UNIF, won a seed bank competition in Milan and is an honors student at Virginia Tech.



APF Clinic and Health Center



The clinic is still in the temporary sea container, and we have to pay rent every year to the owner of the land (25,000 HTG). Now, we have the estimate and blue print for the new clinic. It has been designed and submitted by Eng. Phillip Magloire. We have done the topographical survey and \$1,200,000 is estimated cost. We have some donors in line. Caritas Italiana has put up a match of \$200,000. They will accept a commitment letter to release the funds. Heart to Heart wants to provide hospital equipment to the clinic and also assist in the administration of the clinic and provide an administrator and a physician. They are also searching for institutions that can make grants. One of their partners

asked us to build a small surgery section. They will train the doctor and will equip and build it. There's no written commitment yet. Ms. Janine Anas has some friends who are physicians who want to help us have a permanent physician in Fondwa, and her group will be willing to give the stipend to this GP. This person will also work with the school, orphanage, UNIF, APF members, and with Fonkoze on the CLM replication and nutritional program.



We are looking for partners to help us build the clinic in Fondwa. There is now a group trying to set up a paramedical university in Fondwa. If that happens, we will find way to collaborate together.

Hurricane Erika

Erika is the name given to a big storm that blew into many areas of Haiti on Friday 28 of August. This cyclone had heavy winds and rain which caused a lot of damage even though it did not last very long. Many areas of our vegetation were destroyed and trees uprooted, including lots of Bananas trees...a huge deficit for the peasants. Haiti's hurricane period lasts until the end of November.



University of Fondwa (UNIF)



UNIF is looking for a CEO for UNIF USA. This academic year was the best financial year for UNIF. We paid on time all of the teachers, and paid some of the debt. Also, we have paid all the part-time teachers with no new debt from 2014-15. With the support of UNIF USA, UNIF has created the office of the Diaspora with an office in Haiti and in the US. The Diaspora committee sent a delegation to evaluate UNIF. They want to make sure there are opportunities for the graduates upon graduation. With this structure, we have gotten some new students for UNIF. Queen of Peace (a catholic parish in Arlington, VA) is sponsoring three

students from Medor to come to study at UNIF in the three disciplines.

We want to remind you that the University of Fondwa has 3 Faculties: Management, Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine. Some of these faculties are made to cater to the local peasants and environment that allows them to understand the problems they are facing in developing their local Haitian communities.

There is a Haitian businessman in Florida who is paying for one student and a woman in the Florida area will pay for a female student. We also have Mr. Frantz Minuti who is a good sponsor of our program, and will pay for one student too. They are looking for 13 other people to give 75 a month so they can sponsor a whole rural community in Haiti.

There might be other students coming from the Diaspora movement.

UNIF is working on a security for the energy system, and building a wall in front of UNIF in Port Au Prince. UNIF USA has building engineers working on plans to assist UNIF in its construction.

Also, we have solved the internet problem partially. We have Francois Canel who has made all the arrangements and found some friends to pay for the first few months. A 20 MB connection costs \$400 per month.

We are going to hire Mr. Canel as the VP for Administrative Affairs at the beginning of the new academic year. He will help us with on-line projects and also with a small business development center.

To learn more about what's happening at UNIF, its mission to transform rural Haiti through higher education and how you can become involved, please visit UNIF's website, www.ufondwa.org or contact Rosemary Edwards, Executive Director UNIF-USA at unifusa@ufondwa.org.



A UNIF success - Junior Beauvais visits Fondwa after winning an international seed bank competition in Milan. He is now an honors student at Virginia Tech

APF USA and APF Priorities for the coming months...

General support is always needed. To execute the various programs and projects, we must maintain staff, equipment, pay utilities, and maintain vehicles, internet, and general operations.

Continue to **build the residential quarter of the APF Center** in order to provide a more decent living situation for the sisters, staff and international volunteers. This will be a structure with eight rooms, and will replace our plywood temporary shelters (built after the earthquake of 2010). After six years, these structures are deteriorating due to humidity, rain, wind, and hurricanes.

Other priorities are mentioned in the preceding articles. Please join us in supporting rural Haiti and our beloved Fondwa as we move forward with determination.

How you can support our work

Please help us make a visible difference in the Fondwa community by supporting APF.

APF programs (the school, clinic, orphanage, the secretariat and radio station... all our critical development projects) require support for rebuilding and ongoing support.

To make a tax-deductible donation to APF,
please send a check payable to APF-USA Foundation and mail to:

APF-USA Foundation
P.O. Box 21624
Washington DC 20009

To Donate Online go to:

www.apfhaiti.org/get-involved/donate



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Ph: 202-800-7077 • E-mail: apfusa@apfusafoundation.org



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