

2017 Annual Report



Entrusting Education, Entrusting Administration, Entrusting Self-Sufficiency.

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Our Mission

The charitable, educational, and humanitarian support of children of the developing world for a sustainable future.

LOVE Takes Root was founded with a mission of cultivating the future of children worldwide. The foundation's goals are to improve the lives of children through the provision of shelter, education, and health, with the goal of a self-sustaining community.

Current Project: SUsustain Solar Power

SUsustain Solar Power—
Lighting up the Future of
La Concorde LOVE Takes
Root (LTR) is in the
beginning stages of
installing solar power to La
Concorde Orphanage,
School and Medical/Dental
Clinic. This will change the
infrequent power
presently available
nationally and the constant
cost of diesel fuel to run



the generator. With solar power, La Concorde will have the use of a solar refrigerator and a water pump for filtration, constant running water, the ability to charge computers, future Internet use for teaching, and safety lights at night. Not all the funds have been raised in 2017, but we are praying for completion by March 2018.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.” Desmond Tutu

Reflections of 2017

LOVE Takes Root Vice-President Tennie Binzer



2017 has been an amazing year of transformation and growth! We have made significant strides in the learning experiences of children at the primary school, in defining processes for better management of the organization as a whole, and in the area of building self-sufficiency for La Concorde.

The staffs at both the orphanage and the school have grown in their ability to manage the operational and the financial aspects of the organization. The primary school is flourishing, and a pre-school will be opening in 2018 that will expand La Concorde's reach into the surrounding community. One of the initiatives this year, *SUstainN Solar Power*, will help contain their energy costs and generate more income. With stable power, La Concorde will have reliably pumped water and also be able to offer computer training classes that are currently unavailable in the area.

The children at the orphanage are doing extremely well. They are healthy, happy and focused on their education. They remain connected to their sponsors and have made big improvements in their grasp of the English language. Having met many of them five years ago, I almost can't believe how much they have changed.

2018 will be a year of transition. With the *Harvest* initiative, we hope to put the older children in apprentice programs and entrepreneurial training as they plan for a future beyond La Concorde. Staff will take on more and more of the responsibilities for planning and decision-making as they grow in confidence in managing all aspects of running their organization.

As we look toward September 2019 when we hope to celebrate La Concorde's official self-sustaining status, we can all rest in the knowledge that we are entrusting education, administration and self-sufficiency into very capable hands. The future looks bright and we are humbled by your support!

Entrusting Education



La Concorde has 240 children enrolled in the Primary and Secondary schools. This year, the 8th grade class was begun. It has been difficult to find teachers at the secondary level. The vision is to have power, computers, and Internet, which will help with this secondary level of learning during the next school year.

A half-walled preschool building was constructed this year to help with the large enrollment in Kindergarten. Because Jacmel does not have any day care facilities, the younger children that are enrolled at La Concorde will be placed in Preschool - Kindergarten 1. This building has learning centers and unstructured play to facilitate development.

LTR had a continuing education week for teachers at the end of the school year in 2017. Centers were set up and demonstrated to the teachers on how centers can be used in the younger grades. Carpet squares and circle time were both well received by La Concorde Kindergarten teachers! LTR will continue the Teaching the Teachers in 2018 stressing the 4 C's—Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity.

Entrusting Administration

There has been a strong emphasis on mentoring skills in administration and finance in 2017 for the staff at La Concorde Orphanage, School, and Medical/Dental Clinic. Because of respectful relationships, there has been success in the basic concept of tracking and the groundwork for budgeting. The sponsor monies will continue to be applied to each orphan for daily living expenses. A child at the orphanage will be admitted to La Concorde school with no school fees. The school continues to work for financial independence by September 2019. LTR has a new committee with the mission to assist in the business plan and work with La Concorde administration in Excel and budgeting programming. The University of Michigan Ross School of Business and the University of Iowa Entrepreneurial Management Institute have both committed to work with LTR and La Concorde on business and marketing plans in 2018.

Project Nourish was launched in 2017 to fill the gap of nutrition for the children at the orphanage while school expenses continue to be used from total budget.



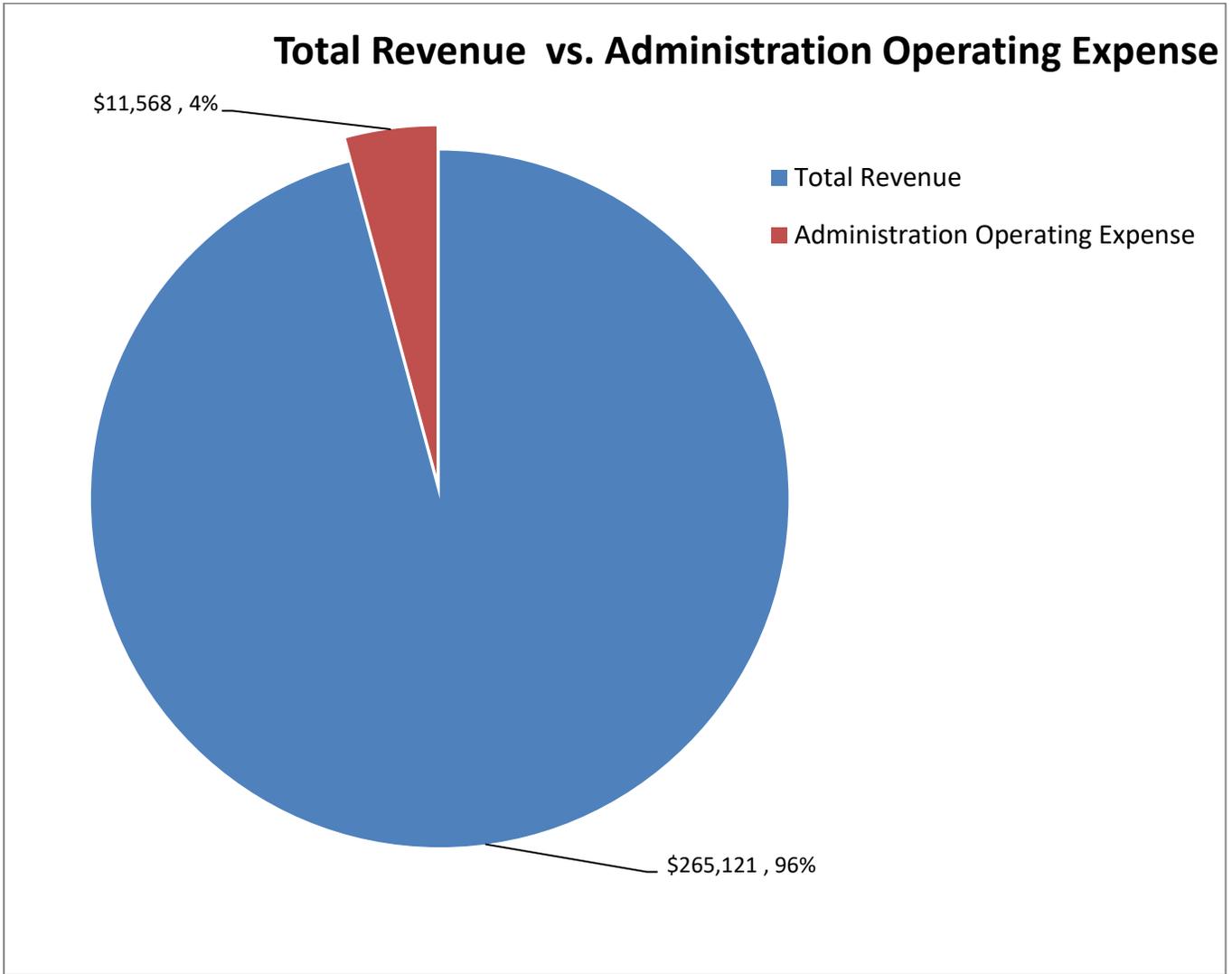
Entrusting Self-Sufficiency

The LTR board and membership work hard at looking toward independence for the La Concorde administration and staff. The school has been certified and licensed following the Haitian government laws. La Concorde Orphanage also has been certified and licensed this past year. Please note that in the southeast region, less than 5% of the orphanages have certification. This has taken a lot of staff time and community interaction but is an important step. The solar power project will leave La Concorde with panels that have a 25-year warranty and the mechanism to have them continually serviced.



The Harvest program has begun for La Concorde Orphanage. This an apprenticeship program for those children in the orphanage who will not qualify for university. The administration of La Concorde has connected with business leaders for positions that teach a trade and provide a skill set for future employment. The first students will start with the tailor, learning to sew in June 2018. The education about family values and individual responsibility continues to be stressed with the children at La Concorde. The vision is for them to change Haiti.

2017 Income & Expenses



LOVE Takes Root would like to thank all those who worked with the organization in 2017. It was a year with so much success and love shared by so many people. Each of you made a difference. It is possible to change the world for others with compassion and focus. The future of the children touched by your gift has been changed. It is with this that a generation can change - One life at a time. LOVE Takes Root Board of Directors thank you with gratefulness.



For more information about LOVE Takes Root, or to learn how you can get involved with our organization, visit us online at www.lovetakesroot.org.

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