

# Children belong in safe, loving and self-sustaining families — not orphanages.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Myth:** There's an orphan crisis in Haiti

**Fact:** 80% of Haitian children living in orphanages have at least one living parent. They are poverty orphans, separated because their families can't afford to care for them.

**Myth:** Orphanages provide safe, healthy care for children.

**Fact:** Neglect, abuse, slavery and human trafficking by corrupt orphanages is common.

**Myth:** It's a hopeless situation in Haiti

**Fact:** Positive change is possible and happening. In Haiti, and around the world, there's a growing movement to support child protection reform and the process of transitioning toward family and community-based care. In 2019, the United Nations formally recognized that orphanages don't protect children and called for the progressive elimination of institutional care globally.

## WHAT WE DO

Little Footprints Big Steps (LFBS) works to protect vulnerable children and reunite families in Haiti through addressing the root causes of separation and poverty, by empowering families and communities with the resources and opportunities to build a self-sufficient future. We support local authorities in building a stronger child protection network and work with local staff and partners.

## OUR STORY

LFBS was founded in 2011 by Canadians Morgan Wienberg and Sarah Martin who, while traveling to Haiti to volunteer after the devastating 2010 earthquake, witnessed the abuses and deception being perpetrated against children and families by the exploitative orphanage industry. What started as a temporary emergency safe house for children in Les Cayes, Haiti, has grown to encompass holistic support to families in 45 communities across 9 departments. Our programming focuses on child well-being, family and community development, advocacy of child rights, and community health.





## OUR UNIQUE APPROACH



**Protect**



**Empower**



**Advocate**



**Prevent**

Our work spans from comprehensive care provided in our transitional safe houses to inclusive community interventions ranging from education and vocational training to business start-up activities to mental health, nutritional and medical care. A respected leader in the children's rights field, LFBS is widely acknowledged for our holistic approach to child protection and sustainable family development. In collaboration with Haitian Social Services, UNICEF, and other stakeholders, LFBS works to fulfill the right of every child in Haiti to grow up in a safe and loving family environment.



Eluxon spent 12 years in an abusive & neglectful orphanage. He transformed during his time with LFBS, and is now employed as our Child & Youth Mentor where he helps to rehabilitate other children with similar experiences.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By giving to community-based programs and services that support families instead of orphanages, you address the root causes of separation and poverty. Your support strengthens communities for long-term progress.

**Donate:** [www.littlefootprintsbigsteps.com](http://www.littlefootprintsbigsteps.com)

**Write:** [info@littlefootprintsbigsteps.com](mailto:info@littlefootprintsbigsteps.com)

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LFBS is a registered charity under the Canadian Revenue Agency  
84792 2101 RR0001.



Gabriella was abandoned at the local hospital. LFBS helped place her with a loving foster family.