



Volume 9 Issue 2
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COFHED
P.O. BOX 4094
St Paul, MN 55104
www.cofhed.org

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.

FUNDRAISER DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who attended and/or contributed in some way to the COFHED Fundraiser Dinner that took place on September 17, 2011. The evening was fantastic, with about 150 people in attendance. There was a great variety of auction items to peruse, a wonderful dinner provided by Oak Ridge Conference Center, and an inspirational presentation by Nick and Madeleine Avignon, highlighting their experiences working with the village of Lougou over the past several years. Before the evening wrapped up, the very real need to raise funds to purchase the mission center property was brought before those in attendance. In an amazing show of support and generosity, nearly \$20,000 was raised directly for this need, bringing the total raised for the evening to over \$30,000. But there is still more to raise and time is critical! We are in need of at least another \$10,000 to be able to make a viable

offer on this property, which is being looked at by other prospective buyers. If you were unable to attend but still wish to contribute towards this very important need, please visit www.cofhed.org and donate online or send us a check made out to COFHED at PO Box 4094, St Paul, MN 55104. Thank you!



Kim Hanson and Pat Skundberg,
COFHED board members
at the fundraiser dinner



Haiti Fact Corner:

Exciting development initiatives were announced in Haiti on November 29, 2011, including Marriott's plan for a full-fledged hotel in Port-au-Prince by 2014. There are also plans for a new industrial park which will house a large Korean clothing manufacturer, set to employ 20,000 people.

Jacqueline Charles, Miami Herald, 11/29/2011

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT. COFHED NEEDS YOUR PARTNER-SHIP IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THIS TRANSFORMING WORK IN LOUGOU, HAITI.

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Nicaise and Madeleine Avignon

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Ginette and Menes Ménéus

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please e-mail us at: info@cofhed.org



CLEAN WATER FOR LOUGOU

It was not long ago (back in March 2011) when every child and many others in Lougou received a bottle for clean water from Woodland Hills Church medical team members. But when they received their water bottles, there was no safe



A Lougou resident, displaying her Sawyer filter unit

drinking water in Lougou to put into them. Now, thanks to the combined efforts of COFHED, Woodland Hills Church, the Harbortown Rotary Club, and the Northshore Rotary Club, nearly all families in Lougou have received a Sawyer water filtering unit. With this filtration system, unsafe water from the Lougou River and a couple of contaminated spring sources is made safe to drink. The Sawyer filter system removes 99.99% of the waterborne bacteria and viruses that cause diseases such as cholera, typhoid, dysentery, E. coli, salmonella, diarrhea, hepatitis A, hepatitis E, and worms. COFHED staff in Haiti and the Lougou community were honored to work with Steve Sherner from Wisconsin and Ron Moore (a COFHED board member) from Minnesota to help make this dream of the villagers become a reality. The Lougou Village formed a Water Committee, which helped to ensure household participation and training in the proper use of each unit.

COFHED IS WORKING WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES

Raymond and Nazaire are twin communities located on mountain ridges not too far from Lougou. COFHED was approached by these communities to partner with them and begin the process of development that they have seen transform Lougou. In these villages, many children are not attending school, and the community lacks access to potable water. COFHED has begun engaging with these two communities together, and both villages have shown incredible enthusiasm. We will not know the community's priorities until they identify them on their own, which is an integral aspect of the sustainable and community led development process that COFHED employs. Right now we are in the "get to know" phase and training phase, but they are very anxious to start PRA training (Participatory Rural Assessment). Some young people from Lougou have offered to help us with our engagement with the Nazaire/Raymond villages, and this is very encouraging to us.



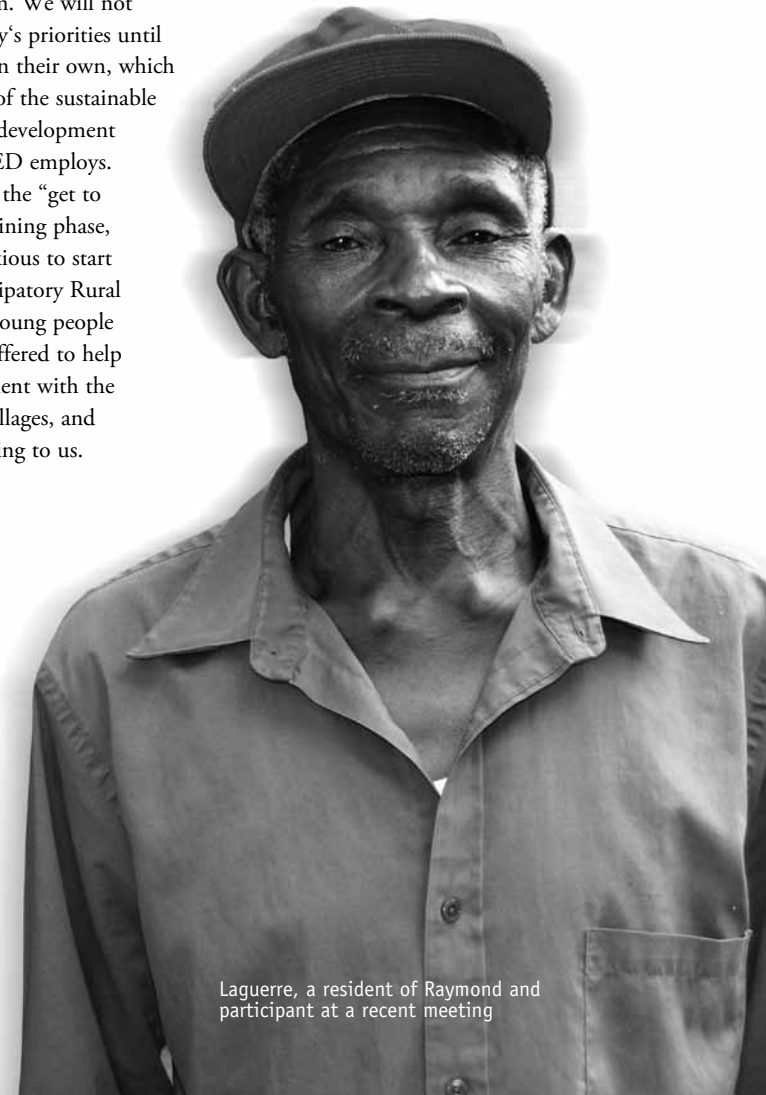
Community meeting in Nazaire

(Photo) Patricia Castro, Bettye Grigsby, Josephine Syo and Yvonne Robinson, enjoying the COFHED auction and fundraiser dinner



OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE!

Opportunity Available!! We are actively seeking a new treasurer to fill the seat currently occupied by Jennifer Aue. Jennifer has served COFHED for almost 3 years, and her term will be up this summer. She would like to begin training in the new volunteer treasurer several months prior to leaving the board. If you have experience in accounting and feel called to support COFHED in this way, we would love to talk with you! Please contact Wendy Simon at 651-227-2053, or email at cofhed_questions@cofhed.org.



Laguerre, a resident of Raymond and participant at a recent meeting