



ECS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT AND FUNDRAISING PROPOSAL SUMMARY

**MISSION: PROVIDING FREE
EDUCATION AND MEALS TO OVER
600 STUDENTS DESPITE HAITI'S
ECONOMIC CHALLENGES.**

WEBSITE AND DONATIONS

www.haiticommunityschool.org



Santo, Croix-des-Bouquets
suburb, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

DONATE HERE





HISTORY

Founded in
1993
by the Bastien family

GROWTH

Expanded from a small home-based school to a full school serving up to Grade 12.

CURRENT SITUATION

Managed by Bastien family with external funding, focusing on free education and meal programs.

GOALS AND PRACTICES

- **SDG Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable education.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Low-cost operations, no foreign paid staff, and innovative education programs.
- **Teacher Support:** Competitive wages, job security, and regular training.
- **Student Support:** Free meals, psychosocial support, and community engagement programs.

SCHOOL STATISTICS (2024)

- **Students:** 671 students (male and female).
- **Staff:** 28 total (20 teachers, 5 admin, 3 support staff).
- **Graduates:** 41 out of 46 students passed state exams in 2023.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- **2024 Budget:** \$49,705 USD. (About 74 USD per child, per year, including meals)
- **Key Expenses:** Salaries, training, meal program, cultural activities, and admin costs.
- **Previous Year Budget:** \$46,690 USD.
- **Funding Challenges:** Meal program funding ending, requiring new financial support.

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

- **Technology Projects:** Creative and tech skills development through hands-on projects.
- **Math Competitions:** Enhancing problem-solving and teamwork.
- **Literacy Initiatives:** Weekly reading and storytelling sessions.
- **Street Business School:** Planned program for practical business skills.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- **Workshops including Group Counseling, Art Therapy, Peer Support**

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Sports:** Soccer training for Summer Cup.
- **Arts and Music:** Performances and mural projects celebrating Haitian culture.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Volunteer Programs:** Local street clean-ups and charity drives.
- **Support for IDP Families:** Donations and cash support for families displaced by gang violence.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

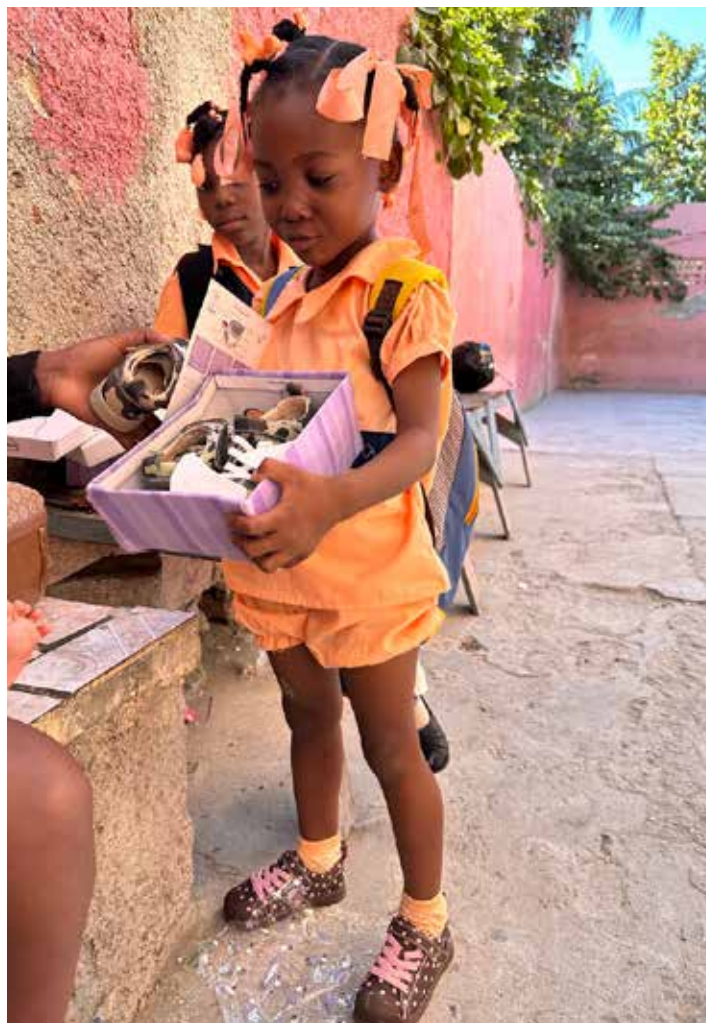
- **Library Expansion:** Increased resources but lacking infrastructure.
- **Energy & Water:** New water filtration system installed; need for additional energy batteries.

NOTABLE EVENTS

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences, Cultural Events, Health Workshops, Summer Camp.**

IMPACT OF CURRENT INSTABILITY

- **Disrupted Education:** School closures, teacher absenteeism, and learning gaps.
- **Economic Hardship:** Reduced household incomes and resource scarcity.
- **Health Challenges:** Rising malnutrition and water supply issues.
- **Safety Concerns:** Increased violence affecting school attendance and safety.



Many Thanks to all staff, community and donors for continued support in making ECS a beacon of hope in challenging times.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT AND FUNDRAISING PROPOSAL

TRIMESTRIAL REPORT: ECS

DATE: 6/10/2024

By

**Sanuel Bastien
Tushar Mehta
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SCHOOL BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, and many children across Haiti lack access to education, which has led to further dysfunction. Access to education is key to social stability, equity, human rights, health, happiness, and a better economy.

In this context, ECS is currently one of the few functioning schools in the Santo, Croix-des-Bouquets suburb of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Website and Donations: www.haiticommunityschool.org/

HISTORY

ECS (Ecole Communautaire de Santo) is the first community school in the Santo area of Port au Prince, Haiti, and was founded by the Bastien Family. Established in 1993 with a small number of children, and now over 600 children attend yearly.

The school was founded by Edwin and Violette Bastien for the benefit of their children and run from their home. Local children from the community were included, and ECS was converted to a legal entity, and established a small school building. Like most schools in Haiti, ECS became a legal non profit entity, where children's families paid school fees which constituted the school operating budget including teachers pay.

In 2015 the Haitian government started a program to permanently fund schools. With optimism, ECS then expanded to include more students. But the government program soon failed and funding stopped. Haiti then experienced deepening turbulence and economic decline.

ECS school was about to close in 2018 with no external funding, and most families unable to pay basic fees for school operation. Fortunately, at this critical time, Dr. Tushar Mehta, Dr. Prashant Phalpler, and Brenda Atkins became involved and took over funding of the school, and joined the school management team. ECS continues to be managed and operated by members of the Bastien family.

- ECS is now free for all students that attend. A free meal program was started in 2020 for all students
- Dr. Mehta and Dr. Phalpher, and Brenda Atkins (Board Chair of HMC) are involved in larger decisions affecting school management, projects and budget
- In 2022 \$80k CAD with help of Dr. Mehta and Dr. Phalpher, and Brenda Atkins fund-raising target of 80K CAD reached and we successfully purchased a second building to expand the number of students and teachers.
- Since 2022 the deepening political and economic crisis includes severe and pervasive gang violence and the assassination of the president. Lack of funds and danger from gangs have caused many schools to shut down.
- Since 2018, Gang activity has caused multiple closures of ECS and schools across Haiti. Staff and students have adapted as best as possible, including delivering homework on whatsapp, and sometimes door to door for local students when teachers dare to venture during risky times. Across Haiti, the 2024 school year started in February due to multiple closures over the past three years.
- Prior to 2018 ECS served kids up to grade 10 only. Since 2019 we expanded to include all high school grades, thus up to full grade 12 curriculum

GOALS AND PRACTICES OF ECS

SDG Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", and

4.1: "ensure that all girls and boys and girls complete primary and secondary education, which must be free, equitable and quality and produce relevant and effective learning outcomes".

We are striving for efficiency and transparency in our operation of the school. ECS keeps costs low in order to serve more people, while maximising the quality of education under adverse conditions. Consistency and long term planning are key. ECS also serves its students, their families and the local community in a robust manner that exceeds the performance of other NGOs, and may serve as a model. Our goals include:

- Focus on fair and timely payment for teachers, with competitive wages and job security for teachers as per Haitian Standards
- Safety and security for staff and students, including printing ID for students, the school uniform.
- No foreign paid staff, foreign team members exclusively volunteer

- Costs are reduced by making uniforms optional, textbooks are photocopied and passed down year to year
- Optimising teacher and administrator teamwork to deliver best quality education despite limited resources
- Conduct regular staff meetings and teacher trainings
- Maintain teacher accountability and dedication to job and students
- Create a positive collaboration and support amongst students, staff, and community, including community volunteers
- Maintain and increase programs for psychosocial support of students and families to help cope with violence and other socio economic crisis
- Innovative education programs such as Street Business School
- Proactive inclusion and supports for Restavek children (i.e. children who are modern day domestic slaves in the community)
- Have nutritious daily free meal program for students and staff, with local sourced food that supports farmers
- Support local family and community with programs that are run through the school
- Literacy program for adults

SCHOOL STATISTICS

Since the start of the year at ECS, students participated in various academic and community activities, fostering growth and engagement and supporting students through psychosocial activities to help them navigate the current crisis.

Number of students last year about 683 students in 2024 School Year

Number of students graduated last year from 12th in 2023:
-46 students wrote state exams and 41 passed

Number of students attending school: 671 students as of August 2024

Note that many children who were deprived of school start late. Hence each grade has many students older than the usual age for that grade. ECS runs after school and summer learning programs to help such older students catch up and pass to higher grades more quickly.

ECS AM&FM TOTAL STUDENTS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL: 671
KG	9	13	22
Grade 1	17	44	61
Grade 2	24	33	57
Grade 3	21	29	50
Grade 4	19	44	63
Grade 5	30	24	54
Grade 6	38	19	57
Grade 7	44	14	58
Grade 8	31	21	52
Grade 9	43	19	62
Grade 10	34	25	59
Grade 11	33	23	56
Grade 12	38	12	50

Number of staff present: all 28 staff.

- Number of teachers: 20
- Number of Admin: 5
- Cook: 2
- Cleaning: 1

School Closures and Calendar School Year

- From 2022 and up to present time, there have been multiple and repeated school closures across haiti, due to gang activity
- As a result, the beginning and end of the school year has shifted across Haiti
- Presently, our current school year started in February 2024
- Feb 2024 schools start
- Multiple School closures due to gang activity during March and April 2024 caused further delays in completing courses
- Summer holidays dates were shortened, and students returned to their same grade to complete courses
- Graduation expected in Feb of 2025 if there are are no more school closures



BUDGET FOR 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Projected Budget for 2024 School Year:

- \$49,705 USD of scheduled expenses, as per table below,
- Approximate cost for 671 students is \$74 USD per student, per year, including meals
- Note that this is extremely efficient compared to any global school project

Past Budgets for Comparison

Budget for 2023 :\$ 46,690 USD

- ND-ECS school expanded and increased number of students and and teachers this year

Budget for 2022 :\$ 35,050 USD

Salary wage from 2010 to 2024 (USD / Teacher /Month Avg Salary)

- Since and expanding the ND-ECS School in 2018 we have gradually increased teacher wages
- Teachers and staff also face poverty and increasing cost of living
- For various reasons, we stay within country pay grade standards for teachers at schools with stable funding, and plan to increase accordingly
- Our policy is to continue paying teachers during closures to meet basic needs of and and their dependent families. This also results in staff retention and morale.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$40	\$40	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$120

Description	Expenses	First Period (Mar, Apr, May)	Second period (June, July)	Third Period (August, Sept, Oct)	Fourth Period (Nov, Dec)	Fifth Period (Jan Feb)	Total
Professor salary for Primary (1st to 6th grade) \$120 per month / Secondary (7th to 12th) under contract for 11 months	Salaries	\$ 8,469		\$ 8,469	\$ 5,646	\$ 5,646	\$ 28,230
Training for teachers for four period \$ 200 USD/ period	Training	\$ 200		\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 800
Meal program funded by A Well-Fed World for 12 months	Kantine	\$ 1,920	\$ 1,920	\$ 2,880	\$ 1,920	\$ 1,920	\$ 10,560
3 cultural activities are yearly events like children's days, Carnaval, flag day, dance class and sport activities (Funded by Haiti mama)	Activities	\$ 300			\$ 300		\$ 600
Administrative cost for four staff	Admin	\$ 2,100		\$ 2,100	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 7,000
Infrastructure (Dr. Tusahr Metha) & Dr. Prashant Phalpher & friends)							
Teaching Materials							
Transfer fee (Funded by Haiti mama)	Transfer fee	\$ 70	\$ 35	\$ 70	\$ 70	\$ 70	\$315
Website						\$ 200	
Miscellaneous		\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	
	TOTAL	\$ 13,459	\$ 2,355	\$ 14,119	\$ 9,936	\$ 9,836	\$49, 705

MEAL PROGRAM

Daily meal for students and professors. Occasionally community members. During the pandemic and the ongoing security lockdown, rations are distributed to the most vulnerable in the community.

ECS sources food from local farmers. The meal programs offers fresh, nutritious produce. Our meal program provides educational opportunities for students to learn about agriculture, nutrition and foster connections to local farmers. More money stays within the community. Also, local Haitian rice often has a stigma, being more brown in colour compared to white rice brought to into Haiti by damaging subsidy programs of the USA. Our program helps remove this stigma, furthering trust in Haitian farmers, greater food security, and more sustainable farming practices.

- Approximately 700 plates are served six days a week,
- All made possible by our two wonderful cooks Gladis & Claire 'alias' Mother of Life <<Manman Lavi>> Haitian proverb that usually refer to the women selling a very good meal you pay with whatever you can give.
- Funding source, these effort were made possible with generous support of a AFWF for the past two years. AFAW's food program is ending and we will be looking for new funding for meals.

NEW BUDGET ITEM - SAMUEL BASTIEN SPECIAL FUND

- Samuel Bastien has graduated from the course portion of medical school, at PUCMM and is now completing a rural service year through the United Nations Internally Displaced People program as a national officer focusing on Malnutrition & Social protection.
- Over the last year he has personally funded from his own salary
 - Professional education three students in nursing school,
 - Diplomacy and plumber. All have completed their programs.
 - Medical bills for ____
 - Pay one year rent for mother of four children of 3 y old to 14 y. Mother was a victim of Gender Based Violence from abusive partner.
- This year, we will make his contributions in to a fund with formal criteria, and Samuel Bastien will contribute __ per month. Funds will be distributed to those in need under the following criteria:
 - Recipients are students or students' family members
 - For purposes of
 - Health emergency
 - Transportation for IDP students
 - Medical Assistance
 - Gender Based Violence victims support
 - Post Secondary Education Scholarship



ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

1. Technology Project and Team Competition

- Successful training on creativity for 40 students of mixed gender from all grades: A team from each class designing and constructing desk lamps using recycled materials from trash and presenting their projects, Giordany Bastien.
- A team from the lamp creation participated in a student tech fair by government
- Phone repair for 20 students mixed gender by Marc Edwine Bastien.

2. Mathematics Competition

Maths competition organise by teachers where each class are divided by team of two, the goal is to improve problem solving skills, teamwork, boosts confidence and identify talented

3. Literacy Week every last weeks of the school months

- Activities included book readings, and storytelling sessions by class. Teacher pick different subject weekly to stimulate students sense of community, empathy & understanding, encourage conflict resolution, inspire acts of kindness.
- Younger students participated in storytelling and play therapy sessions.
- These activities helped them express their feelings in a safe and supportive nment.

4. Street business school

- Plans to run a street business school program

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

1. Group Counseling Sessions to 300 students aged 15 to 27 years old

- Every morning before class students spend 30 minutes with the Viollete Bastien to provide emotional support.
- Students shared their feelings and learned coping strategies.
- Daily sessions on mindfulness, deep breathing, and relaxation exercises.
- Aimed at reducing anxiety and improving mental well-being.

2. Art Therapy Workshops for all students once a month conducted by local ngo REVKAD

- Students expressed their emotions through drawing and painting.
- This helped in reducing stress and promoting emotional healing.

3. Peer Support Groups

- Each class have a committee of 3, supported by principal office their mission is to promote strong relation between students and the admin board And to organised peer-led groups where students could talk and support each other.
- Fostered a sense of community and mutual understanding.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Sports

- The soccer team selection and the start of weekly training to prepare for the Summer Cup. A yearly activity organized by different schools in Santo to foster teamwork and community peacebuilding.

2. Arts and Music

- The school performed traditional Haitian songs and steps at the local community for Flag Day.
- Art club members are working on a mural project to beautify the school courtyard.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Volunteer Program

- Students participated in a local street clean-up, promoting environmental awareness and stewardship.

2. Charity Drive

- Successful collection of clothes, food, and essentials for families IDP affected by recent gang fights.
- Cash was provided to 16 students' families to facilitate their return to Santo after fleeing their homes due to gang fights.
- Mother's Day celebration, meal was provided to over 500 attendees, and dry food kit was given to 20 selected student families.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Library Expansion

- New books and resources have been added to the library, improving access to educational materials. Unfortunately, we have yet to build an infrastructure for the library, as a solution we can use.

2. Energy & Water

- Installation of a new water filtration system, providing clean drinking water for all students and staff.
- Need of additional batteries. Four current batteries are now old and provide less than an hour of energy a day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Scheduled for next week, June 16th to discuss student progress.
- Cultural Event: Celebrating Haitian heritage.
- Health and Wellness Workshops: Starting next month, focusing on nutrition and hygiene.
- Summer camp 2024 Starting July 8th.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE CURRENT INSTABILITY CRISIS

1. Disrupted Education

- **Frequent School Closures from Jan to April 2024:** Ongoing unrest has led to repeated closures, interrupting the academic calendar and causing significant learning gaps, in total ECS students lost five school weeks.
- **Teacher Absenteeism:** Safety concerns have resulted in increased teacher absenteeism, affecting the consistency and quality of education.
- **Teachers migrating to other countries:** This year we have lost another 3 professors.

2. Psychological Stress

- **Increased Anxiety and Trauma:** Students are experiencing heightened levels of stress and anxiety due to the volatile environment, impacting their mental health and ability to concentrate.
- **Behavioral Issues:** The crisis has led to an increase in behavioral issues among students as they struggle to cope with their emotions and uncertainties.

3. Economic Hardship

- **Reduced Household Incomes:** Many families are facing economic difficulties due to job losses and inflation, limiting their ability to support their children's education.
- **Resource Scarcity:** There is a lack of essential educational materials and resources, hindering the learning process.

4. Health and Nutrition

- **Malnutrition:** With food insecurity on the rise, students are coming to school hungry, which affects their concentration and overall health. Struggle to maintain school food stock as students eat their only hot meal at school so they eat more.
- **Access to Clean Water:** The instability has disrupted water supplies, leading to challenges in maintaining hygiene and sanitation standards at school because overused by community members and we cannot say no to them

5. Safety Concerns

- **Violence and Crime:** The increase in violence and crime has made commuting to school dangerous for both students and staff, reducing attendance rates.
- **The need to wear uniforms is higher.** Students are respected and more likely usually left alone by gang members.
- **Need to create student ID cards.** Special for students over 18, as it's very difficult at the moment in Haiti.

Funding and 2024 Goals

GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for your unwavering support. Your contributions are crucial in enhancing the educational experience and improving the living conditions of our students. We look forward to your continued partnership in making our school a beacon of hope and learning.