HAITI PROJECT, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

VASSAR HAITI PROJECT
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDEES
4 LETTER FROM STUDENT PRESIDENT
5 MISSION & GOALS
6 HOW WE WORK
7 BOARD MEMBERS
8 DONORS & PARTNERS
12 HIGHLIGHTS
22 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
LETTER FROM
THE CO-FOUNDE

This was the year it all seemed possible: 2017-2018.

We have, for the 18 years of the Vassar Haiti Project, had the dream of long-term health and sustainability, or put another way, to one day set up a structure such that some time (way) in the future the two of us can walk away and the wonderful work of this organization will continue on without us. What is required for that to happen? Practically speaking there are at minimum these components: 1) for the student leadership to fully “own” our three-pronged mission, 2) for the full Board and Medical Advisory Boards to function at optimal capacity, 3) for projects on the ground to be working, 4) to successfully interweave the learnings and experiences of this work with Vassar academics, and 5) to develop an income stream healthy enough to support a full-time executive director and his or her assistant.

Well, the students are there. We are surrounded, pushed, elevated, and nurtured by an extraordinary union of students of all backgrounds, come together with shared purpose and passion to make positive change in the world and among one another. They “own” the work fully, such that they are side by side with us determining our pathway forward.

Our Boards are also in good hands. With many thanks to Danny Aronzon, MD, for getting our Medical Advisory Board off the ground and for pushing us to strengthen and professionalize our full board, both are fully operational and properly aligned with and embracing of the missions of VHP.

Real progress is happening in Haiti, and is highlighted in the pages of this report. So much of this progress is due to the commitment, persistence, care, and wisdom of our partner Père André Wildaine.

A shining example of these three elements this past year was our annual gala for the clinic, “Art and Soul.” Our medical clinic now has a functional staff, is financial sustainable, and now serves 3,000 patients a year from 40+ villages, spread two or three hours walk into the mountains. We had the joy and privilege at this gala of being able to honor at this event the great humanitarian, Dr. Paul Farmer. This year’s gala was by far the most successful on three levels, in terms of money raised, attendance, and affirmation of the life-saving work happening at the clinic in Fiervil, Haiti. The Medical Advisory Board planned the event and did a phenomenal job in developing sponsorships. The students, some 40 of them, participated in every aspect of the event from setup to cleanup. And the Fiervil clinic physician, Gueslin Joassainvil, MD, was present, not only able to connect with Dr. Farmer but to feel the palpable swell of support for his important work in Haiti.

And we are at work and making progress – perhaps halfway home – in numbers 4 and 5!

All of this, and all we do in the Vassar Haiti Project, is with thanks to the efforts of each of you who act in support of our work. Whether it is through a painting purchase, a ticket to our gala, a secondary school sponsorship, or an outright donation, we are so appreciative of your support and our continued ability to do our work!

With love,
Andrew and Lila Meade
Co-founders, Vassar Haiti Project
If I tried to capture the essence of the Vassar Haiti Project in the last year, I would say: big things happen to small projects, pushing them to get bigger. This annual report goes beyond the tale of our student leaders. It captures stories from our partners in Chermaitre, and our partners in Port-au-Prince, and from our project's guardian in Haiti, Père André Wildaine. We never lose sight that without the community leaders with which we partner, the community members who inform us, and the hosts who take us in their homes and into their hearts, VHP would cease to exist. To that end, I invite you to read further, to read about things that are exciting but also to read in the silences, the silhouettes, the stories that remain unsaid. Thank you for your support all these years. Your recognizing that our organization can make big things happen is what makes our work possible.

-- Udbhav Agarwal (Class of 2018, Student Co-President)
Mission & Goals

Mission Statement:
The Vassar Haiti Project is a unique, award winning experiential education in the theory and practice of global citizenship.

Goals:
Founded in 2001, the Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) engages students in a life-changing experiential education in global citizenship, promoting Haitian art and fostering sustainable development in Haiti. In addition to the purchase and sale of original Haitian art, VHP’s contributions are guided by five initiatives in the mountain village of Chermaitre.

- With a strong educational component, we are dedicated both to raising awareness of Haitian culture and society in the US and elsewhere, and to providing a hands-on, practical education in global citizenship.
- Through art auctions and sales, we directly support the welfare of hundreds of Haitian artists and artisans.
- These art sales in turn provide a means of support for funding education, healthcare, water access and purification, reforestation, and women’s initiatives in Chermaitre, a mountain village in the Northwest department of Haiti.
HOW WE WORK

Vassar College students work closely with co-founders Andrew and Lila Meade on a weekly basis to prioritize the goals of the organization and organize events.

Our work in Haiti is three-fold:
1) We mentor students and community volunteers in global citizenship
2) We buy and sell artwork from Haitian artists
3) We use the funds generated by these sales to support sustainable development in the rural mountainous community of Chemaitre.

Through dialogue with our partners in Haiti, we work to effect positive changes in education, health care, reforestation and water purification, as well as women’s livelihoods.

The Haiti Project, Inc. works as the conduit through which funds flow to and from Haiti. The Vassar Haiti Project supports educational programs and mentors students in partnership with The Haiti Project Inc. We achieve our mutually determined goals through the energy, passion and integrity of Vassar College students.

And of course, YOU, our loyal customers and donors, make ALL of the above happen! As we say in Haitian Creole, mesi anpil!
BOARD MEMBERS

Student Executive Board
Udbhav Agarwal '18
Lindsey Coffee-Johnson '20
Daniel Elendu '19
Kidus Girma '18
Alan Gutierrez '18
Ayumi Haremaki '20
Christine Lederer '19
Serena Lee '18
Ruoyu Li '19
Kate Ma '18
Gabriela Mandeville '19
Sophia Massie '20
Linh Nguyen '19
Samuel O’Keefe '20
Sabrina Perry '20
Grace Roebuck '20
Eilif Ronning '20
Oshin Tahsin '19
Makeba Walcott '19
Phebe Warren '20

Board of Directors
Danny Aronzon, MD
Jackie Eiting
Caryn Halle
Fiona Koch
Andrew Meade
Lila Meade
Debbie Pham
David Schwartz
New for 2018:
Ernest Barthélemy, MD
Daniel Katz, MD

Medical Advisory Board
Danny Aronzon, MD
Nancy Belok
Sal Buffa, MD
Diane Ciatello, MD
David Cho, MD
Ingrid Dodard, MD
Rich Friedland, MD
Ethan Gundeck, MD
Kim Heller, MD
Dan Katz, MD
Gabriela Mandeville '19
Serena Lee '18
Andrew Meade, PhD
Lila Meade