

Every child belongs
in a loving and
nurturing family
environment.

Note from Head of Haiti Operations

2019 was a very challenging year for Haiti. Shocking inflation doubled or tripled the cost of food staples, transportation, and other basic needs – leading to a cost of living that the majority of Haiti’s population could not afford. Families who previously ate twice per day are now able to eat once per day. Gas shortages and prolonged periods with no electricity added to people’s frustration. For months, Haiti was plagued by chaotic protests, road blocks, and increased insecurity.

Despite traumatic and dangerous conditions, Little Footprints, Big Steps staff were able to provide support to local authorities and respond to emergency situations during this crisis. We continued to manage our Transitional Safehouses and were able to continue with the construction and gardens on Little Footprints, Big Steps property. At times when most of the country was on lockdown and found it unsafe to leave their homes, Little Footprints, Big Steps staff were crossing burning barricades to accompany children to the hospital, carrying abandoned children to safety, and tending to children with bullet wounds while working with their families to develop long term change.

In December 2019 the protests finally calmed. Hospitals and schools that had been shut down were able to open. Reflecting on the humanitarian crisis we endured, there are many lessons we have learned. We have further developed our disaster preparedness and safety protocols. We have proven our efficiency and strengthened our partnerships with local authorities as we were one of the very few NGOs continuing to function during the times of greatest need.

Moving forward, your support is needed more than ever. We hope to launch another campaign for community trainings about violence prevention, and work with youth in conflict with the law to enroll them in vocational training and redirect their futures. We see more and more children in need of educational support, medical support, and income generating activities for parents. With your help we can make a difference for families who have been left even more vulnerable!

Morgan Wienberg M.S.C.

Co-founder/Head of Haiti Operations

2019 Activity Highlights

Despite a time of tremendous disruption, turmoil and humanitarian crisis, Little Footprints, Big Steps' staff and partners showed determination and courage and are proud to present a snapshot of our work.

1. CHILD DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The core mission of Little Footprints, Big Steps since its founding in 2011 has remained child deinstitutionalization, in conjunction with family reunification, preservation and strengthening. Children belong in safe and loving family environments.

The orphanage system in Haiti is plagued with corruption, abuse and neglect, and more than 80% of children within the system have at least one living parent who wants to care for them. The causes of this orphanage crisis are layered and complex but the focus of our work now must be to dismantle this dysfunctional system in a thoughtful and pragmatic way.

Toward this end we have continued to deepen our collaboration with IBESR (Haiti Social Services), documenting and closing down orphanages as well as developing and producing a report on orphanage closure and family followup, providing a model for others to follow.

Our Child Protection staff, our Transitional Safehouses and the support staff that work there 24 hours a day, ensure that immediate care is available.

Many NGOs are now wanting to reunite children with families and are moving away from and closing down orphanages. This is strengthened by the Haiti government's decision to NOT authorize the opening of any new orphanages.

Where reunification with family is not possible, we assist with the formation of a foster family!

2. BUSINESS STARTUP PROGRAM

Over the past year we expanded our Business Start Up Program to now include more than 180 people/families in 6 communities, including rural regions in Grande Anse (Chambellan), as well as Les Cayes, Camp Perrin, Port au Prince, Leogane, Cabaret. Our collaboration with HAVEN Partnership Organization results in six weeks of training and the formation of peer groups, strengthening confidence and building local capacity.

Many parents have managed their businesses so well during the first cycle that they are now growing their businesses! Children even thank Little Footprints, Big Steps for supporting their parents in the Business Program, demonstrating what a strong, powerful impact they are witnessing through the empowerment of their parents. Some of our Youth Leaders have progressed to the point that they are able to undertake small businesses in addition to their continued schooling.

Our Outreach team and partners, working with local individuals involved primarily women head of household, note the opportunities and challenges in each communities' reality. We will continue to learn from those parents and youth already in this





Program, and seek options to help them continue to build management skills and to grow the sustainability of their businesses.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION

The opportunity for education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. But in Haiti, many children and families face prohibitive barriers to access to schooling. Going to school requires having a birth certificate, being able to pay for registration fees, uniforms, shoes, school supplies and being able to get to the school.

Little Footprints, Big Steps' multi-pronged support for over 400 children removes these barriers and ensures their access to the education they deserve. We provide additional support such as tutoring for those who need extra help and maintain a dynamic approach to ensure we can address new or evolving barriers as they present themselves.

We also have students in University, studying agronomy, medicine and nursing. Many of them are even able to get practical experience within Little Footprints, Big Steps programs and services!

4. ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE

Poor nutrition, lack of access to clean drinking water, deficient sanitation systems, lack of health services, no access to immunizations, lack of money to pay for consultations or medicine. Only 10% of people living in rural areas have access to care facilities.

Along with providing lifesaving surgeries, nutritional supplements, prescription medicines, helicopter evacuation, follow-up care and consultations, our team ensures necessary specialized procedures by bringing children and families to Port au Prince where that care is available.

Serving families in 24 rural communities includes having our team do medical evaluations in remote areas where many children would never have the opportunity for medical care of any kind. If further medical attention is required, we facilitate access to assist the children accessing care in Les Cayes or Port au Prince. We also provide special health care workshops, including on family planning and STIs.

5. LITTLE FOOTPRINTS, BIG STEPS LAND/BUILDING PROGRESS

Throughout this year, the construction on Phase 1 provided jobs for many locals as well as an opportunity for University Engineering students to observe a large project underway. The well, bridge, retaining wall and security wall were completed and the septic field is underway.

On the property of Phase 2, we were able to continue to grow multiple crops and provide our University Agronomy students with the opportunity to apply what they are learning through planning the planting choices.

The costs for this multiyear, multiphased project are totally separate from the funds and expenditures of Little Footprints, Big Steps core Programs and Services.

Our Vision

Little Footprints, Big Steps 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 to empower families to stay together. Haitians will be empowered and educated through available programs toward sustainable self-sufficiency.

Our Programs and Services Focus on:

1. CHILD WELLBEING AND DEVELOPMENT

We focus on physical and emotional wellbeing 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. This is key in facilitating the closure of corrupt orphanages.

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 startup, 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, changing Haiti's child protection landscape and advocating globally.

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 includes regular visitations and monitoring of progress of the children and youth and their families into which we have reunited them; some may be living with caring foster families.

HOW WE DO IT

Having competent, dedicated Haitian staff. Working with Haitian authorities and local organizations. Providing

Transitional Safehouse stays with nutritionally dense meals, medicines, tutoring, life skills training, safe shelter when needed.

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.

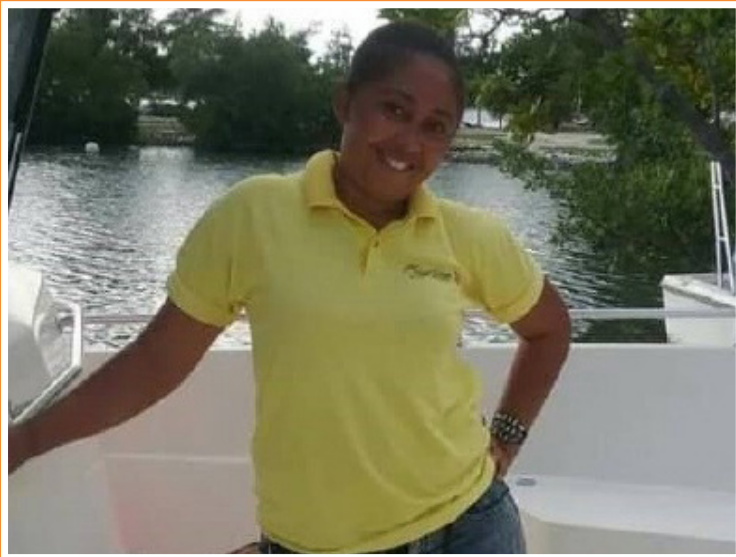
Advocating and providing assistance with serious medical conditions, traumatic events and coping, social and human rights issues.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We have lengthy, strong and respected relationships 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 Mauna, Little Footprints, Big Steps Nurse Extraordinaire!



Tireless, fearless and completely dedicated to her work, the children and families, and her colleagues at Little Footprints, Big Steps, she brings light and love with her every day!

A graduate in Nursing Science, Mauna has been a nurse since 2009 and the Medical Coordinator for Little Footprints, Big Steps since July 2016. In close collaboration with Little Footprints, Big Steps management, she coordinates all activities related to the protection of the health of our beneficiaries. She is also responsible for the supply and administration of the Organization's pharmacy. The management of health emergencies as well as the monitoring of the evolution of diseases among beneficiaries with a chronic pathology are her responsibility. At Little Footprints, Big Steps, all that is health is Mauna. She loves her work, loves her profession and loves children—so she brings her caring and joy with her every day, to all situations with which she may have to be involved.



“In order to improve the living conditions of vulnerable children, it is not enough just to provide them with food, but health supervision is also necessary. The future of vulnerable children is at risk; a health support plan is needed to facilitate access to care. The future of these young people must be a priority for the state authorities. We must be aware that tomorrow belongs to children, it is up to us to protect them.”

— Jude Beauvoir

Financials

Ensuring that expenditures are focused on children, families and key organization objectives is integral to the work and values of Little Footprints, Big Steps.

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) 981224282.

Every dollar is accounted for and works hard toward making the difference now and into the future. Detailed report available upon request.

*Land/Bldg Development Project donations and expenses are separated from regular program operations. Donations to programs and services are not used for the land development.

FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES:

November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019

EDUCATION:

\$66,705

Includes tuition, uniforms, supplies, transportation, tutoring, vocational skills and staff training.

OPERATION OF SAFEHOUSES:

\$61,165

Includes food/water, rent, staff, maintenance, medical, dental, furnishings, clothing, recreational activities.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY:

\$248,697

Includes transportation, housing, staff, medical/dental, community education/training, communication, clothing, agriculture, microbusiness startup.

ADMINISTRATION:

\$64,045

Includes Haiti office expenses and supplies, banking/exchange fees, accounting, shipping, accounting/legal.

*LITTLE FOOTPRINTS, BIG STEPS LAND/BLDG DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

\$150,726

Ensuring an efficient, sustainable future, we are building a permanent home for our offices, medical consultation clinic, Transitional Safehouses, Skill Training Complex, food crops, etc.



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 selfsufficiency.

For caring.

Leadership

Morgan Wienberg

Co-founder/Head of Haitian Operations

Board of Directors

Russ Aitchison

Kristen Bethel Lepine

Pamela Hine

Sarah Martin *Co-founder/Treasurer*

Solange Miese

Emma Siemiatycki

Karen Wienberg *Chair*

Haitian Staff

Jude

Florencia

Mikerlange

Mauna

Nadine

Ronald

Nicolas

Medjune

Fedner

Emmanuel

Islande

Eluxon

Wilner

Wattson

Youth Mentor/Public Health

Protection Agent, South

Girls House Mother

RN/Medical Coordinator

Secretary

Assistant to Director

Staff Manager

Laundress

Driver/Protection Agent

Hospital Protection Agent

Boys House Mother

Outreach Assistant

Protection Agent

Administrative Assistant

External Consultants

Enel

Wisly

Child Protection Consultant

Land Development and Building

Project Manager / Engineer

Dedicated, Capable and Deeply Caring:

Little Footprints, Big Steps Staff Team





Rights Awareness and Abuse Prevention Training in rural communities throughout Haiti's southwest. Little Footprints, Big Steps partners with local Social Services and Authorities. A safe and sustainable future is what you support!

YOU make the difference.
YOU can be a catalyst.

Donate:

- \$30/mt** tutoring
- \$50** hospital visit
- \$75** garden start-up kit
- \$100** livestock
- \$200-\$300** business startup
- \$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

Moving Forward

We will continue to develop the capacity of our organization; provide medical care for vulnerable children; support local authorities in violence prevention, work with youth in conflict with the law, and toward national deinstitutionalization; empowering parents and youth through income generation and educational opportunities; to develop Little Footprints, Big Steps land for efficient and sustainable operations into the future.



LITTLE FOOTPRINTS
BIG STEPS

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