

# Nouvel Fonkoze

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1



## The World & Rural Haiti

*Attaining **Shared Dreams** Through  
Empowering Opportunities*

# The World & Haiti

*Shared dreams and the opportunities in place to reach them*

## We're working to shorten

the distance between having dreams of a better life and having the opportunities needed to achieve them. Today, hundreds of thousands of families in Haiti are able to reach for theirs as a result.

*"...to be healthy and safe."*

*"...to be able to succeed."*

*"...to get a good education."*

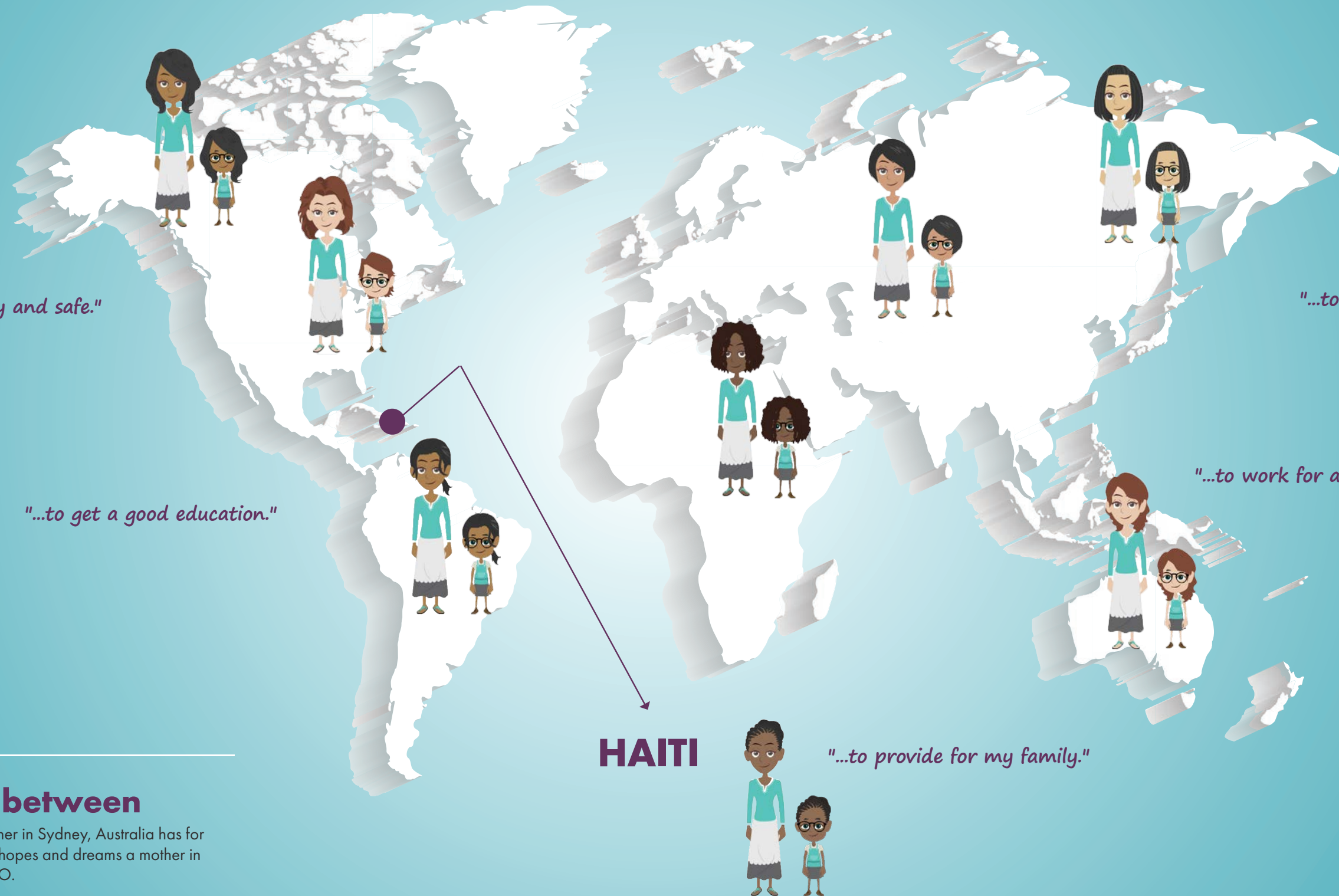
*"...to work for a brighter future."*

**HAITI**

*"...to provide for my family."*

## The distance between

the hopes and dreams a mother in Sydney, Australia has for her children's future, and the hopes and dreams a mother in rural Haiti has for hers is ZERO.



**N**o matter where they are from, any mother or father will tell you that their children are their world, their most prized possession, for whom they would move heaven and earth to ensure their success let alone their survival. As a mother of two bright, ambitious and growing girls (ages eight and twelve) myself, I know this to be true. My husband and I would do everything within our power to ensure our girls are safe, healthy and happy.

As you will read in this newsletter, Mytha Raymond from Haiti's Central Plateau is no different. Her decision to join our ultra-poverty alleviation program -- CLM -- was undoubtedly driven by a desire to give her children a chance at a better life. When asked what she would like her future to look like, she said, "I would like to be able to take care of my children even better than I am now." Like Mytha, hundreds of thousands of our clients across Haiti are working hard to break the cycle of poverty so that their children can look forward to a brighter future.

Opportunity is key. Through our Staircase Out of Poverty programs, mothers like Mytha have access to life skills training, resources and support that empowers them to rise above their situation. Her desire to provide a better life for her family was always there, but she didn't have a viable way to do so until our CLM team - opportunity - came knocking at her door.

We thank you for making our work possible!

With gratitude,



Mabel Valdivia  
Executive Director  
Fonkoze USA



25 yrs

## *Fonkoze's Anniversary Celebration*

# SAVE THE DATE

**September 21, 2019**

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner

RSVP Required

**The Biltmore Hotel**

1200 Anastasia Avenue

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Black Tie Attire

*Formal Invitation & Sponsorship  
Opportunities to Follow*



## Change in Progress

**CLM** is Fonkoze's 18-month Graduation Approach program for women & persons with disabilities living in ultra-poverty.

► [fonkoze.org](https://fonkoze.org)



Mytha Raymond

After entering the program, things started to get better for me. My life was not the same," said Mytha Raymond. The ongoing life skills training CLM is providing Mytha is empowering her to go from barely surviving to living a productive life with hope for her family's future.

Mytha's neighbors have even noticed a significant change. "A few people have come by asking me questions," she smiled. "Before CLM, I had nothing. Now I have three healthy goats, a pig and a chicken. My business is running well," she continued. In addition to generating food and income, livestock are a

valuable asset to families living in extreme poverty because they serve as a store of wealth, collateral for credit and are an essential safety net during times of crisis.

When asked what she would like her future to look like, she said, "I would like to be able to take care of my children even better than I am now. I hope CLM continues. If you are at zero, it will help you get to one."

At the time of this interview, Mytha had been in our ultra-poverty alleviation program CLM for six months. Stay tuned for updates on Mytha's progress as she works to meet all of the program's 18-month graduation requirements.

*Pictured Above:* Mytha's oldest daughter reigns in their livestock before heading off to school. **Top right:** Mytha's home that she helped to build with the CLM team's support. **Bottom right:** Members of Fonkoze USA's team and Mytha's CLM Case Manager Guerchon make their way on foot to reach Mytha in Haiti's Central Plateau.



Photos: Maxence Bradley

**A Loving Father  
and Husband,  
Gary was *drawn*  
to those in need.  
In Solidarity,  
he stood with  
the poor *by*  
empowering them  
with the tools  
needed to change  
their lives.**

# *A Tribute to* **Gary Becker**



**T**ogether, with his wife Mary, Gary Becker found solidarity in the people Fonkoze serves. From the ultra-poor to those on the brink of extreme poverty, he believed that people, no matter their situation, could change their lives - if empowered with the tools to do so.

He lived out this belief by supporting Fonkoze's empowering programs for over 16 years until his passing in June 2018. Through their personal and financial investments in Fonkoze USA and Fonkoze Financial Services, Gary and his wife have brought hope to thousands and have helped to advance Fonkoze's mission even during some of the most difficult of times - such as the 2010 Haiti Earthquake.

Gary's generosity extended beyond his financial support. Both he and his wife served on Fonkoze USA's board for over ten years, carving out countless hours from their busy schedules to raise awareness and support for Fonkoze's work. Through their professional and spiritual circles, he and Mary generated thousands of dollars over the years in grants and investments, helping to strengthen Fonkoze as an organization; enabling it to carry out its on-the-ground work.

In honor of Gary's long-time commitment to standing in solidarity with the women and families Fonkoze empowers, Fonkoze USA has created the Gary Becker Solidarity Circle to commemorate his life. To learn more about this giving Circle, visit [fonkoze.org/givingcircles.html](https://fonkoze.org/givingcircles.html)



**Gary Becker**  
1939-2018

Photo: Maxence Bradley

## A Picture of Resilience

**Solidarity** is Fonkoze's core microfinance program, providing group loans that enable micro-entrepreneurs to expand their businesses.

► [fonkoze.org](https://fonkoze.org)

From a factory seamstress who was barely able to make ends meet to a micro-entrepreneur who now owns a growing soft drink business, Louis Heureuse is a living picture of resilience and hope.

Even from a young age, she had always dreamt of owning her own business, but the lack of opportunities and resources made it difficult for her to realize this dream. To get by, she worked as a seamstress for many years, saving what little she made to eventually be able to buy enough inventory to finally start her business.

Under the hot Haiti sun, Louis spent long hours every day selling drinks at the local market, but every minute to her was worth it. Her drinks were in high demand, and she was starting to make more than enough to get by. Louis soon realized, though, that she wasn't able to restock her inventory quickly enough to keep up with the demand. That is when she decided to join Fonkoze's core micro-lending Solidarity program.

With the micro-loans and business skills training Louis receives from Fonkoze, she is able to keep her inventory stocked and grow her business. "The loans I've received have helped me to take care of my children, build my house and run a successful soft drink depot. I thank Fonkoze for never giving up on me."

Louis is one of more than **64,000 women** currently in Fonkoze's Solidarity program.



## Invest in Hope.

When you donate to Fonkoze, you are *investing* in our *hope* driven work to empower rural families to overcome poverty.





**Fonkoze**

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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 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-alleviating 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**, 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.