



BUILDING ALLIANCES FOR A BETTER HAITI

The Build Haiti Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

January 2017

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BHF Quarterly Newsletter: 1st Qtr. 2017

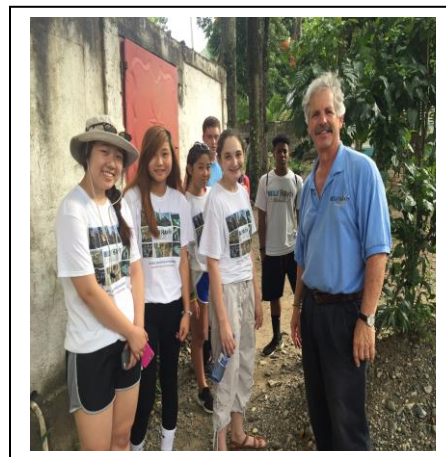
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2016 Global Leadership Program in Review!

In 2016, the program has moved in leaps and bounds. One of the

initiatives that we have been working on in parallel with the GLP program is the Sister City program which you can learn more about in the Cap-Haitien "Sister City (CHSC) Agreement Signed!" article.



A group of 12, which doubled our capacity from the previous year, traveled to Haiti as students and professionals in support of the program. With the signing of the

Sister City agreement between Cap-Haitien and Columbia which makes Cap-Haitien Columbia's fourth sister city, The Columbia Association (CA) recognizes the BHF GLP as one of the four cultural exchange programs after Cergy Pontoise in France, Tres Cantos in Spain and Tema in Ghana. BHF values its partnership with CA as the two organizations continue to collaborate to promote culture and diversity, traits for which Columbia and Howard County are known. Other Collaboration of importance include the Caribbean Fest, the Language Café and the International and Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) which are geared towards promoting language skills and multiculturalism respectively.

BHF's objective with the GLP program is to rally an

international audience, including the Haitian Diaspora and friends of Haiti, around issues faced by Haitian people. We want to take the concept of global citizenship and make it a reality by engaging diverse stakeholders and transform them into active consumers in philanthropy. We count on your generosity to make this program a success. Your donations are accepted online or you may simply write to us at our address below.

Sister City Agreement – Signed!

Five years ago, BHF started on this long journey to establish a sister city relationship between Cap-Haitien, Haiti and Columbia, MD. The goal of this relationship is to form connections between the two communities that are mutually beneficial and which address issues that are most relevant for partners. BHF believes the partnership will create a bridge of communication that allows both Haitians and friends of Haiti to become more engaged in affairs that concern the two cities. The city of Columbia, located between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., is a city that is proud of its diversity. and has always been interested in cultural exchanges with other cities around the world. With the signing of this agreement, Cap-Haitien is Columbia's fourth Sister City after Cergy Pontoise in France, Tres Cantos in Spain and Tema in Ghana. Cap-Haitien, with a

wealth of well-preserved French colonial architecture, is the largest center of Haiti's historical monument, including the Citadelle Laferriere, a UNESCO heritage site and is also considered the largest fortress in the Americas.



On July 13, 2016, the Columbia, MD delegation headed by Mr. David Weeks, seven student ambassadors and Build Haiti Foundation's President, Jean-Robert Anantua, joined the Mayor, Jean-Claude Mondesir, his staff and other Cap-Haitien dignitaries to commemorate this joyous occasion. As part of the festivities, a reception was held the day after to seal the event. Represented at the event was academia, politicians and other city VIP's. The culmination of this event is mainly due to the CHSC committee, without whom this effort would be in vain. BHF has led this effort from the beginning and has invested well over 20 trips between Cap-Haitien and USA to make this happen. We are grateful to our partners for investing their time to meet with us and explore projects and activities we plan to undertake together. BHF and the Cap-

Haitien Sister City Committee (CHSCC) looks forward to working with the Cap-Haitien Rotary Club, College Notre-Dame du Cap-Haitien, Universite Roi Henri Christophe, Konbit Sante, Cap-Haitien City Hall and the Mayor, to name a few. We are particularly grateful to the following individuals for all their support: Mr. Jean-Claude Mondesir (Cap-Haitian Mayor), Tony Marcelli (former President of the Fort Lauderdale Sister City), Mr. Yvon Alteon (former Mayor), Odule Augustin (President of Cap-Haitien Sister City), Laura Smit (Program Manager, Columbia Association), Valerie Montague (International Multicultural Advisory Committee Chair), Rosny Felix (Professor, College Notre-Dame), Frantzdy Jean (Director of Service, Cap-Haitien City Hall).

BHF is proud of this achievement which we hope will become a catalyst for exchanges and other development initiatives. Today, BHF stands firm and proud with its partner, the Columbia Association, to make this announcement and is committed to work with the Sister City Committee (CHSC).

Community Building – The Snowball Effect

It is true that we often take for granted what others have shed blood and tears to put in place. As we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., the civil right leader, who was slain forty-nine years ago fighting

for equality for all races, we realize that although progress has been made, the challenges are still hard to overcome without someone laying the foundation. When he said: "I may not get there with you", he understood that the importance of laying the ground work so that whoever comes after him would have a lighter load to carry and get there faster. The Build Haiti Foundation is helping to do just that: lay the ground work that will make it easier for those who come after us. Over the past several months, we have been on a mission to work with those who can help accelerate progress.

Meeting with Haitian

Ambassador, Paul Altidor – Last November, BHF President, Jean-Robert Anantua, met with Haitian Ambassador to brief him on the foundation's initiatives as it relates to its sister city, Global Leadership and Diaspora Support and Advocacy Programs. Mr. Altidor expressed great support and requested that we continue our dialogue and ensured that the Embassy stands ready to help in any way that it can. Mr. Anantua, in his optimism, shared his vision with the Ambassador to, like other progressive community, pave the way for the Haitian community to have resources they can turn to when they have need to address their issues, including immigration, domestic violence, job search, social services, access to healthcare, etc.

Meeting with Oakland Mills

Village Board – In early December, BHF along with other community organizations participated in a meeting with members of the Oakland Mills Village board to explore partnership opportunities to address the needs of all Columbia residents. As we have come to learn, the Oakland Mills Village is home to a large number of Haitians and the board has expressed some interest in working with BHF to help address the needs of the Haitian community. The immigrant population grapples with a wide range of issues. One of the most tragic is language barrier which puts the kids in the front line as parents feel inadequate and force their kids to deal with grown-up issues prematurely. The meeting ended optimistically with both parties offering full support to work collaboratively and address the needs of the community. As a starting point, BHF has invited the community to participate in its upcoming Haiti Fest event where the organization will seek to engage each member participant based on their interest while seeking to gain broader access and assess their needs.

This is what we term the "snowball effect". The strategy is to continually seek to build partnerships with center of influence organizations (COI) that will help us build a stronger community at a much faster rate. We encourage all of our readers to think in those terms and reach out to us. Our needs are wide

ranging, including financial, expertise, etc. We cannot do the work alone. We count on all of you to support in ways that you find most feasible. To make a donation, please visit:

<http://thebuildhaitifoundation.org/get-involved/make-a-contribution/>.

HAITI FEST – CELEBRATING CAP- HAITIEN, OUR SISTER CITY

The community came together to celebrate Columbia's newest Sister City of Cap-Haitien, Haiti. This was a free event offering an afternoon of Haitian music, art display, dance performances and refreshments. The event took place on:

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2017

TIME: 3:30 - 5:30 PM

LOCATION: SLAYTON HOUSE

10400 CROSS FOX LANE,

COLUMBIA, MD 21044

PHONE: 410-730-3987



What an afternoon this was! Haitian drummer, David Balthazar, welcomed 406 guests into the Slayton House auditorium for an uplifting

celebration of Haitian culture and the signing of the newest Sister City agreement between Columbia and Cap-Haitien. Master of Ceremonies, Valerie Montague, Chair of CA's International and Multicultural Advisory Committee welcomed the audience to this auspicious occasion and introduced the speakers and performing artists. Dave A. Fils-Aime, representative of the Haitian embassy, brought warm greetings from His Excellency, Ambassador Paul Altidor and Calvin Ball, Vice Chair of the Howard County Council, championed the value of diversity and the Haitian culture as well as extended greetings from his Council with a reading of a Howard County resolution honoring the signing of this Sister City agreement. Representing the Columbia Association, Michelle Miller delivered her welcoming remarks followed by those of Momina Malik, Chair of the Cap-Haitien Sister City Committee. Special appreciation was extended to Grace Chang and Laura Smit, International Exchange and Multicultural Program Coordinators for their tireless Sister City efforts. Supporting the needs of the Haitian victims of Hurricane Matthew gave more purpose to this gathering and Bob Anantua, President of the Build Haiti Foundation, spoke of the impact of the Hurricane on Haitians. He explained that contributions collected at this event would be sent to the Boniface Hospital in southern Haiti. David Weeks, Board Chair for the Build Haiti

Foundation and Director of the Global Leadership Program in Haiti, spoke about the value of this Program and invited the guests to learn more about it by visiting a table dedicated to it in the lobby of Slayton House. After these presentations were concluded, the entertainment started with David Balthazar's drumming and progressed to include the Haitian folk dancing of Les Belles Danseuses. Directed to her children, Soledad Bolig delivered a moving poem honoring Haiti's heritage and provided a lively, interactive rendition of the song Yellow Bird with David Balthazar's accompaniment. Following her performance the audience enjoyed a "taste" of Haitian food and art work. Raffle tickets were sold for Haitian relief and books purchased from Haitian author Franz Derenoncourt Jr. More focused attention was given to the Build Haiti Foundation's mission and its Global Leadership Program with visits to its table in the lobby. As Columbia prepares to recognize its 50th anniversary in the spring, Haitian culture will continue to be celebrated now that it has been embraced with this Sister City event. To share the joy and fun this event brought to the community, you may click on the following link to view the pictures:

<https://goo.gl/photos/FHDSeBGbfdUBDxWp8>

Please contact us with your questions by emailing us at: info@thebuildhaitifoundation.org

Community Happenings

Global Leadership Program – Info Session



About GLP: BHF GLP is designed for students and professionals looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. The goal is to provide life-changing experiences that cultivates global perspective and open-mindedness which ultimately inspire participants to become great leaders and thinkers that seek to make global impacts.

GLP Info Session 2

Date: February 23, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Columbia Association Headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, Columbia 21046

GLP Info Session 3

Date: March 30, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Columbia Association Headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, Columbia 21046

Haiti Related News

[reputation-un-says?CMP=share_btn_link](#)

United Nations admits for first time that peacekeepers brought cholera to Haiti

"Mwen mande nou padon"*, said Ban Ki-Moon, former UN Chief. He also indicated that the deadly outbreak that killed up thousands 'leaves a blemish' on United Nations' reputation, ending six years of refusing to claim responsibility. Some critics said that the amount of money in this proposal appears to be low for the mammoth task that is necessary to eradicate cholera in Haiti. Indeed, to achieve that objective every single

commune; i.e. town (there are about 140 in Haiti) will need to have: a) its own water storage and distribution system, b) its own wastewater collection and treatment facility. c) its own lined landfill to receive the solids after their separation from the liquid effluent. The costs alone for those infrastructure components, excluding compensation to the families of the victims, are likely to be much higher the total amount (400 million) proposed.

See article below for full access to the apology:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/dec/01/haiti-cholera-outbreak-stain-on->

The Build Haiti Foundation: Who We Are

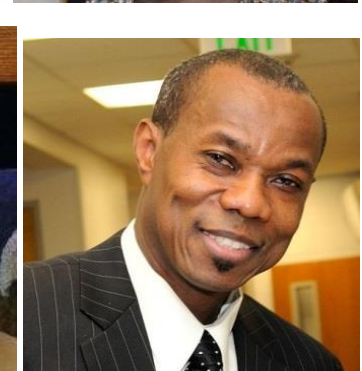
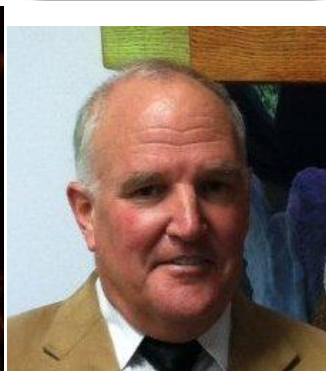
The Build Haiti Foundation (BHF) was conceived by a group of passionate Haitian entrepreneurs who were looking to make an impact in the lives of Haitians and their communities. BHF's mission is to empower the Haitian people, both domestically and within Haiti, with the necessary resources to improve their quality of life and to help shape the future well-being of the country. In Haiti, BHF supports programs in environmental sustainability, education, and healthcare while providing training and professional development to encourage decentralization efforts. For members of the Haitian diaspora, BHF serves as a platform to rally Haitians and friends of Haiti towards completion of BHF's organizational goals. BHF's success is credited largely to sponsors, volunteers, and community partners who provide time, talent, and financial support. We are grateful to our benefactors and patrons and look forward to working collaboratively towards the successful achievement of our 2016 strategic goals and outcomes.



Jean-Robert Anantua
President, CEO

Meet the Board

(From left to right) David Weeks, Alex Lilavois, Oletha Devane,
Momina Malik, Larr Newman, Jean-Robert Anantua



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Foundation
Quarterly
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The Build Haiti Foundation

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www.thebuildhaitifoundation.org