

2014–2015 Annual Report



We rescue and empower vulnerable children and youth through a transformative process including family reunification, education, skills training toward a future of dignity and self-sufficiency.

Note from Co-founder/Head of Haiti Operations

Little Footprints, Big Steps has experienced an exciting movement towards sustainability over the last year: our local employees have embraced their roles as child protection warriors and strengthened as a dedicated team; our partnership with local authorities has solidified and led to preventative community trainings; families we work with have gained sustainability and even permanent homes; youth we've worked with are engaging more in their community and even completing vocational apprenticeships! The future is bright! We look forward to seeing these children and youth not only gain a greater sense of social responsibility, but feel empowered to help others as their lives become more sustainable. Our investment in local staff and in developing a more permanent place for LFBS in Haitian society will continue to grow in the upcoming year. Finally, we will engage even

more in preventative efforts such as community trainings and developmental outreach to reunited families. The communities we work with in Haiti – 21 across the country – have demonstrated incredible appreciation for the work we do. I wish I could share with each of our supporters those words of appreciation, the genuine gratitude of each family we visit, and the stunning growth of children we've reunited... I feel privileged to see this growth first hand. "Thank you" doesn't quite express my deep appreciation for every single person who has supported LFBS in one way or another – or the impact each of you has had. Thank you for making this incredible progress possible.

Morgan Wienberg M.S.C.
Co-founder/Head of Haiti Operations



Highlights of this year

1. Integration into the Working Group for Child Protection in Southern Haiti

LFBS was invited by local Social Services to join a network of Child Protection actors called the *Groupe du Travail pour La Protection des Enfants (G.T.P.E.)*. This is an exciting accomplishment and indicator of our collaborative relationship with local authorities. Through the G.T.P.E., our employees, and even some youth, work with local authorities in executing community trainings focussed on prevention of violence and sexual abuse. Our partner *One Hundred for Haiti* provided funding for this training initiative. We have focussed on training school classes as well as community leaders, and forming follow up committees within each region so that communities maintain communication with G.T.P.E.

2. Agricultural Training

A partnership with *Our Garden Haiti* provided children in our Outreach programs with intensive summer training in agriculture techniques as well as personal finance! Following that training, we hired a local agronomist to continue coaching the children in agricultural techniques. The agronomist actually visited children's homes and we began to start food gardens with each child's family as well as in the Safehouse. The children were so engaged, they hope to participate in the training again next year!

3. Sports Mentorship Training

Thanks to a grant secured by *Hilfswerk Austria*, we were able to set up a sports program for children with unstable home situations. Some of the children in the program had not

yet left the streets. This program used sports as a vehicle to introduce structure, teamwork and self-discipline to the children. It created a safe space for them to share and engage without worrying about the stress of home/street life, and also provided the children with healthy meals. Finally, the children began to learn artisanal skills which helped build their confidence! We also provided each child with private consultations with a doctor, and dental care.

4. LFBS Agents of Change

We don't just want the children we work with to grow physically. We don't just want them to graduate from school. We want them to grow as considerate, caring leaders who have the vision and motivation to help others. To plant the seeds of this growth in our youth, we've started a volunteer program: "LFBS Agents of Change." Among other initiatives, LFBS youth work with handicapped children in La Charite orphanage! These young men – formerly in desperate situations, are now playing with handicapped children, feeding them, and gently washing their faces after meals.

5. Annual Street Child Meeting

In collaboration with local authorities, LFBS hosted our first annual Street Child Meeting in December 2014. We invited all street children in Les Cayes to a meeting. We gave the children the opportunity to speak, educated them about children's rights, encouraged them to return to their homes, and also documented profiles on each child to enable follow-up. Fifty street children attended. Following that meeting, we have been able to reunite approximately 30 of those children with their families and send them to school!

Our Vision

LFBS strives to help create a world in which:

- a child who is a victim of neglect, exploitation, abuse, torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment 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
- education and opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-determination are the rights of all

Our Focus

1. Child Well-being and Development

Our child well-being and development program focuses on literacy, numeracy and vocational learning. LFBS runs a Transitional Safehouse for those children who temporarily cannot live at home, or do not have a home. We offer protection and healing of children victimized by abuse, neglect, exploitation and homelessness.

2. Family and Community Development

Our outreach program helps families receive the training and resources they need to begin a sustainable source of income through micro-business start-up, farming or a trade. Earning money means that families can stay together or reunite. Education and opportunity for self-sufficiency and sound housing helps break the cycle of poverty, poor health and abandonment in Haiti by helping build strong families and communities and keeping families together.

3. Advocacy of Child Rights

LFBS works in collaboration with local authorities and media to take a stand for the rights of children and parents. We raise awareness against child abandonment in vulnerable communities and help victims of abuse to find their voice to speak out.

“I think my heart might explode!”

– Morgan Wienberg

Two years ago, while in Miami, for critical surgery provided by Miami Baptist Hospital and the Child Foundation, Ysaac was TERRIFIED of needles. Nurses couldn't give him a needle if I wasn't there to reassure him. Just recently, a little girl in Ysaac's school was hospitalized. She needed blood. The class went to visit her... and YSAAC OFFERED TO DONATE HIS BLOOD if it was a match! Growth.



130 children united with their families

– 71 from situations of exploitation and abuse, 59 from the streets

14 Haitian staff employed by Little Footprints, Big Steps

10 tutors hired part-time in various communities across Haiti

Over 250 children supported for basic education

(since January, 2012)

Our charitable status

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) 98-1224282.

What we do

Restore vulnerable Haitian children and youth to health, family and community.

LFBS works toward building families and local community with a future of dignity and self-sufficiency.

Why we do it

Of the millions affected by the 2010 earthquake, the most vulnerable were children and youth.

Even before the devastating earthquake, Haiti was the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Breaking the cycle of poverty CAN happen. LFBS programs and services work toward that reality.

Because reuniting children with families rebuilds the family units that rebuild society.

This works by understanding individuals in the context of family units, community units and regular visits and opportunities for learning and empowerment. Our Outreach program includes regular visitations and monitoring of progress of the children and youth and their families into which we have reunited them.

How we do it

We bring them to our Transitional Safehouse as needed where they are loved and cared for before being reunited with families.

We provide a family setting for these children, with security and 24-hour supervision. We provide nutritionally dense meals daily and provide supplements and medicines if needed. Shelter, tutoring, life skills training, recreation, and therapeutic services are also provided to children in our Transitional Safehouse.

In addition to necessities, we provide education, advocacy and family reunification.

If a child has more serious medical conditions, we will arrange for these to be addressed and treated. Our goal is to help these children, not only physically, but also in developing psycho-social and coping skills that their traumatic pasts may have deprived them of. Additionally, our programs and services include supporting, vocational training, micro-business, agriculture, health and well-being.

What makes us different

For us, it's personal: our programs emphasize direct relationships with Haitian people.

We are collaborative and inclusive on all aspects of our work — with children and youth, families, staff, Haitian Government, other like-minded NGOs. As Haiti's flag states: L'Union Fait la Force (Unity Makes Strength). Our local staff are Haitian, led by the co-founder/Head of Haitian Operations, who lives and works alongside of them.

We act to empower rather than replace families and local social structures.

This solution builds sustainability, self-worth, dignity and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and corruption. Our focus is being a catalyst for sustained change in the lives of the people we work with.

Providing permanent homes: steps to long-term sustainability and security!

Through our partnership with One Small House, we've been able to purchase land and build homes as well as latrines for a total of six families! This not only provides the families with secure housing that will be theirs forever, but also empowers them to become more sustainable through gardening and having the opportunity to invest in their own property. We couldn't be more grateful for our partner One Small House (OSH). Youth who were formerly in the streets have even had the opportunity to learn skills and practise English while working alongside OSH volunteers!



“Nurses told me I didn’t need to hope. They said my son wouldn’t live.”

– Yolene (Woodlin’s mother)

In December 2014, Woodlin was laying on a hospital bed in Les Cayes, Haiti, with internal fluids seeping from his bellybutton. A stomach tumor was draining the child’s strength as well as his family’s scanty savings – yet NO DOCTORS came to the hospital over Christmas. When LFBS staff found Woodlin, his mother was crying at his side. She’d lost hope. We urgently contacted Haiti Air Ambulance and sent Woodlin

to Port au Prince on a helicopter. LFBS sponsored immediate surgery and Woodlin successfully had his tumor removed. Woodlin, 13, is now in the Transitional Safehouse continuing to regain his health and attending an English Immersion school. In December 2015, he was the one doing outreach visits to children in the pediatric ward where he’d been hospitalized and near death just a year earlier!

Financials

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

Every dollar is accounted for and works hard toward making the difference now and into the future. This year included the additional challenge of the US/Canada exchange rate.

Expenditures from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015 totaled \$222,202 CAD

Education: \$41,746 (19%)
(includes tuition, uniforms, supplies, transportation and vocational)

Operation of Safehouses: \$68,613 (31%)
(includes staff, food/water, rent, maintenance, medical, furnishings, recreational activities)

Outreach & Community: \$67,340 (30%)
(includes transportation, self-sufficiency projects, housing, staff, medical, community education)

Advocacy: \$20,342 (9%)
(includes special interventions, government processing, travel)

Administration: \$18,883 (8.4%)
(includes Haiti Office supplies and rental, travel, freight, legal/bank/accounting fees, communication)

Special One-Time Communication Project: \$5,278

We are grateful for our strong partnerships and collaborations

Maintaining and strengthening partnerships and collaborations on the ground in Haiti allows us to ensure the efficient and effective use of our funds and make strides toward sustainability. Some of those include...



Our Garden Haiti training program



Hope for Haiti assists with rice and bean supplies



Working alongside One Small House volunteers as they build homes for some of our families

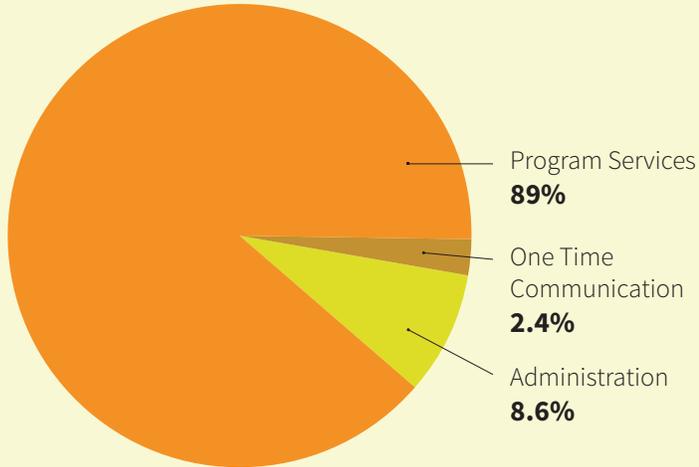


Wilner Noel: LFBS key staff member since 2011

Wilner was the first Outreach worker LFBS hired. In the four years since then, he has grown from a shy young man to a confident advocate of child protection. Wilner is the type of man who cries when a child dies – no matter how many times he’s seen it happen.

Family is Wilner’s greatest value. He adores his wife and children. This unwavering value of family is what

89% of our donations are used directly for programs and services



To our cherished donors, sponsors and supporters.

Thank you, to each and every one of you.

For being such generous and consistent catalysts for real change.

For attending fundraising events.

For sharing information about us.

For following us on Facebook and in the media.

For being part of the team, mobilizing children, youth and families toward a life of dignity and self-sufficiency.

For caring.

Leadership

Morgan Wienberg
Co-Founder/Haiti Organizational Liaison

Board of Directors

Sarah Wilson *Co-Founder/Treasurer*

Karen Wienberg *Chair*

Pamela Hine

Kim Tanner

Sharon Nehring-Willson

Catherine Poole

Britton Lense

Haitian Staff

Wilner Noel *Outreach Worker, South*

Samuel Josaphat *Outreach Worker, Central Plateau*

Theodore Charnes *Outreach Worker, West*

Florencia Bell *Child Agent, South*

Nicolas Joseph *Assistant Staff Manager*

Bedel Desruisseaux *Administrative Assistant*

Remy Elaste *Yard Manager*

Clausette Clerger *Safehouse Cook*

Medjune Lundi *Laundry Lady*

Michaelange Blais *Girl's House Mother*

Sonny Henry *Driver*

makes Wilner so good at his work: he sees each child he works with from the perspective of a father.

Working with LFBS has empowered Wilner to purchase his own land and build his own home! He now has a driver's licence, pension plan and newfound confidence. His children and siblings are being educated. He is a role model in his community.

“The orphanage owner said she'd rather see the girl die than send her to the hospital. I thought: No! This child could be my daughter. I couldn't let her die.”

– Wilner Noel, Outreach Worker
(Southern Department)



Through collaboration with *Our Garden Haiti* training, and under the watchful eye of the instructor and local agronomist, youth are learning gardening skills that will help them and their families have sustainable healthy food options.

Ways to partner

Donate today. YOU make the difference.

- \$40/month sponsors a child
- \$20/month vitamin supplements
- \$50 provides school books for a child for a year

- \$200–\$350 provides a child’s tuition for a year
- \$50 means a garden start up
- \$15 buys a sack of cement for home repair

For more information go to our website: www.littlefootprintsbigsteps.com

Moving forward

Sustainability is a key priority.

Purchasing land and building permanent safehouses, community training centre, cookhouse, storage depot, etc. will be a huge step toward the sustainability of LFBS work in Haiti and the continuation of the effective, efficient delivery of our programs and services.



Contact us:

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www.littlefootprintsbigsteps.com