Note from Head of Haiti Operations

Challenges are an opportunity for growth. This year has certainly proven that!

Following Hurricane Matthew, our team of staff nearly doubled as we began facilitating agricultural, medical, and housing programs. Our core team of staff were thrown into overdrive with an overwhelming amount of work to be done in efforts to help children and families rebuild their lives. A few months after the hurricane, I realized that my team and I had been “sprinting” and we needed to pace ourselves for a long-distance race.

Several times over the past year I have felt in awe of my staff: for their passion, their commitment, their sacrifices and genuine desire to make a difference. I have felt in awe of the children and families in this country: for their remarkable resilience, their sense of community, and how deeply they value education. I have felt in awe of all that we have survived and accomplished together.

As you read through the highlights of this remarkable year, I hope you feel proud of the work you been a catalyst for.

These accomplishments and growth would not have been possible without your support. Thank you beyond words for carrying us through a difficult year! We can’t wait to see what change we can make in 2018! Our focus will continue to be on sustainable empowerment of families, deinstitutionalisation, and internal capacity development.

Morgan Wienberg  M.S.C.
Co-founder/Head of Haiti Operations

We are a child protection organization focused on protecting vulnerable children in Haiti through family reunification and building toward a self-sufficient future.
Highlights of this year

1. Progress towards Deinstitutionalization

Through an increasingly close partnership with IBESR (local Haiti Social Services Department), we have made numerous progressive steps towards deinstitutionalization in Southern Haiti.

We now have a Child Protection Agent stationed in the local general hospital for the prevention of child abandonment and trafficking – rates of which have significantly decreased! Through our partnership with IBESR and Lamos Organization, we collaborated in the documentation of almost 2000 children in ‘residential centers’ in Southern Haiti to create a database to prevent trafficking and to support deinstitutionalization. We were instrumental in the closure of multiple neglectful orphanages and the reunification of those children, including a group of 40 trafficked children. A number of these children were able to stay at our Transitional Safehouses to regain health before being reunited with their families.

Local police have partnered with LFBS for housing of minors too young to be arrested, as well as the rescue and reunification of child slaves, and for the first ever, a child summer camp was held facilitated by the police! Other local associations have partnered with LFBS to provide medical and psychological care to families in need—including Outreach visits and informational sessions to rural and remote communities.

The understanding and shift toward child protection amongst NGOs and local government was demonstrated through some critical first time national conferences. As highly respected leaders in this area, LFBS’s Head of Operations was invited to the Family Preservation Symposium as a guest speaker and to the National Anti-Trafficking Conference, where orphanages were recognized as a system of trafficking.

Our focus on working in vulnerable communities, strengthening family units and opportunities for self-sufficiency and food security; supporting basic education and vocational skills opportunities; and assisting with housing repairs and construction all culminate in lowering the risk of child abandonment, institutionalization and trafficking.

2. Programs focused on Sustained, Holistic Recovery

We increased our team and refocused our programs and services to wholesome, sustainable recovery and restoration for the individuals, families and communities we work with.

Along with the addition of a Child Protection Agent at the local hospital paediatric ward, one of our core staff is a nurse and we have temporarily added 3 local medical doctors to our team as well. With their hard work, and your
support, we have hosted numerous desperately needed medical clinics—many in remote communities that have never had the opportunity for medical consultation before! Through your support, we have been able to purchase medical supplies and medications to distribute. We were also able to provide medical consultation and intervention in rural orphanages and support IBESR in their documentation of neglect in those situations as well. In the city of Les Cayes where the regional hospital is located, our medical team was able to support severe cases in the pediatric ward, where they would not have had that essential element for recovery.

Over 2250 children were provided with medical care this year through this dedicated program and effort.

Shelter is base need of any human. Even before the deadly Hurricane Matthew, many families did not have a home. Many of our own staff had their homes destroyed. Those needed repair or rebuilding to ensure our dedicated employees and their families had safe bases to return to.

This year we added home-building to our already full workload. An incredibly hardworking construction team, led by our Manager/Engineer, Bedel, were trained by Haiti’s Maxima housing. Despite weather and terrain challenges, transportation difficulties and overwhelming workloads, 16 new homes were built - many in extremely remote locations. Families prepared the building foundation and worked alongside the LFBS construction crew. Thanks to Rotary and 100 for Haiti, we were also able to support the repairs to many, many other homes as well.

Tremendous strides were made in the agriculture and environment restoration of the southern peninsula. We added a local Agronomist to our staff, who worked with families in rural communities. Teaching sustainable gardening, composting, harvesting techniques. These families had lost everything—and they are now not only restoring their gardens and crops, but expanding them for their own food security and to generate income in their communities.

3. Steps toward Sustainability: Externally & Internally

With family and home stability restored, we were able to reintroduce our small business start-up program. We work closely with parents in small business start up projects, monitoring progress closely and providing a network to share successes and challenges. Regular meetings and follow-up encourage the continued empowerment and strengthening of the individuals and family units. We now have 60 parents and 7 youth involved in their own micro-enterprises!

As we enter our sixth year, we now have several youth that we originally rescued and started working with in 2011/12. They are now approaching key stages in their journey toward independence. We have youth graduating this year - some from post-secondary! One young woman is now a teacher. Others are graduating from vocational training programs with certificates, skills, and dignity. Two youth, who just a few scant years ago had no thoughts of escaping abusive, vulnerable situations, are living on their own in a community 15 hours away and excelling at both school and an apprenticeship with Sigora Solar Company!

We continue to invest in staff training sessions and workshops to build their capacity and to encourage personal growth and empowerment of our incredibly dedicated local staff. They have attended targeted training and networking sessions offered by LUMOS, Terre des Hommes, UNICEF, Ansanm Pour Ayiti, Oxfam and others.

We have included local consultants to assist in the development of process and well-defined guidelines to enhance internal processes and organizational sustainability. We are undergoing a micro-evaluation for internal capacity development.

And...we have purchased land for increased efficiency and effectiveness, and to ensure a sustainable presence of the organization. This purchase was made possible through a donation from a family designating funds specifically for this option. As we work on construction plan phases, we have already begun agricultural production on the property.

“They are doing great work - I can even count on them to help train others now!” - Guesny, Supervisor Sigora Solar Energy, Mole St. Nicolas, Haiti

Imagine....just six years ago...one boy lost in an abusive, corrupt orphanage. The other living on the streets, abandoned there as a young child. Then, Little Footprints Big Steps. And you. Rescued. Love, safety, care, counselling, extraordinary medical intervention, school, dignity, opportunities, encouragement...possibility. You have made this, and so many similar lasting changes, a reality.
**Our Vision**  

LFBS strives to help create a world in which:

- a child who is a victim of exploitation, abuse or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment will receive physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.
- such recovery and reintegration will take place in an environment which fosters the health, self respect and dignity of the child, while reinforcing their family unit.
- Haitians will be empowered and educated through available programs toward sustainable self-sufficiency

**Our Programs and Services Focus on:**

1. **Child Well-being and Development**

   We focus on physical and emotional well-being as well as access to education and vocational learning opportunities. Our Transitional Safehouses provide protection and healing for vulnerable, separated children who are in transition or are receiving specific medical care.

2. **Family and Community Development**

   Our Outreach Program helps families with training and resources they need to preserve the family unit. This may include assisting with medical care, generating a source of income through business start-up, agriculture, trade and/or providing sound housing. Empowering families strengthens communities.

3. **Advocacy of Child Rights**

   In collaboration with Haitian agencies, we raise awareness against child abuse and abandonment. We work to protect and empower victims of abuse and exploitation.

**What we do**

*Restore* vulnerable Haitian children and youth to health, family and community. Empower families toward a future of dignity and self-sufficiency.

**Why we do it**

*Because* breaking the cycle of poverty CAN happen. Our programs and services work toward that reality.  
*Because* reuniting children with families rebuilds the family units that rebuild communities and society. This works by understanding individuals in the context of family units, community units through regular visits and opportunities for learning, listening and awareness. Our Outreach Program include regular visitations and monitoring of progress of the children and youth and their families into which we have reunited them.

**How we do it**

*Creating* opportunity and access for education, vocational skills, small businesses, agriculture for individuals and families. *Hosting* medical clinics, abuse prevention workshops and specialized trainings to entire communities. Knowing community members, working along side them. *Advocating* and providing assistance with serious medical conditions, traumatic events and coping, social and human rights issues.

**What makes us different**

*We* have lengthy, strong and respected relationship with the people, families, communities and partners we work with. We are collaborative and inclusive in all aspects of our work. Our staff are Haitian, led by the co-founder/Head of Haitian Operations, who lives and works alongside them.  
*We act to empower*, building self-sufficiency, dignity, self-worth. Our focus is being a catalyst for sustained change.
Meet Bedel Desruisseaux, the driving force behind LFBS programming!

Bedel is LFBS Staff Manager .... and so much more. His trustworthy, dedicated presence, incomparable work ethic and focus on sustainability has enabled LFBS to become more professional and focussed; to become not just a team but a family; to be as transparent as possible, and to ensure our funds are invested carefully with the futures of beneficiaries and of LFBS in mind.

In this past year alone, Bedel has managed our growing team while also training a new administrative assistant to process financial reports. He has started and managed a new program in which we provide small business start up to parents and closely monitor their progress. As soon as Hurricane Matthew hit, he was wading through water alongside Morgan to ensure our Safehouses and staff were secured – although his own home was flooded as well. His family opened up their home to us when the Boys’ Safehouse was damaged.

Bedel is also an Engineer, and has therefore also been our Construction Manager during hurricane relief. His consistent leadership has amazed the construction company from which we purchase prefabricated homes – apparently, his construction team has the best performance they’ve ever seen! His humility has touched the families receiving homes, as they see that even the Engineer is willing to carry buckets of water on his head to help them. On several occasions, Bedel spent his weekends – his only time off – constructing homes for families as his regular workload was too heavy during the week.

Through all of this work and innovation, Bedel still finds time to make each of our staff members feel heard, to remember their birthdays, and to be a wonderful father to his own child. There are no words to express how grateful we are to have such a brilliant, dedicated and genuine person at the core of our team.

I see that you’re tired. Let me stay with him.” -- E
Ensuring expenditures are focused on the children and families and key objectives is integral to Little Footprints, Big Steps work and values.

We are a Registered Canadian charity under the Canadian Income Tax Act with CRA #84792 2101 RR0001 and in the United States as a 501(c)(3) 98-1224282.

Every dollar is accounted for and works hard toward making the difference now and into the future. A continued additional challenge of the US/Canada exchange rate. *full financial report available upon request

Expenditures from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017 totaled $730,299.00CAD

94% of our donations were used directly for Programs and Services.

Education: $84,535 (11%)
Includes tuition, uniforms, supplies, transportation, vocational skills and staff training.

Operation of Safehouses: $107,218 (15%)
Includes food/water, rent, staff, maintenance, medical, dental, furnishings, depreciation, recreational activities.

Outreach & Community: $172,753 (24%)
Includes transportation, housing, staff, medical/dental, community education/training, communication, clothing, agriculture, micro-business start-up.

Advocacy: $9,229 (1%)
Includes special interventions, government/legal processing fees, travel, wages.

Hurricane Matthew Relief/Recovery: $312,767 (43%)
Includes emergency response, food/water, medical, transportation, shelter, clothing, wages, rebuilding, restoration.

Administration: $43,797(6%)

Thoughts from partners and supporters…together we can do it!

‘It has been our pleasure at LUMOS to partner with LFBS several times over the last year providing post-hurricane support to families in need in the South Department of Haiti and documenting children living in orphanages. LFBS is a small but mighty organization that stands out in Haiti for its leadership and reputation for promoting the best interest of children and families. We look forward to a long lasting relationship with Morgan and her committed team.” - Amanda Cox, Interim Head of Latin America and Caribbean for LUMOS 2016-2017

“Once again this year, the support of LFBS in child protection in the South of Haiti was very helpful, especially for IBESR (Haiti Social Services Department). LFBS, through their dynamic team helps IBESR not only in the prevention of abuse against children, but also in taking care of vulnerable children in order to return or keep them in their families. IBESR hopes that LFBS, which, since 2015 has become our most important partner in child protection in the GTPE-Sud, will be able to continue to support the government actions in child protection. Thank you so much from all of us.” - Enel Andre, IBESR Sud

“HAVEN is deeply committed to empowering people and communities in Haiti to live free from poverty and develop sustainable livelihoods. We seek to collaborate with people and organisations who share this ethos, and are proud to work with LFBS; the character of their staff and strength of their programmes embody this shared vision meaningfully. We look forward to continuing our work with LFBS into the future.”
Haven Partnership Country Director, Damien Meaney

“Rotary Club of Whitehorse members work hard raising funds to support causes in our community & around the world. It is very important to us that those funds are put directly to use to improve conditions in the country in which they work. We have been assisting LFBS since 2010, the year that Morgan first went to Haiti, and have been so impressed with how much has been achieved & by the level of accountability and feedback we receive.”
Elaine Smart, Whitehorse Rotary

“After several years of supporting LFBS work, I had the opportunity to meet with them in Haiti. There we saw first hand how Little Footprints Big Steps approached so many issues with commitment without borders. We saw how LFBS has opened the universe of possibilities for Haitian children and families.” Sandy Cooper, Move to Matter

“For the past six years, the FH Collins High School Social Justice Club have looked forward to working with, and raising funds for, LFBS. The meaning for our kids is the local connection, with real results. Our students love that Morgan (co-founder and Head of Operations) herself was a FHC graduate and they are inspired to act with an open heart because of her.” - Meera Sarin, FH Collins
To our cherished donors, sponsors and supporters.

Thank you, to each and everyone of you.

For being such generous and consistent catalysts for real change.

For hosting and attending fundraising events.

For sharing information about our work.

For following us on Facebook and media.

For being part of our team, mobilizing children, youth and families toward a life of dignity and self-sufficiency.

For caring.

Leadership

Morgan Wienberg
Co-founder/Head of Haitian Operations

Board of Directors
Russ Aitchison
Pamela Hine
Britton Lense  Vice-Chair
Sarah Martin Co/founder/Treasurer
Sean Smith
Karen Wienberg  Chair

Core Haitian Staff

Isaac Adrien Administrative Assistant
Florence Bell  Protection Agent, South
Michaëlle Blais  Girls House Mother
Mauna Chamblain  RN, Medical Coordinator
Theodore Charnes  Protection Agent, West
Clausette Clerger  Boys House Mother
Ronald Jean Claude  Driver & Protection
Bedel Desruisseaux  Staff Manager, Engineer
Samuel Josaphat  Protection Central Plateau
Nicolas Joseph  Education Coordinator
Fedner Mathurin  Driver & Protection Agent
Wilner Noel  Protection Agent, South
Rodrique Valliere  Driver
Medjune Lundi  Laundress

Additional Haitian Staff:

Dr. Lydie Berenice Augustin
Dr. Wilnes Jean Chilles
Dr. Louis Ridore Richerarde
Pierre Angelo Joseph  Agronomist
Emmunuel Raymond  Hospital Protection Agent

Building Capacity & Teamwork through Staff Training
Moving Forward

Our focus over the coming year is on developing capacity of our team and organization; vocational training; empowering parents through income generation and increased involvement; agricultural restoration for sustainability and family planning education.

YOU make the difference. YOU can be a catalyst.

DONATE:
- $25/mt tutoring
- $25—$50 hospital visit
- $75 garden start-up kit
- $100 livestock
- $200-$300 business start-up
- $200-$400 school tuition
- $1000 begins a house

SHARE US:
- Spread awareness.
- Visit our website
- Like our Facebook Page
- Hold a fundraiser.
- Share this Report

You turned a lean-to ... into a HOME!
You ensured abandoned children had a Safehouse to turn to.
You reunited families!
A university graduate—because of you

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Facebook: Little Footprints, Big Steps
www.littlefootprintsbigsteps.com