

SUMMER 2020

# THE MORTEL HIGH HOPES FOR HAITI FOUNDATION

Annual Newsletter

## WHAT A YEAR!

### BRIGHT SPOTS DESPITE UNREST

This year was unlike any other we've seen before. The school year in Haiti started in September as scheduled, but then came to a halt with unrest and political protests throughout the country.

We were thrilled when school started again in early December but then Covid-19 hit Haiti in March and the government had to close schools to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Despite the challenges, there were bright spots throughout the year. Children were fed because of you. They were educated because of you. It may not have looked like the previous years, but a single day of school and a single meal makes immeasurable impact so for that, we say THANK YOU.

We also had occasions to gather together in the US before the country went on lockdown, so we're happy to report on some of those "domestic" bright spots in the subsequent pages as well.

As always, we are extremely grateful for your support and encouragement in difficult times. Thank you for changing the lives of countless children and families this year. We hope you'll join us for another year of positive impact!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**COVID RELIEF - 2**

**EVENT RECAPS - 2**

**LOOKING AHEAD- 3**

**FAMILY FOUNDATION  
NEWS - 3**

**2019-2020 IMPACT- 4**



— MORTEL —  
**HIGH HOPES FOR HAITI**  
— FOUNDATION —



# COVID RELIEF IN HAITI

## HOW YOU'RE FIGHTING THE SPREAD

The CDC has recommended masks, hand-washing, and social distancing as three of the main ways to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

Living conditions in Haiti don't easily lend themselves to social distancing, so we're trying to help in other ways.

Because of your generosity, we collected over 2,500 masks to distribute to our students and staff at our three schools and beyond.

We also built two hand-washing stations that provide clean water and soap to benefit the Saint Marc community who largely do not have access to running water. Every little bit helps and we're grateful for your assistance in making these happen!



## FUN & FRUITFUL EVENTS

### CRABS, PASTRIES, WINE, & CARNIVAL

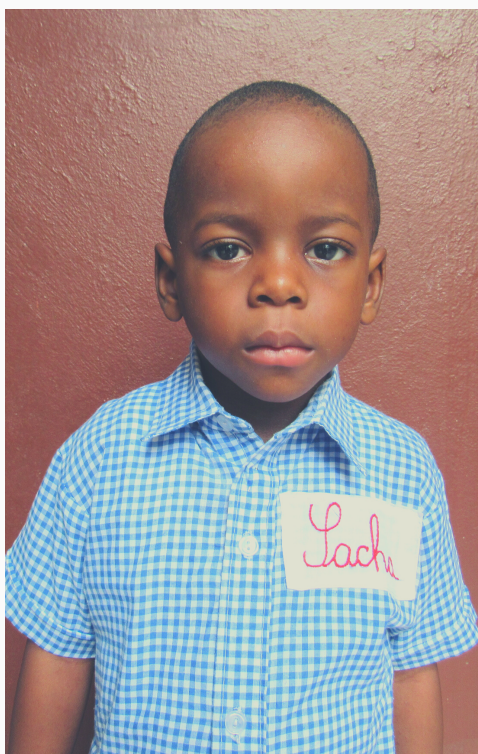
We loved gathering with all of you at our various events over the past school year! In September, we had our Crab Feast in Baltimore. October brought our Wine & Pastry pairing in Hershey with delightful pastries provided by Bistro Barberet (Lancaster, PA) and wine education from Certified Sommelier, Carrie Elliott Reese.

Carrie joined us again for our Valentine's Day pairing and then we capped off events for the year with our annual Carnival in February, with a powerful testimony from one of our very first students and very first graduates, Johnson Cirius.

Each event was a great time, but also a great success in supporting our efforts to cultivate Haiti. Across the four events, we were able to raise over \$55,000 and get 91 students sponsored for the year! Thank you for joining us and we hope to see you in the year ahead- whether virtually or in person!







## LOOKING AHEAD

### NEEDS IN THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Haitian government just announced plans to complete the 2019-2020 school year by opening schools in August and administering National exams in October. The new 2020-2021 school year will start in November, at which point successful students will progress to the next grade level.

Our staff is working hard this month to prepare for a safe and successful reopening. The need for quality education and daily meals with new virus-mitigating protocols will be even more important as the students return after going months without the help our schools provide.

Our team in Haiti is also planning to recruit a new class of preschoolers to start in November so that we can continue to directly serve more children and their families.

**Knowing these are difficult times worldwide, we appreciate any support you're able to give. We are still seeking new sponsors as the number of students in need continues to grow! Thank you for your generosity.**

## NEW PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS IN HAITI

### UPDATES FROM THE MORTEL FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

When the Mortel HHH Foundation was established in 2016 to take over the operations of the schools and childhood education programs, it gave the Mortel Family Charitable Foundation (MFCF) the opportunity to focus on new initiatives to serve adults in our Saint Marc community. These two organizations work towards the same mission of empowering through education- at every age!

In addition to the existing Literacy school, the MFCF has recently launched an Artisanship program as well as Agriculture programs to farm plants, fish, and chickens. These initiatives will serve to educate and empower adults in our community, and will also benefit the feeding programs at the HHH schools. This August, we will launch our newly revamped MFCF website where you can find more information! **[www.mortelfoundation.org](http://www.mortelfoundation.org)**

**"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second-best time is now."**

*- African proverb*



# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Here's a look back on the impact you had during the July 2019-June 2020 year. Thank you for believing in this mission and for your generosity that continues to Cultiv8 Haiti, one child at a time.

## STUDENTS 2019-2020

180 Preschoolers

522 Elementary

151 High School

80% Students Sponsored (683)

20% Students without Sponsors (170)

## IMPACT, DESPITE SCHOOL CLOSURES

70 Days of School

73,080 Meals Served

1,302 Families Reached

**Thank you for your  
generosity and  
continued support!**

***Please support us in this upcoming school year. Every dollar makes a significant difference for the children of Haiti!***

M O R T E L  
HIGH HOPES FOR HAITI  
F O U N D A T I O N

**Cultiv8Haiti**

Quality education for the poorest of the poor.