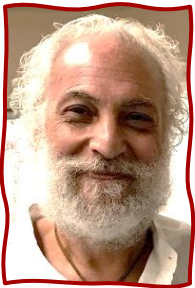


HAITI REFORESTATION HAITI REFORESTATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

MICHAEL ANELLO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



IT HAS BEEN A TOUGH ADJUSTMENT. For the first time and for reasons of safety, I was forced to leave Haiti. I spent only three months there and I miss the people and their spirit deeply! At the same time, it has been a valuable time for the people of CODEP as they have built greater self-sufficiency. Leadership has learned to manage the movement and distribution of money, select students for the mentoring program, plan community gardens, orchestrate new zones, and evaluate trees to be timbered all while overseeing the day-to-day activities of 784 workers. Program updates from CODEP are *Robust!*

THE HUMAN FACE OF HAITIAN CHAOS. Economic and political pressures continue to mount beyond comprehension. Haiti is regularly in the world news for horrific incidents such as gang murders of missionaries in one case and of voodoo proponents in another (young, naïve gang members are terrified of voodoo.) After planes were fired upon at the Port au Prince airport, the FAA cancelled flights until March 2025.

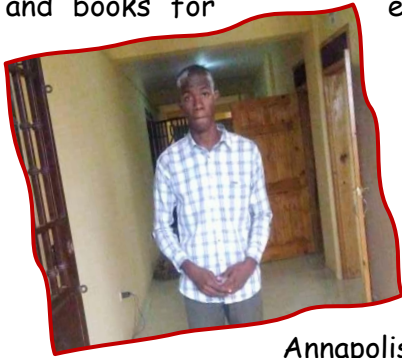
The Dominican Republic is deporting thousands of Haitians even as its border crossing is closed for shipping food to Haiti. Thus, food is becoming quite scarce. The Board of the Haiti Reforestation Partnership is considering how to offer support. In 2024 we distributed sacks of rice on a couple occasions. A longer-term solution is needed; we are assessing how to build out communal gardens with costs for tools and seeds.

Tomato seeds need to be purchased as harvested ones do not produce well. Other seeds include eggplant, pepper, onion, cabbage, and various herbs. Frankly, as the markets dwindle it is harder to buy vegetables and harvest their seeds, as the CODEP people usually do. Importantly, we are going to help with planting corn to create calorie-rich dishes. We are also faced with security issues as people cannot travel to Leogane, for instance, where there could be land available but roadblocks and violence are too common. And, given the need for food, we would have to hire security people to deter scavenging.

MY NEW ROUTINE. As I am stateside, I take every opportunity for public speaking and fundraising. I continue in my absentee capacity to oversee Benou (left), shouldering the Haiti Reforestation Mentoring Program; and Kingzer (right) taking the inventory of the trees and providing detailed reports zone by zone. My average day is consumed with a dozen calls and dozens of texts from Haiti. Benou and Kingzer are self-sufficient but there are chronic bugaboos in the system. Transferring money to Haiti for payroll is not a fun exercise and at times, quite dangerous. Banks limit the amount of daily withdrawals so CODEP members must make repeat, difficult trips to Leogane to access enough cash for payroll. The actual pay checks are problematic too; we have blank checks but they are in Haiti. Thus, I cannot sign them. And even if I had the checks here in the States, I could not convey them to Haiti anyway. To those who complain about the US, I say: "Try Haiti."



MENTORSHIP. Despite challenges, the Mentorship Program is *thriving*. A third class of 15 members has been interviewed and admitted for 2025! With each succeeding group, we are more and more delighted with their dedication, enthusiasm, and performance. (As a reminder, the first class in 2022-23 was a two-year, three-days-a-week schedule.) We have telescoped the curriculum and schedule into a one year program. Two graduates have gone to the University of Fondwa. One student is in the third year of a five-year program and one student, Lindjerry (pictured), was admitted from the 2024 class. We pay \$1,500/year for tuition and books for each student.



One story is particularly heartwarming. Lindjerry was a young boy in 2011 when we first met. I was involved in building the CODEP school and he would appear at the worksite; we would pay him to straighten nails with a small rock. As his mother had lost her leg in an earthquake, the money was important.

THE TRUCK. I cannot say enough about the zeal and commitment of one Board member, David Fishman and of long term supporter, First Presbyterian Annapolis. Together they raised \$39,500 to support the purchase *and maintenance* of a truck. Vehicles receive such an incredible pounding on the dirt roads and mountainous terrain, we have wholly exhausted the current truck. The "new" truck is a Ford 2004 F250 diesel, exactly the same as the last one. For those who have followed the "Truck Chronicles," the details are a mileage reading of 127,000, four-wheel drive, new shock absorbers (!), and it was shipped to Leogane in 2012. We paid \$8,000 and the remaining funds go toward maintenance, gas, as well as seed money for the next truck. THANK YOU, THANK YOU to David, First Presbyterian Annapolis and all the donors.

DOCUMENTING THE FORESTS. Before the pandemic, the HRP Board explored the idea of building a carbon credit model for HRP. The strategy is that that an additional stream of income would be welcome and create organizational sustainability. We worked with Duke University and NASA and learned a great deal. Importantly, we understood that there is a fundamental need to know and document the status of the CODEP trees: location, size/girth, type, maturity and more. We have documentation of seedlings out of the nurseries but we do not have accurate understanding of the survival rates and viability of the resulting trees.

To date, Forestry Inventory Specialist Kingzer Cerant has provided written reports and documentation on the trees in six of 13 zones. To accomplish this task he walks the perimeter (no small feat in some of the steepest sections), divides the zone into sections, and counts one section worth of trees. He also provides context. For example, he assesses the water availability to improve water sheds; he takes samples for testing in Tom Gateau to ascertain if it is potable; he confirms the basic design of planting hardwoods and pines in the middle of an area and fruit trees near the paths, useful for knowing what is edible as people pass by and how much fruit is available for market. Kingzer is fluent in English so his reporting is easily accessible.

ONWARD! I hope our story shifts the perception of the possible. While the rap on Haiti is ferociously dark, the now generational impact of CODEP's work tells something quite different. Our story isn't polished hype! CODEP and its trees are for real, and it is my fervent hope that each of you reading this will tell a friend.

VISION + MISSION

VISION: A sustainable CODEP organization contributing to the reforestation of Haiti.

MISSION: Providing resources, education, and expertise in support of reforestation and agroforestry in Haiti with local community partners.



(Animators)

As we read of gang violence in and around Port-au-Prince, our CODEP colleagues continue their work, albeit with new levels of stress. Here are some thoughts from three of the Animator Executive Committee (AEC). Carlo Cenat puts it mildly saying that, "Our lifestyle is very different now: hard." Placing their tenacity against the chaos of the country, Rene Decime reports that, "Our trees survive, but our country has failed us." And Clement Terecelin sums it up like this: "Ahhhh, Haiti!" (The AEC also includes Bastien Aime.)

A FOCUS FOR 2024

BILL HATHAWAY, BOARD CHAIR

A focus for 2024 was our close work with our Executive Director, Michael Anello, in his transition from full time in Haiti with visits to the USA to life in the USA with visits to Haiti (as safety allows!). This has been a significant shift both organizationally and personally for all involved. Fortunately, Michael's on-going work of nurturing Haitian leadership is allowing this transition to happen without interruption of our much needed support. The chaos and violence in Haiti are sources of constant concern; our 784 workers remain outside of the direct gang violence but the reduced mobility, inflation and lack of imports (particularly food) have put great stress on our friends. In response, we are looking to expand the "agro" portion of our reforestation and agro-forestry work with CODEP.

Due to safety concerns, the last volunteer group to Haiti was a team of six I led from Annapolis MD in 2018. The lack of face to face contact has made for a number of challenges; instead of direct contact with our CODEP partners, we rely on the reports and anecdotes from Michael and Board members. Fortunately, our donations are holding... but the needed growth is difficult. The shift of time to fundraising in the States is a response to this significant change in the Haitian-American setting.

Michael's

This year both Bill Piatt and I rotate off the Board after consecutive three year terms. Sally Harwood was elected as Chair (thank you, Sally! pictured) and Debbie Murray from New Bern, NC joins the Board. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church of New Bern, one of our founding organizations back 35 years ago.



It has been a joy and an honor to serve as the Chair. Michael's commitment to the work and care of the people are gifts to celebrate. The tenacity and dedication of our CODEP colleagues are an inspiration. I will continue my support on the Advisory Council and I wish all the best to the 2025 Board.

PARTNERS: BUILDING GOODNESS FOUNDATION

HRP has maintained strong institutional partnerships over the decades. In recent years, we have partnered with the Forestry School at Duke University and with NASA to use satellite imagery to track tree plantings. But the longest and most significant partnership to date has been with Building Goodness Foundation (BGF). This tie goes back to 1977 when Jack Stoner visited our CODEP partners in Haiti. After that visit he

gathered colleagues and launched Building Goodness Foundation in 1999. They work in the Charlottesville area and internationally in Haiti and Guatemala to build homes, hospitals, community centers and other facilities to improve the lives of thousands of people. For decades BGF has partnered with CODEP to construct "incentive keys," homes for CODEP leaders. For many years, volunteers from the States joined local Haitians to build these homes. In recent years all construction is by local Haitians coordinated by a Haitian director. We (HRP) include funds in our annual budget to assist in the cost of a home, at \$10,000 per home. In 2013 BGF constructed the Depot (the headquarters for CODEP that includes guest housing -- when safe to travel). Five incentive keys were built in 2024 and five more are planned for 2025. HRP is grateful for BGF's strong commitment to the people in Haiti, in general, and the CODEP leadership, in particular. It is a joy to have such a strong and long lasting relationship!



(farmers, mostly women, at work)

CODEP BY THE NUMBERS

13 ANIMATORS (REGIONAL LEADERS) ~ **43** CHEF AKEIPS (LEADER OF A MEMBER "LAKOU") ~ **784** WORKERS (85% WOMEN)

In recent years the Board has sought to build cash reserves to ease the pressure of month to month cash flow and to best prepare for emergencies. The reserve at 2024's conclusion was \$201,723, including funds held in designated accounts for a truck purchase and for Animators at retirement.

Thank you to faithful our donors!
Your dollars make a difference!

	Budget	Actual
Income	\$250,000	\$235,561
Expenses	\$223,750	\$223,762

About Actual Expenses \$223,762

\$151,635 was in direct grants to CODEP and the balance for HRP administrative support and staff expenses. NOTE: the Executive Director's time is split between fundraising in the States and program development and support in Haiti.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ingram Caswell - St. Augustine FL
David Fishman - La Habra CA
Sally Harwood - Fort Lauderdale FL
Rev. Dr. William L. Hathaway (Chair) - Wilmington DE
Dan Jenkin - Silver Spring MD
Melanie Musgrove (Treasurer) - Houston TX
Bill Piatt - Wilmington NC
James Rhoads - Athens GA
Becky Showalter (Secretary) - Raleigh NC
Ed Skinner - Annapolis MD

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