

# LOVE Takes Root News



## LOVE Takes Root

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LOVE Takes Root is an organization driven to help children around the world who are facing dire circumstances by delivering basic aid, education, and the seeds for a sustainable future.



[www.lovetakesroot.org](http://www.lovetakesroot.org)

LOVE Takes Root is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible by law. Contributions can be made at [www.lovetakesroot.org](http://www.lovetakesroot.org)

## Message from the President



Greetings from LOVE Takes Root. I am sure you have all heard about and were concerned about the effects that Hurricane Matthew had on our project, the children and staff at La Concorde. Shortly after the hurricane, Barb and I traveled to Jacmel to assess the details of the damage. To our sheer delight we found that under the leadership of our

Administrator, Elisee Bastien, things had been handled in a very organized and efficient manner. All of the children had been moved to the dining room during the hurricane to prevent injury from falling trees. The roof damage, water damage to walls and flooded septic system were all repaired. Estimates to repair damage to window screens and the water system were completed before our arrival so they could all be fixed. Elisee and his staff had done a commendable job independently. The school reopened in a timely manner so the children from outside the orphanage had a safe place to come to away from the damage to their homes. We were very impressed with the job that Elisee and the staff did independent of our guidance- **WE ARE ON THE WAY TO SELF SUSTAINABILITY.** God bless all for your prayers and support. Thanks, Rick Wilkerson



**Meet Felix Luna, a Kindergarten teacher at La Concorde.**

Felix has a full classroom of busy kindergarteners, and she likes teaching children and seeing them growing and learning. She is very thankful to LOVE Takes Root for such a wonderful school, and she is so happy to have a teacher position in such a good school. Felix would so appreciate some sleep mats for the students in the classroom and some French picture books.

**Message from Morrisette in La Concorde**

I have lived at La Concorde since I was a baby. I am 10 years old, and I am in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at La Concorde School. I am in the top of my class and I like to be in the classroom. My favorite subject is Math. I like to play soccer at recess. I would like to be a surgeon when I grow up. I would like to study in the US. I would like to be the best surgeon in Haiti and help many people.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**February 4, 2017** Chad Elliott Concert in Des Moines

**March 19, 2017** Los Angeles Marathon

**May 21, 2017** Colfax Denver Marathon

**June 19, 2017** 5th Annual Charity Golf Event



## Secondary School opens at La Concorde!



In September 2016 the Secondary School at La Concorde opened it's first seventh grade class. The building has twelve classrooms, a bathroom, and an office. The construction was done by a Haitian contractor, Jean Pierre Louis, and his all Haitian crew. This is an opportunity for the Jacmel community to further education, finishing secondary school.

## ROOTS Runners

### Run with Purpose. Run for a Cause

ROOTS Runners is an endurance sports and fundraising program benefitting LOVE Takes Root. In October, we cheered 13 runners across the finish line of the Des Moines half marathon and marathon. We are a registered charity for the LA Marathon on March 19<sup>th</sup> and the Denver Marathon on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Please share this opportunity with your running friends, and encourage them to sign up at [lovetakesroot.org/roots-runners](http://lovetakesroot.org/roots-runners).



# Hurricane Matthew

## Weathering the Storm

Jacmel had 40 inches of rain and winds of 145mph, but was just east of the worst devastation. With generous donors La Concorde has been able to repair all roof damage, window damage and remove standing water to help with mosquito borne illness. They are still working to have septic working and clean water. We are going to need to purchase a new filtration system. The garden is a loss and there are plans to clean up and replant. LOVE Takes Root is very impressed with our Haitian partner's ability to assess priorities and repair the buildings and land.

### A Message from Elisee

I am very happy to thank you for your help. The Hurricane Matthew gave us a lot of problems, but with your help, we have started to fix everything. The school is operating very well with 232 children enrolled. Everyone is very happy. The children have good teachers because of your generosity. We thank you a lot. God bless all of you.



LOVE Takes Root is so thankful for all of the prayers, volunteers, and donors who have continued to Cultivate the Future of Children worldwide. When asked how so much could be accomplished it is because of each of you! Please consider a Thanksgiving or Holiday donation as a gift for someone in your life. May your season be filled with the joy you have shared.



## ROOTS for a Child

Sponsors please read:

Praise God everyone was safe and LaConcord suffered minimal damage during the recent hurricane! We thank you for your many emails and calls of concern for all the kiddos. Our prayer warriors were definitely working overtime.

School is in full swing at LaConcord and the elementary school is overflowing. What a great problem to have! The children are excited to learn and are doing great with their English. This is the perfect time for you to send them some correspondence so they may practice their skills!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost upon us. Our focus now turns to the upcoming Christmas season. This year's gifts will include coloring books, drawing pads, colored pencils and crayons. The children will also receive new sandals/shoes thanks to many generous donations. And finally, they will all receive their very own combs. This seems like such a small, insignificant thing to us, but to them it means no more ringworm!

**The biggest gift they will receive though, is your love, prayers, cards and letters! If you could please have those sent to us via email or mail by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, that will give us time to gather everything before the group leaves for their Christmas visit.** There is no need to send money unless you would like to contribute to their Christmas meal.

Thank you to those of you who responded to our photo request. We plan to include your photos on a laminated sponsorship certificate that we know will be cherished by the children. If you haven't sent your photo yet, no worries, you can send them to us at any time! Better late than never as they say.

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors, your loving and giving spirits bring such joy to these special children and to us. God Bless you all during this holiday season.

