



COFHED
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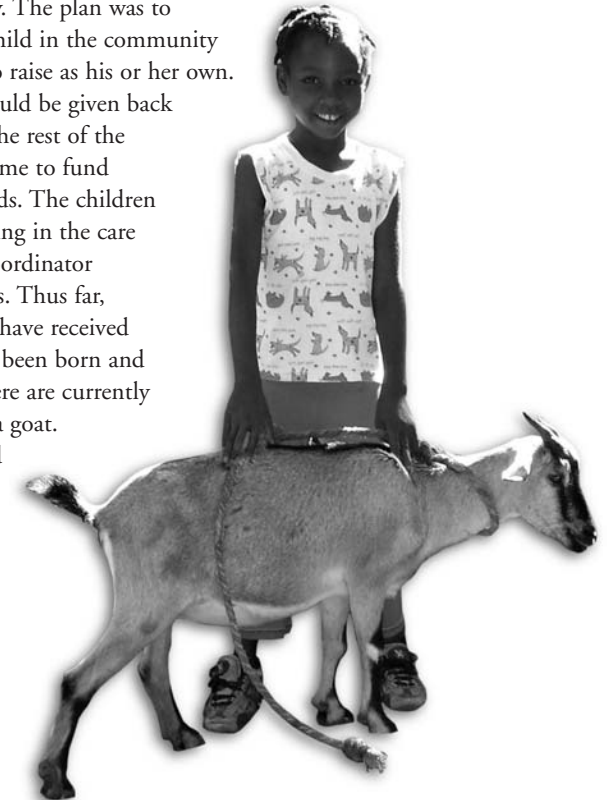
We envision a Haiti:

Where children can expect to live into adulthood to serve God and their neighbors.
Where families have the tools they need to build and sustain a better life, leading to self-sufficiency.

GOAT PROGRAM UPDATE

About two years ago, members of the Lougou Development Committee brainstormed to come up with a sustainable way to support the education of its community's children. Through this process, the Goat Program was created, and thanks to significant funding support from a family in Minnesota, it is now a reality. The plan was to provide a female goat to each child in the community (with certain age restrictions) to raise as his or her own. At least one of the offspring would be given back to maintain the program, and the rest of the offspring could be sold for income to fund education and other family needs. The children and their parents received training in the care of goats by COFHED's field coordinator and agronomist, Menes Ménéus. Thus far, a total of 322 Lougou children have received goats, and 163 baby goats have been born and added back to the program. There are currently 28 children still waiting to get a goat. The community has committed to begin using the goats to subsidize their children's education beginning in 2011.

Children throughout Lougou will receive a goat to care for as part of the Goat Program, which will eventually finance their education



HAITI FACT CORNER:

23 years after former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier was forced out of power in Haiti, he remains in exile in Paris. In the next few weeks, a court in Switzerland will decide whether he can finally get his hands on close to 7 million USD that has been frozen in a Swiss bank account since 1986. Haiti's government has requested a "mutual legal assistance proceeding," asking the Swiss to confiscate the assets. The process should reach its final stage before Christmas in the Swiss Supreme Court, where they will rule whether the funds can be released back into the hands of the Haitian people.

1. "Dictators have their plunder confiscated years after they were deposed" by Heather Stewart, The Observer, Nov 22, 2009

Thank you for your ongoing support. COFHED needs your partnership in order to continue this transforming work in Lougou, Haiti.

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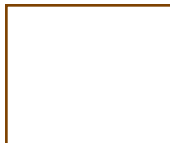
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QUILTING WITH KIM

This past summer, about 18 women in Lougou found a new love for quilting, thanks to COFHED's president, Kim Hanson, who traveled to Lougou and offered quilting lessons. Donations of fabric, thread, tools, and other material came from Kim's quilting friends representing Germany, Denmark, Norway, England, Austria, Australia, as well as from Michigan, New York and Minnesota. The experience stood out to Kim in many ways: "Quilting and forming bonds of friendship with 18 ladies; amazed at how quickly they learned the techniques; impressed with their diligence and determination (leaving Lougou at 6:30 am and hiking for 2 hours to arrive at the mission house in time for their 8:30 am lesson); delighted as they discovered their "Lougou signature" style (Haitian



fruits on a black background); seeing community in action!"

The Lougou participants are hoping to continue to make their own signature quilts to increase their livelihoods. Check back often at www.cofhed.org for future opportunities to purchase some of the Lougou handicrafts.

Lougou women were pleased to learn a new skill and had a lot of fun in the process



WOMEN'S GROUP ORGANIZES

One of the core elements of community development is organizing. COFHED helped to introduce the concept of organizing and its potential power for change in Lougou during its very early training events in 2003. Community members responded by forming several key groups, including the women's group in Lougou. And now, the women have taken things a step further, by applying for legal status under the name OFADEL (Women's Organization for the Development of Lougou). This influential group in Lougou has accumulated some savings while they continue to receive further training in the concept of microcredit opportunities. With a pool of 23,800 Gourdes (about \$600.00 USD) from themselves and individual donors from MN, they are poised to utilize two-thirds of the money in a pilot microcredit project this winter.



Members of the Women's Committee of Lougou, in a meeting to learn more about microcredit

A NEW WAY TO GIVE

Check out www.givemn.org for a new way to give to COFHED. Just enter "cofhed" in the search window, and you'll access COFHED's entry, where you can give by credit card. It's easy to give online!

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LOUGOU STUDENTS

As an organization, COFHED encourages high school graduates in Lougou to seek higher learning so that Lougou and its surrounding villages can have enough human resources to lead their communities. We have already seen incredible payoff with elementary school teachers, administrators, and a nurse being trained and returning to serve their village. A total of 11 students are currently attending college this fall in various programs, such as medicine, agronomy, engineering, economy, and elementary education. There are six students from Lougou attending vocational school in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes in masonry and woodworking, arts ménagers (dressmaking and culinary arts), and in appliqués.

Some of the biggest challenges the students face during their training are housing and food. Since most students travel to larger cities for their schooling, they do not have the benefit of living and eating with family, and unfortunately their families cannot afford to support them. If you would consider sponsoring room and board for one of these students, please contact Nick at nick@cofhed.org, donate online at www.cofhed.org, or send a check to the address above.

LOOKING TO GO GREEN?

We invite you to check out this link to start receiving COFHED's newsletter online:

<http://cofhed.org/contact.aspx>