

20
21 NEWSLETTER

celebrating 25 years



Friends of
MATÈNWA

Dear Friends of Matènwa,

A Letter from Our Founder: Chris W. Low

The world has been watching Haiti in the news and realizing the degree of terror and trauma millions of people in and around Port-au-Prince face day in and day out, month after month, year after year. When you think it can't get any worse, it does: gang violence, police violence, kidnappings, destruction from natural disasters, chronic hunger — all leading to thousands of people seeking relief at US borders. Many of us have unknowingly benefitted from Haiti's cheap labor at some point; whether it was a piece of clothing we wore, the sugar we put in our coffee, or a stuffed animal that we gifted. It is not just a matter of BAD LUCK. A great deal of this suffering results from poor Haitians being denied the basic human rights described in the UN Millennium Development Goals for 2030: rights to nutrition, decent work for a livable wage, housing, health, sanitation, potable water, and a quality education. The Matènwa Community Learning Center is making strides to meet many of these basic rights.

Lagonav is a haven compared to Port-au-Prince. Relatively safe from harm, children are going to school regularly. Educators want training and MCLC is eager to train them. MCLC could significantly improve all 230 schools on *Lagonav* within the next 10 years by providing them teacher training, coaching, and reusable educational materials. We have the will and the know-how; we just need the means. We need you, who believe in us, to help us raise it. Two million dollars a year for the next 10 years will provide the means to realize this achievable dream.

MCLC has stayed true to its mission to be a democratic model of hands-on education that reflects the learning and growing possible in one's local environment. MCLC uses methodologies that have been tailored to their culture through experimentation, evaluation, and modifications, resulting in the present implementation of highly successful practices. *Lagonav's* Ministry of Education recognizes MCLC's success and wants greater collaboration. It is clear that if teenagers had been given their basic rights to education and employment opportunities, they would not have automatic rifles in their hands terrorizing parts of Port Au Prince. On *Lagonav*, we are handing out pencils, not guns.

Sifting through 25 years of annual letters, news clippings, and event programs, I marvel at how you contributed and continue to contribute to Matènwa Community Learning Center's success story. Over 4000 of you have opened your hearts to us along the way. It really does take a village to raise a child.

I appreciate you for walking with me and the people of Matènwa over this 25-year journey. I thank you for helping me raise my two babies: MCLC and my daughter Juliette. Both are thriving. Let's continue to work together to achieve our next exciting obtainable goals.

Chris



Breakfast Program



\$20/month gives a student DAILY breakfast

Our Breakfast Program is key in students' stellar academic performance. A daily breakfast helps to prevent absenteeism, reduce dropout rates, and promote a happy and healthy learning environment. By giving monthly, **you GUARANTEE at least one child can count on a meal every single day!**

Literacy Kits



\$50 funds MATERIALS to develop one kit

School materials should be available to all children because hands-on learning is effective for teaching reading and writing skills. Help us develop replicable prototypes and distribute literacy kits to children at our partner schools so every student can explore and remain engaged in learning at home and in the classroom.

Physical Education



\$75 covers physical education EQUIPMENT

Help MCLC as it develops a stellar Physical Education Program for its youth to be **eligible for international SCHOLARSHIPS** for basketball, volleyball, soccer, paddle tennis, and track through our relationships with PowerForward, American Friends of Association de Table Tennis Haitian, Boulder Wave, and Nouflex.

Creole Libraries



\$500 funds a partner school's CREOLE library

The most successful way to improve reading skills of children in poverty is to **increase their access to books**. Over the next 5 years, our goal is to publish 250 new Mother Tongue Books (\$50/book), start libraries to our partner schools (\$500), and distribute 5000 (\$15,000) books each year. Gift the gift of literacy to students on *Lagonav*.

Local Business



\$1000 launches a local START-UP business

To sustain itself and become less dependent on the mainland, the Matènwa community is **investing in small local businesses to increase access to necessities, stimulate local economy, create jobs, and support local producers.** A \$1000 grant helps start a business. \$2500 covers construction for a store-front.

Vegetable Gardens



\$5000 terraces gardens in FIVE COMMUNITIES

We **address food insecurity by relying on agriculture-led initiatives to increase resources and stabilize access to nutrient-rich food** year-round. Our water-accessible gardens combat long drought seasons. Local production helps *Lagonav* gain independence, relying less on the mainland as an unstable food source.

Matènwa Methodology



\$12K TRAINS a partner school for one year

Our Institute of Learning **transforms schools using the Matènwa Methodology** and its innovative practices and rigorous training. Directors and teachers want their schools to become thriving centers of education like MCLC, but lack the resources. **Help one school on the island give its students a quality, non-violent, mother tongue education.**

University Scholarships



\$16K covers a graduate's four-year SCHOLARSHIP

Fania (pictured above) is a Wesleyan University nursing student and MCLC's first-ever valedictorian. Before our scholarship program, due to the lack of resources, her chances of attending university were almost non-existent. **Support our scholarship program to help students like Fania build brighter futures and break poverty-imposed barriers.**

Dear Friends,

Meet the New CEO

Let me introduce myself as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Friends of Matènwa. I am thrilled to work with the FoM community to support and expand on the works of the FoM Founders, the Board, and our front-line staff.

I have more than 10 years of experience supporting and implementing the work of non-governmental organizations, nonprofits, and community schools operating in New York, Haiti, and Senegal.

Before my nonprofit career, I worked as a radio journalist and producer with Pacifica Radio. During this time I edited and produced field reports on HIV/AIDS among African women in Harlem, the refugee crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the famine in South Sudan, political turmoil in Haiti, and the New York housing crisis.

I am the recipient of the United States State Department's NSEP/Boren Fellowship and the AmeriCorps Local Leader Award for helping young professionals explore careers in the nonprofit sector.

Please let me extend my empathy and compassion to everyone in our community who has been impacted by the global pandemic and has suffered personal loss over the past several months. I extend my heartfelt hope for your full recovery and wish you comfort and peace.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with many of you who have been so committed to FoM's mission; please expect a call or email from me in the coming weeks.

In Service,
Kody Emmanuel



FoM

Founders

Chris W. Low
Barbara Sampson

President Emerita

Barbara Sampson

Co-Presidents

Donna Haig Friedman
Jocelyn McCalla

Treasurer

Brendan Reilly

Clerk

Elizabeth Gibbons

Executive Director

Kody Emmanuel

Board of Directors

Anel Bellevue
Tim Boysen
Krystal Kanzki
Edward Kuh
Tim Kunin
Pierre Rolex St.Louis

Staff

Chris W. Low, Chief Strategy Officer
Samantha Menard, Chief Operating Officer
Sorrah Edwards-Thro, Grant Manager
Pepito Laventure, Finance Coordinator

MCLC Administration

Founders

Chris W. Low
Jean Abner Sauveur

Treasurer

Feronel Jean

Institute of Learning Director

Ezner Angervil
Roseline Obel, Asst. Director

Primary Director

Vana Edmond

Secondary Director

Ednot Obel
Gypso André, Asst. Director

Statement of Activities

REVENUE

grants and contributions	\$926,524
investment income	\$ 5,978
other	--
TOTAL	\$932,502

EXPENSES

program services	\$674,742
management/administration	\$ 73,456
fundraising	\$ 91,067
TOTAL	\$839,265

beginning of year assets	\$1,108,826
end of year assets	\$1,240,750



programs
80%

Fundraising
11%

Management
+ Admin 9%

The information presented above is drawn from Friends of Matènwa's financial statements, which were audited by Smith, Sullivan, and Brown. Our Form 990 is available online at matenwa.org/irs-990.

Volunteer Appreciation: Daniel Dugger

Since my first trip to Haiti as a student at Pepperdine University, I fell in love with the culture and developed a passion for the opportunities to seek justice. In 2012, I started teaching in Haiti at the request of the staff I was volunteering with. I discovered that I loved teaching and ended up spending a couple years in China teaching elementary students in China and a year teaching college students in Saudi Arabia. While teaching, I received my CELTA from Cambridge University and my TEFL-C from Columbia University. Now I am in Matènwa teaching English and getting my Master's in Education from University of the People. I hope to amplify the mission of MCLC with English education and technology and learn a lot in the process. I also plan on enjoying this beautiful island!



Supporter Spotlight: Hannah Holmes



Ten years ago I shifted from a career in science writing to real estate. I soon found I needed a way to tether my new, very local practice to the global scale that matched my lifelong concerns.

Education, I believe, is the key to any progress toward global health and justice. But education cannot be effective unless it respects its entire "ecosystem". Without a web of nutrition, shelter, self determination, safety, and so many more resources, all the knowledge in the world may find no place to land.

I had met Chris through a writing assignment some years before. I was inspired by how she and Abner so conscientiously wove their mission into the existing culture. I felt there were few places on earth where my donation would do so much good.

At first I made a donation upon the close of every real estate transaction, as a vibrant reminder of how fortune ate my own culture is. But in recent years I have donated quarterly or made a large donation when I do my taxes. I just make sure I donate generously each year.



Remembering Daniel McCalla

We have some very sad news to share. Jocelyn McCalla's son Daniel tragically passed away on October 28, 2021. He was 43 years old. He leaves behind his spouse Kimberly, daughters Kailyn and Isabel, and son Daniel Jacmel. To honor his son, Jocelyn offers the following suggestion: "...plant a tree of your liking in your backyard, in a forest, in a park, in a country (e.g. Haiti) where such trees can be nurtured, loved and stand as a symbolic reincarnation of Daniel and his love of life."



Thank You to All of our Fiscal 2021 Donors!

Suzanne Abrams Academy of Aerospace & Engineering Elementary School Josh Alfred James S Anderson Lorrie R. Anderson & Conant Brewer Griffin Andres Anonymous+ Anonymous-Facebook Anonymous- Northern Trust Anonymous- Vanguard Charitable Anonymous- Amazon Smile Paul Arezina Jacinthe Armand Eleanor Arnold Atlantic-Midwest Province School Sisters of Notre Dame Inglead Auguste Jehad Ayoush Helen E. Bakeman Samuel Baker Catherine Baldwin Cindy Ballenger Karl Bantdel and Farley Urmoston Barbara H Nahra William L Barclay Christopher Barkan Christine Barnden Jeri W. Bayer Richard Beckwith Mr. Serge Bellegarde Jonathan Benedict Carol L. 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MCLC, a model for Lagonav, leads the way for others to trust the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine. MCLC's 48-person staff is fully vaccinated.



Co-Presidents' Note

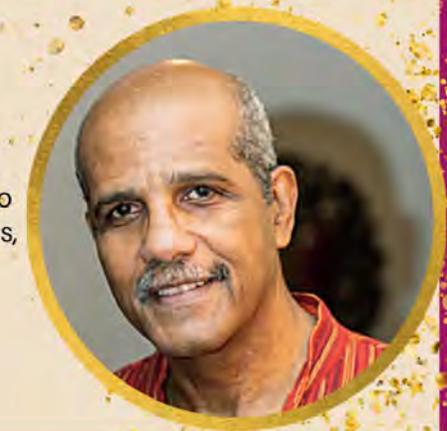
Even as Haiti itself is in unfathomable turmoil, steady progress is taking place with the Matènwa Community Learning Center. For example, on November 9, 2021, FoM was declared a Winner in the Shelter category and a finalist in the Agribusiness category of the USAID and Haiti Renewal Alliance's Investor Tank competition. Both innovations build upon Matènwa's strong 25 years of education reform across the island of *Lagonav*.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of Friends of Matènwa (FoM) and to bring to scale the Matènwa Community Learning Center (MCLC) model across Haiti, the FoM Board recently approved a new management structure which will allow Chris Low, the co-founder of MCLC and FoM's Chief Strategy Officer, to devote her time, energy, creativity, and passion to curriculum design, education system reform, and other initiatives across *Lagonav* and Haiti.

In mid-November, Kody Emmanuel assumed FoM's Chief Executive Officer position. His enthusiasm for this new position with FoM stems from his belief in the Matènwa model which links education and community, and his eagerness, in his own words, "to serve my country... Matènwa is a living lab which demonstrates how to show what works.... Despite all the (harsh realities) in Haiti, Matènwa is open for business, doing good work, and has been for 25 years helping to build a better Haiti."

You are partners upon whom we rely for continuing support --- in time, treasure, and talent --- to ensure a solid, sustainable path of progress into the future in partnership with children, families, and communities in Haiti.

Thank you!
Donna Haig Friedman
Jocelyn McCalla



An Art Exhibit to Benefit MCLC

The Birds and The Trees by Pam Smith
100% of art sales benefit Matènwa



November 1-December 31, 2021

Cary Library, 1874 Mass Ave, Lexington, MA

Pierce Gallery, Lower Level

Mon-Thurs- 9am-9pm, Fri & Sat- 9am-5pm, Sun- 1pm-5pm

A 25th Year
Celebration

Save
The
Date

Evening of
Heart and Hope
for Haiti

June 4
2022

MATÈNWA