Working hand in hand to provide health and education to the children of Abricots in the Grand’Anse’region of Haiti

Friends of PDI and Fondation Paradis des Indiens (FPDI) wish to inform you of the different issues on which we have been working diligently for the past few years.

Repairs and reconstructions after hurricane Matthew

After hurricane Matthew struck the Grand’Anse region on October 4th, 2016, all of FPDIs schools were either destroyed or severely damaged. Despite all the adversities, the community of Paradis des Indiens dealt with the hardships with courage and resolution. They were determined to rebuild. Thanks to several donors, FPDI has been able to repair some damaged roofs that had collapsed and rebuilt some of the schools that were completely destroyed. Unfortunately, there are some schools that are still covered with tarps waiting to be repaired.
A lot has been accomplished but so much remains to be done. We are counting on your continued support.
Agriculture / schools and community gardens

Thanks to generous donors, including the NATO Charity Bazaar, who provided either funds, seeds, seedlings, tools and equipment, FPDI was able to rehabilitate many of the community gardens that were destroyed in the area, as well as the main school’s garden. The communities have started harvesting some of the vegetables. Our agriculture team has also grafted trees that were broken during the hurricane.

Seeds received and seed distribution

School gardens

Our school children are taught important planting technics that they will use in their own family garden to encourage better yielding. In this garden, tires are used instead of planting directly in the ground for water and soil conservation.
Community Gardens

Our agriculture team worked closely with different communities of the area teaching them the best growing methods for their seeds. Here are some of them preparing and planting in raised beds again for water conservation.

The harvest

Grafting of trees
Canteen

Everyday each student receives a collation in the morning and a meal at noon. Thanks to USAID, we have been able to continue the feeding program. A total of 40 women entrepreneurs are responsible to cook, deliver, and serve the meals in the classrooms. To curb deforestation they are required to use gas stoves and local products to encourage the farmers. These meals are extremely important as they encourage parents to send their kids to school, and the students, once fed, are more attentive in class.

Sanitary Bloc and Hand-Washing stations

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have been able to built a SanitaryBloc at the main school. And thanks to FAUSA, a US organization, a hand-washing station was installed at the main school. It is our hope to duplicate these two projects in each of the small mountain schools. Both of these installations help fight cholera which has become a serious problem in the area.
**Classes** -- Fondation PDI runs a main school in Abricots and 8 smaller schools in the mountains around Abricots, some are several hours walk from the main school.

**Teachers** -- Friends of PDI sponsors 28 teachers in the mountain schools.

**Manual skills** -- Friends of PDI sponsors 12 manual skill monitors. The children are taught sewing and embroidery, wood working, basket weaving and hat making.
**Play time**

Recreation and physical activities are important parts of education as they influence behavior, concentration, and school results. We thank Michele Lebrun Soray for her generous donation of the swings, merry-go-around, and pyramid and an anonymous donor for the hoola hoops.

**The Science Center**

Thanks to the Whitney Foundation, a US organization, Friends of PDI was able to build a Science Centre on the premises of the main school. Thanks to its concrete roof, this building did not suffer physical damages during the hurricane and even served as a shelter for some people during the storm.
Computer Class in the Science Center -- Unfortunately water inundated the room that served as a Computer Lab and destroyed all the equipment. We need to refurbish that room and equip it with Laptops instead as they use less electricity and are less susceptible to humidity. If you have a Laptop would like to donate, we will be happy to send it with our next shipment to Abricots.

The Library

The Library that was well stocked before the hurricane suffered major damage during the storm. Many of the books got wet and had to be thrown away. We are looking for other school age children books in French to restock the shelves. Each class visits the library at least twice a week and enjoys a reading session with the Librarian. Even high school students come to check out the books and use the space to do their homeworks.
Digital Board (interactive White Board)

Thanks to Haiti-Futur, a French association, an interactive White Board was installed at Paradis des Indiens, together with solar panels and an electrical generator to power the equipment. The system consists of a laptop computer, a video projector, and an interactive white board which allows the teacher to teach the class by using digital exercises following the Haitian curriculum. These digital classes are more like games and make learning fun. Teachers follow the lessons projected on the white board, which make it different from teaching based on repetition. This allows them to interact with the entire class by making the students think, observe and participate. Haiti-Futur is planning to install a white board in 3 of the mountain schools.

Scholarships -- Every year Friends of PDI sponsors about 30 High school students, several University students, and one Medical student, all former students of Paradis des Indiens.
Infirmary

The infirmary that had its roof destroyed is functioning again. Thanks to “Une main pour un lendemain”, a Swiss organization, Friends of PDI was able to provide for the construction of that infirmary which is run by a resident Haitian doctor and two nurses. Nurse Franzia and Nurse Dana are both former student of FPDI. Many students and adults receive primary care at the infirmary. La Chaine de l’Espoir, a French organization, has graciously offered to provide for the doctor’s salary. From time to time, the infirmary hosts visiting doctors who bring their expertise to Abricots.

The Wells – Water jugs – Water filter

Thanks to several donors, FPDI has been able to dig wells and install several pumps in the area mainly near the schools. Every day some of the students are required to bring a jug of water to share. They pour the water in a water filter tank in order to have clean drinking water. This is a way to fight the cholera epidemic that still prevails in the area.
Sewing and Embroidery workshop

Dozens of women and several men as well work in the sewing and embroidery workshop. Every year they produce hundreds of beautiful tablecloths and other embroidered articles. This program helps them to become self-sufficient economically.
The Tablecloths

Friends of PDI has a large selection for purchase. Contact Chantal Bazelais if you would like to order one at: cbazelais@friendsofpdi.org

Artisanat

Nativity scene

This nativity scene is known world-wide. It is made by a group former students of Paradis des Indiens who have formed an independent entreprise and operate in FPworkshop
Food distribution to the elderly

Every month a food distribution dedicated to older people take place at Fondation Paradis des Indiens. Currently a group of about 400 people participate in this program.

Food distribution after the hurricane

With food being scarce after the hurricane, different meal distributions took place in several areas around Abricots, which were great relief for the population. Here is one at the small mountain school of Degerme.
The Paradis des Indiens Housing Project

The construction of eighteen homes was made possible by a grant from generous employees of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to Friends of Paradis des Indiens, Inc. in Florida, in partnership with Food for the Poor who provided 100% of the matching funds. This project provides safe housing with water and sanitation for 18 impoverished families in Abricots. Each house includes a flushable toilet and each family was given a solar-powered light kit to illuminate their new residence and provide a source of power. The houses are built of sturdy, earthquake-resistant concrete to improve the overall safety and quality of life for each family.
WE ACHIEVED A LOT…… BUT WE COULD DO MORE.

We are counting on your help to continue. Thank you in advance for your support.

WAYS TO GIVE

If you would like to support our work, please send a donation by mail to our address:

Friends of Paradis des Indiens, Inc.
P.O. BOX 11195
Pompano Beach, Florida 33062

Or, you can also donate online with Debit or Credit Cards and by PayPal:
- Go to our Website www.friendsofpdi.org
- Click on Donate now
- Fill out the PayPal page
- Note that you can also elect to donate a specific amount monthly.

SAVE THE DATE – Mark your calendars

What: Our Annual Fundraising Luncheon
When: Sunday 8 April 2018 from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Where: Signature Grand Fort Lauderdale
       6900 Road FL-84, Davie, Florida 33317

Notes: Raffle Tickets will be sold.

Tablecloths and other articles made in Abricots, as well as lovely gifts and perfumes will be available for purchase.

ALL proceeds from the fundraising will go towards our work in Abricots mainly for the teachers’ salaries, the manual skill monitors’ salaries and the scholarships.

Reserve your seat early. You are welcome to invite friends and family, and reserve an entire table.

Contact: Chantal Bazelais at cbazelais@friendsofpdi.org Tel (954) 873-4196 or Mireille Lebrun Jeannopoulos at mjeannopoulos@friendsofpdi.org (954) 962-8047