

Chairman's 2021 REPORT
Wednesday 28th September 2022 AGM

In Haiti 2021 was a very difficult year for all Haitians. Setbacks happened in waves: an earthquake, the assassination of President Moïse, Tropical Storm Grace, gang violence, kidnappings, and always, COVID. Bad news is frequent in Haiti but all this together was devastating for all communities.

Somehow. in their own words:

"the Pazapa Centre for Children with Disabilities (CWDs) had persevered through 34 years of hurricanes, uprisings, and earthquakes, and it persevered this year, too. Amid all the difficulties, there were achievements".

Those achievements were:

In February 2021 Pazapa's rural outreach programme completed Club Timoun (means 'child' in Kreyol). This is a building for social-educational meetings of 14 CWDs and their families in rural Lafond, near Jacmel.

Since the earthquake of 2010, the original building had fallen into disrepair. Parents and community leaders oversaw the solid design and construction, and they donated their time and labour. The construction was underwritten by a Siloé donation of \$4,000 toward building materials, a large fraction of which came from Pazapa Church Stretton. The Outreach mentors in Lafond now continue inclusive educational activities in this new space, and Club Timoun became a centre for Disability-Advocacy community meetings.

On 28th April Pazapa held its first 'Creole Day' Fair. The staff prepared Cassava and peanut butter, coffee and hot chocolate and many other meals and approximately 200 Pazapa families, the Jacmel community and the press were there.

Thy opened the Special Education School and increased students from 116 to 130. Medical programmes continued with a donation of \$4,500 by First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor.

Here in the UK we were still finding our way through the Covid pandemic in 2021. We did not get started with our fund-raising events until the excellent summer concert in June. The summer afternoon tea with the Friends of Pazapa Church Stretton was a delightful event and people offered generous donations. The Jazz evening in the autumn was well supported and as it was the first gig for the band for two years they did not take any fees, as a token of goodwill.

We have a growing body of Friends who remain loyal with regular donations that is now a substantial part of our funding which we transfer as often as we can in the year. My profound thanks to them all, for their continuing support.

I am also so pleased that we have such a loyal and committed Pazapa Committee, some of whom have been with us from the beginning in 2010. Again, my profound thanks to them, for all they do and bring, on behalf of the Pazapa children, families and staff.

We are always amazed by the achievements of this community in Jacmel in the face of the many hardships. The superb staff have made a real difference to the lives of people there. In our 12th year we are proud to be associated with the life and work of this school and clinic.

Thank you , Noel Beattie

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