

ANNUAL REPORT



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LITTLE FOOTPRINTS
BIG STEPS



Note from **Executive Director**

A catastrophic earthquake drew my attention to Haiti in 2010. After seeing the devastation caused by the January 2010 earthquake, I was moved to go to Haiti and connect with victims of the disaster... which eventually led to a journey of immense personal growth, and the beginning of LFBS. Over a decade later – in August of 2021 – another major earthquake hit Haiti, this time affecting the Southern region in which LFBS is based.

We are so grateful that (with the exception of one young man we previously worked with), none of our staff members nor the families we work with lost their lives during the earthquake, although many of their homes were damaged and some lost relatives. Hundreds of aftershocks in the months following the earthquake caused continuous fear and trauma for all of those affected. Our team found comfort in being able to reach those truly affected and provide much needed support – and they worked tirelessly to do so.

Following the 2010 earthquake, in many cases international aid fell short of effectively helping rebuild affected communities. LFBS and our partners were determined to ensure a different, more impactful approach to providing aid following the 2021 earthquake. Our pre-established relationships with families in over 45 different communities across Southern Haiti allowed us to work with community leaders to mobilize and reach families who were truly vulnerable in a safe and effective fashion. We hired

community members instead of receiving volunteers and purchased locally as much as possible so as to provide employment and invest in the local economy. In our long term efforts to support rebuilding, we plan to ensure Haitians are guiding our response.

While facilitating disaster relief, our team has also been busy working on internal capacity development, all while maintaining our regular programing! We've welcomed some new expertise to our team this year which has proven to be an incredible step forward. Through workshops with our team of Haitian staff, we've been working to build their capacity; to encourage them to become more independent in their work; and to increase structure, documentation as well as transparency within the organization. These efforts all strive to make LFBS more sustainable, and to stay true to our bottom-up approach. For the first half of this fiscal year, I was coordinating LFBS from a distance (following the birth of my own child!) while our team of Haitian staff continued to facilitate our programs on the ground. This validates just how much LFBS has grown over the past decade! I can't wait to see all that we will accomplish in the next ten years. Thank you so much to each of you who have supported our efforts along the way!

Morgan Wienberg, M.S.C.

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Leadership

Morgan Wienberg

Co-Founder/Executive Director

Sarah Forrest

Director of Philanthropy and Communications

Board of Directors

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Danielle Sparks

Haitian Staff

Angelo *Administrator*

Eluxon *Child/Youth Mentor*

Emmanuel *Driver/Protection Agent*

Fedner *Driver/Protection Agent*

Florencia *Boys' House Mother*

Islande *Boys' House Mother*

Mauna *RN/Medical Coordinator*

Medjune *Girls' House Mother*

Mikerlange *Girls' House Mother*

Nadege *Social Worker*

Nadine *Secretary*

Nicolas *Programs Manager*

Ronald *Manager of Logistics
& Procurement*

Wattson *Accountant*

Wilner *Driver*

External Consultants

Fara *Child Protection Consultant*

Volunteers and Interns

Andrew Calpito *Communications Intern*

Allison Hodgson *Donor relations volunteer*

Reefat Imam *PR Intern*

Marielle *Public relations intern*

Rachel Mack *Donor relations Intern*

Pierre Permingeat *Governance Committee
Member*

Radhika Sahdeva *Communications Volunteer*

Sam Tan *Monitoring, Evaluation and
Learning Volunteer*

Nanziba Tasneem *Grant Writing Intern*

Alexandra Toma *Grant Writing Coordinator*

2020–2021 Activity Highlights

“If someone wants to help Haiti, they should go through organizations working in Child Protection, and especially those that are promoting family preservation and reunification.”

— Nicolas, LFBS Programs Manager



200+

Families provided with COVID-19 prevention kits & training



20

Different communities reached with community training post-earthquake¹



2656+

Families reached with emergency kits following the August 14th earthquake

¹ (in collaboration with local child protection network; on themes of earthquake preparedness/ safety; violence prevention; unintended pregnancy prevention; and psychosocial activities for children)

1. COVID-19 PREVENTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to affect Haiti over the last two years. Social distancing has been difficult for most families and the health care system continues to lack the capacity to handle the ongoing pandemic. As part of ongoing efforts to lessen the spread of COVID-19 in Southern Haiti, we delivered preventative training to over 200 families in rural communities over the course of 2021. The training covered subjects like the importance of proper

handwashing, mask-wearing and the steps that could be taken to lessen the risk of catching COVID-19. LFBS also provided them with prevention kits containing vital supplies like hand sanitizers, masks, anti-bacterial wipes and soaps.

LFBS' medical coordinator traveled from family to family across communities to provide this training. As the pandemic continues to affect Haiti, preventative measures will continue to be taken by LFBS staff.



2. EMERGENCY RELIEF FOLLOWING AUGUST 2021 EARTHQUAKE

On August 14th, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck approximately 150 kilometers west of Port-au-Prince. Les Cayes, the city where LFBS is located, was one of the hardest hit regions across Southern Haiti. Over 2000 individuals were killed during and after the earthquake, over 12 700 more were injured, and thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed. LFBS' staff were no exception, however despite losing friends and family members, and despite the damage done to their own homes, LFBS staff immediately began working to assist over 45 communities across Southern Haiti.

For months after the earthquake, often working almost all hours of the day, LFBS prepared and delivered emergency supply kits to vulnerable families and communities. The team's distribution reached 45 rural communities across Southern Haiti. LFBS was able to reach families that were previously untouched by aid workers or assistance. In many areas, our supplies and assistance were the first support

families received following the earthquake. Regions like Saut Mathurine, Pestel, Randell, Camp Perrin and Fermleblanc, are just a few of the many rural communities our team was able to assist thanks to our previous connections with community leaders and families that allowed us access to these vulnerable regions.

The supplies for these kits and the large-scale distribution that took place wouldn't have been possible without the partnerships LFBS had with other organizations like the Global Empowerment Mission, which provided thousands of supplies for LFBS to distribute to those in need. Other supplies were purchased in Les Cayes using funds donated by LFBS supporters specifically for earthquake relief - thereby investing in rebuilding the local economy while also providing emergency aid. Thanks to our partners, donors and the dedicated efforts of our team, LFBS was able to reach over 2656 families.

3. HAITIAN LEADERS IMPACT FUND

The recovery efforts following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti were largely led by international NGOs, and unfortunately in many cases were not as effective as many had hoped in the long term. In an effort to ensure the Haitian community is put first as they continue recovering from the devastating August 2021 earthquake, LFBS partnered with several partners, including BANJ, to form the Haitian Leaders Impact Fund (HLIF). The HLIF is dedicated to ensuring that Haitian entrepreneurs and community leaders are the ones providing direction in recovery efforts. By empowering Haitian leaders to invest in their communities and economies, we can help facilitate

support in a way that is more effective and sustainable.

Haitian entrepreneurs and groups of individuals are invited to submit their project applications to the HLIF. From the applications received, 25 projects will be selected to receive \$10,000 as well as investment and entrepreneurship coaching with BANJ. Over the last year, LFBS has been working with the HLIF's advisory council to ensure that the selected applicants will have the greatest chance of success, and that these funds will have a positive impact by supporting Haitian entrepreneurs and communities affected by the most recent earthquake.



4. COMMUNITY TRAININGS FOLLOWING AUGUST 2021 EARTHQUAKE

After the earthquake, hundreds of aftershocks continued affecting Southern Haiti. For the many families and individuals who were affected by the earthquake, these aftershocks became a repeated trauma they were forced to endure, affecting every aspect of their lives. Most significantly, these aftershocks led to a widespread fear of being indoors. In response, many Haitian families in the Southern Department began sleeping and living outside on mattresses or sheets, in the streets or outside of their homes. This situation quickly led to increased violence, sexual assault and robberies amongst those affected. Constant stress left an already vulnerable population divided and on edge - leaving children more vulnerable than ever.

As a member of the regional Child Protection Network “Groupe du Travail pour la Protection de l’Enfance” (GTPE-Sud), LFBS and other partners facilitated community trainings in over 20 different regions. Training was provided in earthquake safety and preparation, violence prevention, and - in light of the increased risk of sexual assault and sex work amongst Haitian girls and women - pregnancy prevention.

During these community trainings, GTPE also facilitated psychosocial activities with vulnerable children in each region to help them cope with the ongoing trauma and stress they had been experiencing since the earthquake. We continue working to assist those suffering from the earthquake at this time in addition to our regular programming.



5. INTERNAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

As LFBS continues to grow, we have been focusing on increasing our organizational structure and procedures to ensure we are providing the best possible support to the children and families we work with. Through a variety of trainings and workshops with our staff, LFBS is creating new procedures, protocols and tools for the documentation of our processes to reinforce staff capacity.

Facilitated by Fara, LFBS’ Child Protection Consultant, as well as Angelo, LFBS’ Administrator, workshops with the staff have focused on case management, preparing schedules, and updated accounting procedures. Training to reinforce staff education and capacity have also taken place. This increased focus on capacity and organizational development will help LFBS staff more effectively and efficiently provide aid to families and communities throughout Southern Haiti while gaining independence in their work.

Our Vision



“Every child in Haiti grows up in a safe, loving and self-sustaining family, supported by empowered, informed and secure communities.”

Our Mission

LFBS empowers vulnerable families that have been separated, or who are at risk of separation, by supporting local protection authorities in building a stronger child protection network. LFBS works to keep families together by addressing the root causes of separation and poverty through programming in child well-being and development, family and community development, advocacy of child rights, and medical outreach.

WHAT WE DO

We support vulnerable children and youth to regain their physical and mental health, to access educational opportunities, and to reconnect with their families. We empower families toward a future of dignity and self-sufficiency. We reinforce the child protection and deinstitutionalization efforts of Haitian authorities.

WHY WE DO IT

Over 80% of children in orphanages have living families. They are “poverty orphans”, separated because their families can’t afford to care for them. Over 750 orphanages exist in Haiti – most of which are “for-profit” businesses, exploiting children in order to receive foreign aid. Only 4.6% of those orphanages meet the minimum standards of care according to the Haitian government.

Children raised in institutions are 6 times more likely to be a victim of violence and 500 times more likely to commit suicide (compared to children raised in families). Children should not be separated from their families due to poverty.

Children living in corrupt orphanages, the streets, or the restavec (modern slavery) system are all easily exploited because they have been separated from their families. However – when children are separated from their families, there is a reason for it. To truly change these children’s lives we must not only reunite them with their families, but also address the issue that caused separation in the first place. This is why following up with family mediation and strengthening, while facilitating preventative efforts in vulnerable communities, is so important.

HOW WE DO IT

The secret to our work is the passion and dedication of our staff. Our team of local employees continually receive training to reinforce their capacity, yet their personal investment in our work is what makes the impossible possible. We work very closely with local Haitian authorities such as Haitian Social Services (IBESR), the Child Protection Brigade of the local police (BPM), and the Ministry of Women’s Rights (MCFDF).

Our main focus is on family reunification of children who have been separated from their families. This includes children living in corrupt orphanages, children living in the streets, restavecs (modern slaves), victims of sexual assault, lost and abandoned children. When referred by local authorities, we receive these children in our Transitional Safehouses while their families are being traced or a long term placement (such as a foster family) is being prepared. During their temporary stay in our Transitional Safehouses, children receive nutritious meals, medical care, counseling, literacy tutoring, life skills training, and a safe space.

Once children have been reunited with their families, we continue to follow up with them. We provide access to education, vocational skills, small businesses, agricultural development, and medical care for vulnerable families in order to empower them to care for their children, and to ensure their children have the opportunity for a brighter future.

Together with local authorities, we facilitate community training for the prevention of violence and exploitation. We work alongside community leaders to ensure those workshops have a long lasting impact. We raise awareness globally about the value and effectiveness of deinstitutionalization, and the importance of ensuring that international aid truly helps – not harms – children.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We have lengthy, strong and respected relationships with the people, families, communities and partners we work with. Our team is deeply invested in our work. Our staff are Haitian, led by our Cofounder/Head of Haiti Operations who lives and works alongside them. We work closely alongside local authorities such as Haitian Social Services and the Child Protection Brigade of the local police and support their initiatives. Our programs have a vast geographical reach as we follow up with families wherever they’ve been reunited - which has brought us to over 25 different communities across Haiti. We continually strive to improve and better serve the Haitian community – which means we are continually learning from our beneficiaries, as they are the experts on their own needs. Our intervention for each child is personalized, based on their own situation, needs and dreams. Our focus is being a catalyst for sustained change.



Our Newly Defined Programs:

LFBS Thematic Areas:

1. CHILD WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT

We focus on physical and emotional well-being of vulnerable children and youth while providing them with access to education, including vocational learning opportunities. Our transitional safehouses provide protection and healing for children who are separated from their families and in need of temporary placement before being reunited. This is key in reinforcing the capacity of local authorities to react when children are in dangerous situations.

2. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our outreach programs help empower vulnerable families by providing the training and resources they need to preserve the family unit. This may include assistance with family mediation, medical care, access to safe housing, and development of income generating activities such as agriculture or small businesses. Empowering families strengthens communities.

3. ADVOCACY OF CHILD RIGHTS

In collaboration with Haitian authorities we raise awareness against child abuse and abandonment. We work to protect and empower victims of abuse and exploitation, changing Haiti's child protection landscape and advocating globally.

4. MEDICAL OUTREACH

Vulnerable children who cannot afford medical care are either identified when our staff visit a local hospital or through a referral from local authorities. This helps to prevent abandonment and separation by providing care to families who cannot afford care themselves



LFBS Programs:

1. FAMILY TRACING, MEDIATION & REUNIFICATION

In the family tracing, mediation and reunification program we work with local authorities to trace and reunify children with their families or to provide alternative family based care. These children are often rescued from emergency situations, including corrupt and abusive institutions that authorities are shutting down, domestic slavery, and dangerous street conditions. Our transitional safehouses operate 24-hours a day and serve as a temporary placement to provide protection and healing out of these situations while children's families are being traced.

2. EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Our Education & Vocational Training programming provides support to children in primary and secondary school, through to the post-secondary level. This includes basic education support for school registration, tuition, uniforms, books, and literacy tutoring. Additionally, we provide older youth or parents with vocational and trades training. We help coordinate apprenticeships and provide support with fees for practical training costs and required materials. When necessary, we support the medical, housing and nutritional needs of the children and youth in this program stream in order to ensure they can pursue their academic success without interruption.

3. INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

Addressing the root causes of separation involves a variety of programming initiatives to support Haitian families with training and resources to preserve the family unit and pursue self-sufficiency. LFBS runs two initiatives that promote income generation; our business start up programming and agriculture and livestock farming programming.

Our business startup programming empowers and provides tools for local individuals to create income generation opportunities for parents in addressing the goal of child separation.

Our agriculture and livestock farming programming promotes increased food security, personal health and well-being, and nutritional support through providing individuals training and support to manage their own livestock and grow their own food.

4. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

In the housing and assistance program, we endeavor to work together with families to complete housing repairs or build the necessary home units for families within our reunification program.

6. ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING

We work with Haitian government agencies and international organizations to educate, promote and activate change for children, women, men and families who are prone to abuse and exploitation. LFBS has become a recognized champion and change-agent for human rights in Haiti and around the world.

5. COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT

We work holistically with entire communities to raise awareness and facilitate community training in the prevention of violence and separation and promotion of community health and well-being.

7. EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Our emergency programming after disasters includes emergency kit distribution, supporting local child protection authorities in their response to protect children and prevent trafficking and separation, psychosocial support for separated children, and mobilizing and distributing supplies to address the needs of the most deeply affected survivors.



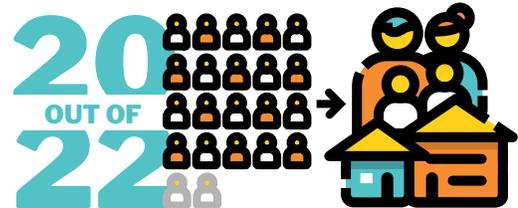
Our Results

During the fiscal year (2020 - 2021) a total of



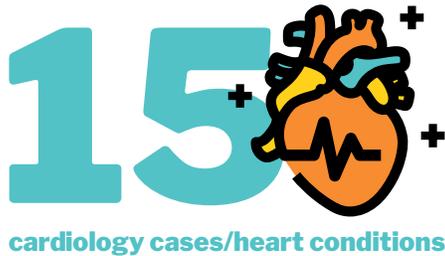
children came through our transitional safehouses

During the fiscal year we reunited



children who came to our safehouses with their families

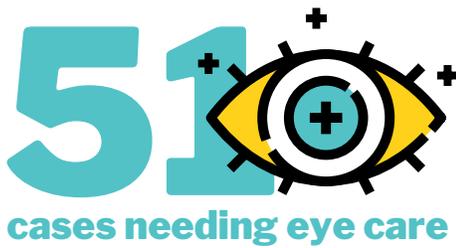
We provided **138** children with medical care, broken down as follows:



cardiology cases/heart conditions



pediatric consultations



cases needing eye care



surgical interventions



urology consultations



dermatology/skin conditions



gynecology cases



Meet Angelo ...LFBS' Administrator



“LFBS is different because you can actually create and give input, rather than just being told what to do.”

— Angelo, LFBS Administrator

Little Footprints Big Steps is overjoyed to welcome Angelo to our team! Angelo joined our team in July 2021 as LFBS' Administrator and has a wealth of experience working with other NGOs, including Plan International. Angelo was a highly sought after candidate and had a few offers on the table at the time of his recruitment; we are so grateful that he chose to work with us!

Angelo embodies all of the values of Little Footprints Big Steps, first in the way he is committed to his own family. Before joining the LFBS team, Angelo was working in Port-au-Prince while his mother, wife, and son were living in Les Cayes. Making the trip from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes has become quite dangerous as travelers pass through Martissant, a neighborhood that is a hot spot for kidnapping and gang activity. Angelo would make this risky trip every weekend, knowing the importance of being involved in and present with his family. When asked about why he wanted to join Little Footprints Big Steps, Angelo shared, “I want to be reunited with my own family.” He left a higher paying job to work with LFBS and to be with his family in the South.

Angelo also shared that he joined the LFBS team because he wants to leave his footprint and make a difference in the organization, the community, and ultimately in Haiti. He felt he could do this most with Little Footprints Big Steps – **“LFBS is different because you can actually create and give input, rather than just being told what to do.”**

Angelo transitioned seamlessly into a leadership role and his creative, solution-focused leadership style became evident after the earthquake hit in August 2021, just a month after he moved to the South and joined our organization. He joined the staff in outreach and distribution efforts, often leaving work after midnight just to return at six in the morning. Along with participating in these efforts, Angelo worked overtime and on weekends to hire a full-time accountant, to restructure the finance department, and to meet regularly with the Logistics Manager, all with the goal of creating utmost transparency within the organization.

While Angelo is committed to progress, he also values collaboration. He believes that an effective workplace is one where staff feel happy, comfortable, and are also held accountable. He works to acknowledge and validate team members when they are going above and beyond and sees positive reinforcement as a key leadership tool.

In December 2021, Angelo helped to plan and coordinate LFBS' 10-year anniversary celebration. While he was just five months into his position, he certainly did not appear that way. His passion and excitement for the mission of LFBS was evident throughout the celebration weekend.

Angelo is an incredible leader and visionary and we are immensely proud to have him as part of our team at Little Footprints Big Steps. Please join us in celebrating Angelo and welcoming him to the LFBS family!

Financials

Ensuring that expenditures are focused on children, families and key objectives is integral to the work and values of LFBS.

We are a Registered Canadian Charity under the Canadian Income Tax Act with CRA #84792 2101 RR0001 and in the United States as a 501(c)(3) 981224282.

Every dollar is accounted for and works toward making a difference – now and into the future. Our detailed expenditure reports are available upon request.

*Land Development Project donations and expenses are separated from funding for our programs and operations. Donations to our programs and services are not used for the land development project.

Fiscal Year Expenditures:

November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021

ADMINISTRATION:

\$160,412

Includes Haiti office expenses and supplies, banking/exchange fees, accounting, shipping, legal fees and staff wages.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY:

\$223,960

Includes transportation, housing support, staff wages, medical/dental, community education/training, communications, agriculture and Business Startup Program.

EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPENDITURES:

\$87,247

Includes tuition, uniforms, books, supplies, tutoring, vocational skills and staff training.

OPERATION OF SAFEHOUSES:

\$95,326

Includes food/water, rent, staff wages, maintenance, medical/dental, furnishings, clothing, recreational activities for children while in our Transitional Safehouses.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF:

\$71,252

Following the earthquake that hit Southern Haiti on August 14th 2021, our team provided emergency relief to communities affected. We will continue providing support, transitioning to long term recovery efforts focusing on housing, income generating opportunities, and mental health support.

*LFBS LAND/BLDG DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

\$1,357

Ensuring an efficient, sustainable future, we are building a permanent home for our offices, medical consultation clinic and Transitional Safehouses. We also use the land to produce food crops for use in our Transitional Safehouses and for distribution to vulnerable families. Funding for this work is separate from funding for LFBS programs and operations. General donations are not used toward the land development project, only those donations made specifically for construction will be used as such.





To our cherished donors, sponsors and supporters.

Thank you, to each and everyone of you.

FOR being such generous and consistent catalysts for real change.

FOR hosting and attending fundraising events.

FOR sharing information about our work.

FOR following us on social media.

FOR being part of our team, mobilizing children, youth and families toward a life of dignity and self sufficiency.

FOR caring.

Moving Forward

For the coming year, we will transition from emergency aid to long term recovery efforts in our response to the August 2021 earthquake. This will include focusing on rebuilding homes, livelihoods and a sense of stability for families affected by the natural disaster. As always, we will accompany Haitian Child Protection Authorities in their initiatives to ensure vulnerable children are protected during this time of increased risk.

Advocacy will continue to be an area of focus for LFBS, as we urge those involved in humanitarian aid and international development to (1) support children within their families and communities - not orphanages - so they have the chance to thrive; and (2) to take direction from (instead of dictating to) those they intend to help. The release of the film *Not About Me* and an accompanying Social Impact Campaign will utilize our co-founder's journey and the work of LFBS to encourage viewers to question their perspectives when it

comes to orphanage systems and the way we help others, encouraging informed generosity. The film producers and our co-founder have been developing discussion guides to lead meaningful conversations on these issues when the film is viewed in classrooms or community screenings.

Although we will continue with our regular programming, we will also continue creating the time to work on internal development, looking at ways to improve each of our organizational departments and programs. Thank you so much to all of our dedicated supporters, our incredible team and our dynamic partners for making this work possible!



YOU make the difference.
YOU can be a catalyst.

Donate:

\$20	<i>shoes</i>
\$40/mt	<i>tutoring</i>
\$60	<i>hospital visit</i>
\$100	<i>agriculture kit</i>
\$130	<i>livestock</i>
\$200 - \$300	<i>business start-up</i>
\$250 - \$500	<i>school tuition</i>

Share Us:

Spread awareness
Visit our website
Share this report
Host a fundraiser

Follow our Facebook page
Follow us on Instagram @lfbshaiti
Connect with us on LinkedIn

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