

# EXISTING WITH HOPE

2025 Annual Report

# HAITI REFORESTATION PARTNERSHIP



**IN THE WORDS OF POET MAYA ANGELOU, "STILL I RISE," THOUGH THEY LIVE IN A WORLD OF HURT, OUR CODEP FRIENDS IN HAITI SHOW US HOW HOPE ENDURES. IT IS POWERFUL + INSPIRING.**

## GARDENING



Jameson Avril has shouldered the task of creating and supporting 43 groups of folks each creating a garden. The need for food has been severe, and the project has been greeted with enthusiasm and proven singularly valuable. Jameson writes:

First, I will say: People are really happy to get vegetables to eat with their families! In 2025, countryside gardens and small vegetable gardens developed rapidly. Our goal has grown out of a desire to reconnect rural dwellers with nature while promoting local and sustainable food. The question has always been space: where to put the gardens? Growing food together means we can find more space. Also, we have increased mini-vegetable gardens, even the smallest areas, such as the use of buckets, basins, and terraces.

We have been able to grow a wide variety of edible plants. The people who worked this year in the garden program send a big thank you to each donor! In this spirit we will work even more in 2026. Thank you for understanding us.



## MENTORSHIP

In January the Reforestation Mentorship Program graduated its recent class of 13 students (pictured). The ceremony was enormously elaborate, and that is an understatement! It was held at the St. Pierre's Church and the sanctuary was packed with relatives and friends. The students wore caps and gowns. Underneath they wore forest green suits they had bought and paid for with the stipend they were given.

Included in the proceedings were speakers, a troop of dancers, prayers, and lots of singing. Each student gave remarks. Leaders of the program, Benou Sejour and Guytaud Brioche, handed out the awards. Michael Anello received a Certificate of Appreciation as well as the award, *Friend of CODEP*. After, we adjourned to the depot where we enjoyed a lavish feast – chicken, salad, rice, okra, plantains and more! – prepared by Madam Enez and the proud mothers of the students.

The event lasted two and a half hours.

*Madam carries peanuts to make Mamba*



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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT by Michael Anello

2025 had a different cadence than previous years. Each time I arrived in Haiti from the US I had to hit the ground running. Huge projects are underway. First, CODEP is opening a store on the Jacmel road to sell CODEP products such as peanut butter, coffee, chocolate, and produce from the community gardens. Wisterley Kingzer Cerant is the lead and ready to be among people again after conducting an inventory of the trees for the last three years.

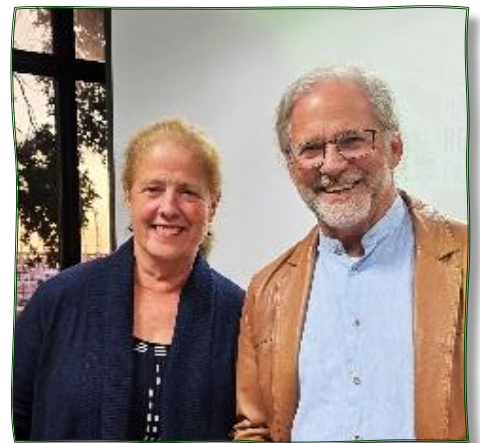
Second, remember the 52 fish ponds built to provide a source of protein for people? All but ten were damaged beyond repair during the 2010 earthquake. Now CODEP is starting a chicken business, first with 400 chicks which they will raise *in the empty fishponds!* Ultimately, they will be sold live at the market.

Third, villages in Haiti are finding us on the web and asking for help! We are starting a CODEP Academy, a two-three week class educating members of other communities about the *CODEP Way*. Two groups are already lined up! What a glorious scramble of exciting projects!

## BOARD CHAIR REPORT by Sally Harwood

As Board Chair, 2025 brought me full circle. I have been part of HRP for most of this century! During my early trips, we walked mountains that were completely denuded; it felt like the moon, not a tropical island. The children I saw had reddish hair, a sure sign of deep hunger.

Now, 19 million trees are growing, the land has stabilized, and the water is pure. Our young mountain guides are now CODEP's leaders – thoughtful and serious about building on the legacy they have inherited. Children are in the CODEP school and eat food from the gardens. *(With Bill Hathaway)*



In the US, our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in New Bern, NC was also a full circle. We celebrated the memories and friendships of that handful of people who had a dream and set us on our path.

Our reconnection with New Bern also provided us with Debbie Murray, a new board member who steps in for Becky Showalter. Michael Anello, our Executive Director, deserves great applause for his tireless work. He is a man of two countries, who loves the land, leaves no person without a greeting, and knows how to cultivate young leaders.

As we begin 2026, we are very thankful for the HRP network of donors, congregations, and volunteers. It takes a village, stretched across two countries, multiple languages, and vastly different histories to nurture the health of our earth and its people.

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



It was a grand occasion. About 50 people gathered in New Bern at the home of the people who conceived of CODEP in the 1980's. Joel Millikan was recognized as Volunteer of the Year and presented with the *Edvy Durandice Service Award*. His current passion is the Legacy Project by which people are invited to dedicate gifts to CODEP in their wills and estate planning.

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## **BOOSTING OUR COMMUNICATIONS: Edith Garcia**

In 2025 we have been delighting in the communications talents of Edith Garcia who has been helping us knit together our scattered and diverse network of supporters. She writes, formats, connects, juggles themes, tracks information, and so much more. A huge thank you to Board Member David Fishman who has arranged for Edith to be assigned part time away from duties with his company so she can support HRP.

## **BUILDING GOODNESS FOUNDATION: Incentive Kay**

Building Goodness Foundation (BGF) has been a long standing partner with HRP. The Incentive Kay program is a way that BGF honors the hard work of individuals who have worked many years on the reforestation in the commune of Leogane. BGF hires Haitian carpenters who build these homes according to high standards of safety from materials that are specially treated to withstand Haiti's tropical conditions. Sturdy homes like the Incentive Kays are too rare in Haiti, and much of the housing is built using poor quality materials and lacking structural integrity which presents real danger.



In 2025, Incentive Kays (pictured at right) were built for six families who have planted thousands of trees to help stabilize the land, provide clean drinking water, and combat deforestation.

## **NEXT GENERATION: Leaders**

We pause this year to take serious account of how the leadership team in Haiti has absorbed the next generation of leaders. As we celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> year, we could easily be in a leadership crisis. Too often, a start-up group will hold on tightly to its position and vision, making it difficult for new people to learn, lead and step-up. Our story is not that. Instead, the CODEP leadership has been remarkable in welcoming and incorporating younger people.



## **CODEP LEADERSHIP TEAM**

For its first decades, CODEP experienced the rock solid and trusted leadership of Edvy and Clement. When Edvy passed, everyone wondered how things could possibly go forward. Luckily, Carlos Cenat stepped forward to manage the financial side of things with skill and precision. In addition, Bastian Amie assumed more of the logistics responsibilities that for years were shouldered by Clement. Now the dream team consists of Clement, Carlos, Bastian and Rene.

## **THE ANIMATORS**

Animators have the practical responsibility of leading workers in a zone through the two planting seasons of the year. They are the frontline for teaching and monitoring the CODEP Way, ie., the reforestation methodology that is so critical to the success of the last 35 years. Two years ago, Faude, a young man who had graduated from the HRP Mentorship program, figured out how to corral a zone of land with people who wanted to participate in CODEP. He was welcomed into the Animator group as its first – and quite entrepreneurial – Next-Gen member. Two other mentorship graduates, Barbara Cerant and Lind Jerry, are in university and expected to join in the work as Animators or on Michael's staff when they graduate. The pipeline is full of talent for which we are so grateful.

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**VISION** A sustainable CODEP organization contributing to the reforestation of Haiti. **MISSION** Providing resources, education, and expertise to Haiti in support of reforestation + agroforestry with local community partners.

*The next generation...*  
**OF TREES AND PEOPLE**

## HRP: CODEP by the NUMBERS

**786** workers. **13** Animators. **41** “loukou” gardens. **43** Chef Akeips leaders of member “loukou.”  
**43** new gardens established in 2025 with **2** washed out by Hurricane Melissa, to be replanted.  
**385,822** trees planted in 2025!

2025	Budget	Actual
Income	\$260,000	\$230,625
Expenses	\$267,695	\$271,498
	<b>1/1/25</b>	<b>1/1/26</b>
Cash Reserves	\$201,723	\$170,808

As noted, we dipped into cash reserves in 2025. As a result, the 2026 budget was trimmed to an income + expense of \$225,000. Relative to cash flow, we are holding our own and are working to establish new and renewed donors. Your support is appreciated!

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the bustle of the year, we do not remember often enough to say a hearty thank you to our hard-working volunteer Board. Sally Harwood – active with CODEP for decades – has served as chair and we are forever grateful to her. Melanie Musgrove has served as our Treasurer with patience and care. Becky Showalter has given us much by way of orderliness in attending to our priorities and records. We are deeply indebted to them.

Ingram Caswell – St. Augustine FL	Melanie Musgrove (Treasurer) – Houston TX
David Fishman – La Habra CA	Jamie Rhoads – Athens GA
Sally Harwood (Chair) – Fort Lauderdale FL	Becky Showalter (Secretary) – Raleigh NC
Dan Jenkin – Silver Spring MD	Ed Skinner – Annapolis MD
Debbie Murray – New Bern NC	

## CONTACT / GIVE / SUPPORT

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CODEP guesthouse