

Stichting Bon Timoun

For a valuable education in Haïti www.bontimoun.com

September 2024

The Bon Timoun Foundation is fully committed to making **education** possible in poor neighborhoods of the capital of Haiti by supporting **three primary schools with 580 children**. This also includes a **daily school meal**. The collaboration started in 2010 and a stable and very good relationship has been built up with the teachers and there is almost daily contact. The schools have become an important hub in the community and convey **positive values** of correct behavior, honesty and compassion.

To come to school and be safe, also during the summer vacation!

The goal of **keeping the three schools open all summer** has been achieved. They will even stay open for an extra month, as the government has postponed the opening of schools to October 1st.

We are very proud of the teachers and volunteers who organized highly successful summer camps for a total of **400** children at **4** sites in July, August and September. In addition to our three schools, Teacher Kerby also organized a summer camp for 100 children in the Tabarre neighborhood where he lives. Many families had to flee the violence and came to live here temporarily, under very difficult conditions. The opportunity for these children to participate in **activities** with other children, to receive a meal and, among other things, to take a first aid course and learn how to make sandals is fantastic for them. The fact that parents also participate as volunteers is very much appreciated.







The EMNJ school in Galette was closed this year for 6 months because of the gang war, but fortunately it was able to reopen for the summer-school. In addition to **academics**, **sports and play**, the children **learned skills** like manicure, macramé and tiling. Some students will lay the tiles in the new kitchen that had to be rebuilt after the previous kitchen collapsed. Our priority is to continue to offer the children their daily hot meal. Other repairs to the school are also necessary because the gangs broke in; these are unexpected costs!

Haiti today

The violence continues and the gangs control 80% of the capital. However, around our schools it is a little calmer at the moment. If the gangs fight less among themselves, it is only so that they can better face the police together! Police officers from Kenya, Benin and the Caribbean are gradually arriving in Haiti to train and support local police to restore order.



Two of the foundation's loyal supporters in the Netherlands founded "The Haiti Club" to raise funds for special projects. Thus, the profits from the "Men's Dinner" were used to **build a wall around the EMNJ school** in Torcelle to ensure the **safety** of the children and staff.

In France, a **concert** and a **performance** to promote Haitian culture and to raise funds for our three schools are organized at L'Expressoir, a cultural venue in Marnay-sur-Seine. On **October 5**, **Chango Bastia**, a Haitian artist who carries social and political demands in favor of his country on rhythms ranging from reggae to compas. On **December 7**, the actor poet **Mackenson Bijou** will challenge our preconceived ideas with his show "Heimlos", which unites us in our humanity, beyond appearances. He will also share his project to create an Afro-descendant library. Everyone is invited to bring a book for this library.

Preparations for the new school year are in full swing. There are **6 new teachers** in the EMNJ schools who are being introduced to the **pedagogy of non-violent human values education**. It is about creating a loving school climate, respecting each other and teaching school subjects through values. The training for all teachers takes place both with local trainers and online with Katinka from France.

The children of the EMNJ schools wear a school T-shirt to be identified as a student - which offers additional security. In the ABC of Life school, the students can wear a school uniform, but this is not mandatory.

Do you want to help the 580 students of the three schools to go back to school? Offer: a school T-shirt: €10

exercise books for a child in kindergarten: €25 books for a child in primary school: €45



A heartfelt thank you to all of you who support these 580 children, the 2 directors, the 32 teachers and the 12 employees. A world of difference for the children, the families and the entire neighborhood.

Every day, we build a better future together!

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