

# Nouvel **Fonkoze**

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1

The year of  
**SOLIDARITY**

Standing **shoulder to shoulder**

Dear Friend,

I am excited to share with you the first newsletter of 2018. In it, you will find inspirational stories of the clients you support through your generosity as well as snapshots of what donors, like you, are doing to support Fonkoze and eradicate poverty.

On my recent visit to Haiti, as I talked with our clients, laughed and joked with their children and listened to their stories about adversity and hope, I thought of you and how much you're an integral part of their journey to prosperity. I thought about your unwavering solidarity for our clients. Solidarity is a word often used in times of disaster or when an urgent cause suddenly arises – but for Fonkoze, it is so much more than that: It is a commitment to work together for as long as it takes. In fact, it is in our name. Did you know that FONKOZE is an acronym of three words? Fon (Fondasyon or Foundation) Ko (Kole or Stick Together) Ze (Zepòl or Shoulder), which translates to “Shoulder-to-Shoulder Foundation.” Your support of Fonkoze is so much more than merely a financial contribution or a retweet of support – you're providing the backing for women to continue pursuing the dreams that long have laid dormant in their hearts. You are the support they know exists when they face adversity – you are the one that won't allow them to stumble and fall.

I am not foolish to think that defeating poverty throughout Haiti will be easy – but here is what I can tell you, I lost my heart to Haiti because I see the resilience of its people. Every child who has recovered from severe acute malnutrition; every woman who has made a dollar more to support her family; every household that now has a latrine and a roof over its head is a living reminder about how much they've overcome and how much more they're going to accomplish. Haiti has impacted me in ways I can't express here, but I am convinced now more than ever that we all have an important role to play in this difficult, but achievable, mission to defeat poverty and I'm thrilled you're invested in this mission as well. Thank you for all you continue to pour into Haiti – movement in hope and solidarity will move mountains as we achieve success together.

With sincere gratitude,

Mabel Valdivia  
Executive Director  
Fonkoze USA



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## Modest beginnings, high hopes



Andreise Desir carries a basket of goods to sell at the local market.

Andreise Desir, 56, has been a Fonkoze client for nearly 18 years. She is a Solidarity-level client, which is the 3rd step of our “Staircase Out of Poverty” and our core microfinance program which provides joint loans to groups of five women (called Solidarity Groups). Andreise is a peer-elected leader (Center Chief) of her Solidarity Center (typically made up of 5 to 6 Solidarity groups in a common geographical area), named “Kole Zepòl” or “shoulder-to-shoulder”, and leads a total of ten groups.

Born and raised in Cays Jacmel, Haiti, she and her husband have six children, all girls, who are either attending universities in Port-au-Prince or holding professional jobs.

In Andreise's town, sending your children to university is a great (and almost unheard of) accomplishment as most of the population lives on very modest means. But Andreise and her husband have worked hard to create a better life for their family. He owns a small carpentry

**"My life is fulfilled."**

business making wooden chairs and she runs what's called a *boutik sante* (community health store) through Fonkoze's Boutik Sante health social enterprise program.

Andreise attributes the progress they've made to the financial backing and opportunities she has received from Fonkoze over the years. “My daughters are grown. One is a nurse and another is a computer programmer. I am so proud of them and they are all beautiful,” she smiles.

Andreise operates her *boutik sante* from her home where she is able to serve the small community with over-the-counter medication, hygiene products and more. “Fonkoze has done a lot for my family and me. Thanks to Fonkoze, my girls are educated, achieving the highest level of education that they wanted. Now, they want me to come live in Port-au-Prince to be nearer to them. My life is fulfilled.”

**Did You Know?**

There are over **2000** Fonkoze Solidarity Centers located throughout Haiti.



[Chemen Lavi Miyò]

Photos: Maxence Bradley



Manise Cinéus and her daughters in Lascahobas, Haiti

Despite living in ultra-poverty with her mom and baby sister, this little girl managed to find joy, if even for a moment, in the smallest thing (pictured left) - a vision of hope that will remain etched in the thoughts of our team who visited the family that day.

One of over 6000 families who have participated in our ultra-poverty program (CLM) since 2007, this family of three received guidance and support from their CLM case manager who worked closely with the mother, Manise, over the course of 18 months to help her generate income, build her confidence and other life skills on a weekly basis.

**Ultra-poverty is defined as an inability to meet even the barest of basic needs.** The ultra poor are typically food insecure, have few assets, lack education and suffer from poor health. The vast majority of ultra poor households are headed

by women. Ultra-poor women tend to be the victims of social exclusion and lack self-confidence or opportunities to build the skills and resilience necessary to change their own futures. Through CLM (Chemen Lavi Miyò, or *The Pathway to a Better Life*), though, women throughout rural Haiti are being empowered with the tools needed

"I was encouraged..."

to build sustainable livelihoods and the skills necessary to create a better life for their families.

After Actress Melanie Griffith visited CLM in 2016, she said, "I was encouraged by Fonkoze's approach, by the one-on-one accompaniment and training given to ultra-poor women, and by the success they are having 'graduating' these brave women and their families out of ultra-poverty."



### Online supporters run for Fonkoze

Hundreds of people, both new to and familiar with our work, raised awareness and funds for our November 2017 online Giving Tuesday campaign #Run4Fonkoze. Individuals walked, ran and biked in solidarity throughout the month of November to help us achieve our \$40K goal. We raised over \$55K!



### Paris, France sends their love & support

This group of talented athletes from Paris (left), led by pentathlete & world champion triathlete Charlotte Menard, ran the distance as a public display of solidarity for our work and the families we serve throughout Haiti. Charlotte herself ran 400 miles in the month of November for #Run4Fonkoze. That's a lot of miles!

WE ARE  
STANDING



TOGETHER



## Shoulder to Shoulder to defeat poverty



### Supporters go to the field to see our work

There is something very powerful about seeing hope at work, in person. Our Insight Trips give supporters a chance to see firsthand the impact their support is making and to meet the human beings that are directly affected.

### LA community gathers to raise awareness

Celebrities and non-celebrities alike attended our 2nd annual Hot Night in Haiti fundraiser, chaired by Fonkoze USA board member Marguerite Lathan, in support of our mission to empower rural Haitians to lift their families out of poverty. Their collective presence and voice at the event helped raise awareness in LA and beyond. Pictured above: Tina Knowles Lawson and her husband Richard Lawson is about to introduce Fonkoze's Spirit of Giving honorees Dana and Leah Pump.

Photos: Maxence Bradley



Saincia Tranquille standing in the middle of her own sugarcane field

Like Mazard Rovinsky (right) and Saincia Tranquille (above), thousands of small-scale entrepreneurs throughout Haiti are receiving the micro financing they need to create thriving businesses. As Fonkoze Business Development clients, they are able to take out individual 12-month loans that typically begin at \$1,300. These entrepreneurs are at the top of our "Staircase out of Poverty," working to

of our Staircase in CLM and managed to work her way up to Business Development. Her grit and determination paired with the financial services she has accessed over the years have helped her to be where she is today: A successful business owner who employs several members of her community.

"When you live in extreme poverty, you are a person who has fallen into a black hole," she says. "If you don't find someone to take your hand and help you out of this hole, this is where you will stay. There are many women today, in the same situation I was. And I would like to see those women climb the same staircase out of poverty."

► To see our video on Saincia, visit the "Client Stories" section of our website: [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org)

### "...into a black hole"

provide better lives for their families and enriching their communities through job creation.

Mazard has been able to grow his inventory and has seen a steady increase in business as a result.

Saincia started at the bottom

## [Business Development]



For over 23 years, we have been

empowering those who have felt powerless, lifting those who have fallen, instilling hope where it had been lost and reaching those who have been forgotten.

## [Discover Fonkoze]

### Did You Know?



**90%** of our branches are located in rural Haiti,

enabling us to bring poverty-defeating financial services and accompanying programs such as education, health, business skills training and more to the most underserved communities in the country. ► Discover Fonkoze and our impact: [fonkoze.org](https://fonkoze.org)

Photo: Maxence Bradley

### FONKOZE BRANCH LOCATIONS

#### Creole / French

Aken/Aquin  
Beladè / Belladère  
Belans/ Belle-Anse  
Bomon / Beaumont  
Boukankare / Boucan Carré  
Ench / Hinche  
Fòlibète / Fort Liberté  
Fondeblan / Fond-des-Blancs  
Fondwa / Fond-Oies  
Fonvèret / Fond Verrettes

#### Creole / French

Gantye / Ganthier  
Gonayiv / Gonâives  
Gwomòn / Gros Morne  
Jakmèl / Jacmel  
Janrabèl / Jean Rabel  
Jeremi / Jeremie  
Kabarè / Cabaret  
Lagonav / La Gônave  
Latwazon / La Toison  
Lavale / La Vallée

#### Creole / French

Lenbe / Limbé  
Leyogàn / Léogane  
Marigo / Marigot  
Mibalè / Mirebalais  
Milo / Milot  
Miragwàn / Miragòane  
Montòganize / Mont Organisé  
Okap / Cap-Haïtien  
Okay / Les Cayes  
Okoto / Les Coteaux

#### Creole / French

Piyon / Pignon  
Pòdpè / Port-de-Paix  
Pòmago / Port Margot  
Ponsonde / Pont Sondé  
Pòtoprens / Port-au-Prince  
San Rafayèl/Saint-Raphaël  
Sen Michèl /  
St. Michel de Lattalaye  
Sodo / Saut d'Eau  
Tirivyè d'Artibonit / Petite  
Rivière de l'Artibonite

#### Creole / French

Tirivyè d'Nip / Petite Rivière  
de Nippes  
Tomonn / Thomonde  
Twen / Trouin  
Twoudinò / Trou-du-Nord  
Tyòt / Thiotte  
Wanament / Ouanaminthe

### FONKOZE FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Ways **YOU** can make a real difference today

Your gift to Fonkoze helps us to empower women throughout rural Haiti every year!

► **Make a tax-deductible contribution.**

Your gift is more important than ever! Visit [give.fonkoze.org](http://give.fonkoze.org) to make a secure online contribution or send a check payable to **Fonkoze USA to 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20009.**

► **Give through the employer matching gift program.**

Submit your company's matching gift form with your donation, and Fonkoze USA will process and return it to your employer. Or, send us your donation first, then present your acknowledgment letter to your employer for processing a match.

► **Give through the CFC.** Fonkoze USA participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Designate your contribution to Fonkoze USA, CFC ID # 31204.

► **Remember a loved one.** Give a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. Provide the details via our online giving form at [give.fonkoze.org](http://give.fonkoze.org), and Fonkoze will notify your honoree on your behalf with a beautiful card.

## Leave a Lasting Legacy for Fonkoze and Haiti

Join us in working shoulder to shoulder for a better Haiti – where rural Haitians can participate in their country's development, and where families have access to poverty-defeating financial services, education, healthcare and more.

**Leave a lasting legacy** towards rural economic development in Haiti by becoming a member of the **Fonkoze USA Shoulder-to-Shoulder Society.**

To find out how to make bequests to Fonkoze, contact Mabel Valdivia, Fonkoze USA Director, at 202-628-9033 or [mvaldivia@fonkoze.org](mailto:mvaldivia@fonkoze.org).

Please visit our website, [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org), for more information on how you can support our work.

### Did You Know?



**Fonkoze USA** continues to be recognized as a highly rated non-profit, with a strong commitment to transparency and dedication to effective stewardship of the donations we receive.