

HOPE Grows Here

2024 Annual Report



University *of* Fondwa

Where Students Cultivate
the Future of Haiti



uFondwa USA is dedicated to growing leaders by significantly reducing the financial burden on students, ensuring that every qualified student has the opportunity to attend the University of Fondwa tuition-free



A message from University of Fondwa President Ludsonde Lafontant

Dear Friends of the University of Fondwa,

Warm greetings from the mountains of Fondwa!

Every day at the University of Fondwa, I witness something extraordinary. Our students, young leaders from across rural Haiti, arrive not only with intelligence and determination, but with a deep, personal commitment to transforming the communities they come from.

These are not ordinary students. They are individuals who have already shown they are ready to work for the common good, who dream not just of a better life for themselves, but of a better future for their entire communities and for Haiti as a whole.

At the University, we don't just teach theory. **We give students the tools to build, to serve, and to lead. Our students are chosen because they have already demonstrated a calling to serve.**

What they gain here through our unique blend of academic knowledge and hands-on community work equips them to be even more effective change makers.

And they are not alone. **Around the world, passionate supporters like you walk alongside them, shoulder to shoulder.** You understand that the best investment in Haiti's future is to invest in leaders like these, young people with the courage, skill, and heart to build lasting change.

The synergy between our students and our supporters is powerful. It is this partnership rooted in love, trust, and shared purpose that gives me hope. **Together, across borders and boundaries, we are building a Haiti that reflects the dignity and potential of all its people.**

Thank you for believing in this mission. Thank you for believing in our students.

In Solidarity,

Ludsonde Lafontant

President/Rector
University of Fondwa



Pictured: President Lafontant standing on campus with uFondwa USA Board Vice-President, Anne Hastings October 2024



Student Debates Build Confidence and Leadership

Slanta Nicolas, a third-year agronomy student at the University of Fondwa, launched the university's first student debate series. Over six weeks, student teams met daily during the morning devotion hour to debate topics ranging from politics and the environment to youth issues and current events.

Slanta created the series to strengthen communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills among her peers. "Debate is a powerful tool," she said. "It helps us grow intellectually and strengthens democracy within our university."

The activity encouraged participation from even the shyest students, created space for diverse viewpoints, and gave students a platform to express concerns and suggest solutions to improve campus life. The final debate—on whether Valentine's Day is about love or commerce—closed the series on a high note.

Student-led initiatives like this are creating a more inclusive and dynamic academic culture at the University.

Pictured Above: Slanta Nicolas introduces the final session of the debates

Cultivating Knowledge in the Countryside

Dr. Ricot Scutt brings expertise and dedication to his position as Vice-Rector for Research and Development at the University of Fondwa. His academic credentials include dual degrees in Agronomy and Law from the State University of Haiti, complemented by a Master's and Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Puerto Rico.

Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Fondwa, Dr. Scutt shared his knowledge at the University of Quisqueya in Port-au-Prince. At the University of Fondwa, he has discovered his true calling: mentoring students from rural backgrounds who plan to return to their communities as development leaders. His teaching and research are firmly grounded in rural Haiti's practical challenges, where he maintains active partnerships with local farmers and community members.

By incorporating local wisdom into his academic investigations, Dr. Scutt creates a dynamic exchange that enriches both the university curriculum and agricultural practices. When asked about his favorite crop, Dr. Scutt points to the sweet potato, a nutritious, drought-resistant plant that perfectly symbolizes the resilience and sustenance characteristic of Haiti's countryside. **Pictured Right:** Dr. Scutt conducts class outside on the University of Fondwa campus.



Caring for Animals, Training Students

Professor Monise Pierre reports that the University of Fondwa's School of Veterinary Medicine has continued its mobile and on-campus clinics, offering essential care to animals and hands-on experience for students. These clinics have strengthened community trust while helping students develop their clinical skills—linking classroom instruction to real world practice.

Each month, students treat 10–15 animals at the university's clinic, while mobile teams care for up to 40 animals in surrounding communities. Common health issues include parasite infestations and prolapse in cows. Farmers report that, thanks to the clinic, their animals are healthier and no longer dying from treatable conditions.

Despite rising inflation and shortages of veterinary medicine, the school has sustained clinic operations through careful budgeting. This initiative not only improves animal health but also prepares future veterinarians committed to serving Haiti's rural communities with skill and compassion. **Pictured Left:** Monise Pierre, Professor of the School of Veterinary Medicine, gives a lecture on campus to students of Veterinary Medicine.



Beyond the Ivory Tower



University of Fondwa campus as seen from above situated in the countryside one hour north of Jacmel.

Agronomy to Advance Food Security

In the Faculty of Agronomy, researchers are addressing food insecurity by focusing on staple crops like sweet potatoes. They're also studying terra preta, a soil regeneration method with potential for sustainable farming in Haiti, and testing high-yield varieties of tomatoes, maize, and beans to boost productivity. One priority project is developing a research protocol to identify pigeon pea varieties resistant to fungal diseases affecting the Fondwa region, advancing local food security through applied science.

Veterinary Science to Safeguard Animal and Public Health

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is addressing two critical challenges for both rural and urban communities. First, researchers are studying public health risks and sanitation conditions in public slaughterhouses, with two theses already completed. These studies have laid the groundwork for improved food safety practices. Another focus is poultry health, specifically diseases that threaten the productivity and sustainability of small-scale chicken farming.

Business Administration for Stronger Rural Economies

In the Faculty of Business Administration, faculty and students are exploring the dynamics of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the role of grassroots organizations such as farmers' cooperatives, and the potential of the solidarity economy to fix wealth locally. Other important topics include effective school administration and practical methods for financing education. Research at the University of Fondwa responds to challenges identified in rural Haiti, with results designed for immediate, practical application.

Donor Profiles



Beatrice Francis-Hector

Beatrice Francis-Hector was born in Haiti and moved to the United States as a baby. She grew up in Brooklyn, where her family home was a safe haven for newly arrived Haitians escaping political turmoil. Her mother, Marie, was known for her open door and generous heart—always ready to help someone in need.

Today, Beatrice carries that same spirit of service forward. With deep roots in Haiti and a clear vision for its future, she supports the University of Fondwa with her time, talent, and resources. “Rural Haiti can be a wonderful place to thrive. When young people have knowledge and opportunity, they’re not forced to leave; those who are equipped can cultivate a better future right where they are.” Beatrice and her son, Nathaniel—currently studying veterinary medicine in Minnesota—dream of returning to their family’s land in Jacmel to open a veterinary clinic. It’s a dream grounded in love for their country and in the belief that with the right tools, young Haitians can build lasting prosperity right where they are.

Brian and Louisa Gately

Brian and Louisa Gately have committed their lives to fostering rural development and educational opportunities. Brian discovered his passion for development finance during his Peace Corps service in Colombia, which led to a global career establishing credit unions worldwide. Louisa, dedicated to education throughout her life, has taught elementary school in various communities including Datyon, OH and Puerto Rico. The couple met through their shared enthusiasm for flying—an adventure they continue to enjoy together.

Over decades, the Gatelys have invested in community-uplifting initiatives. Their support of the University of Fondwa demonstrates their commitment to shared prosperity and their belief in education as a powerful catalyst for change and necessary for building wealth. Brian says, “Money is the opposite of a zero sum game. Money makes money. Equipping young people in Haiti to create wealth in their home communities is simply a sound investment in our collective well-being.”



Our Donors

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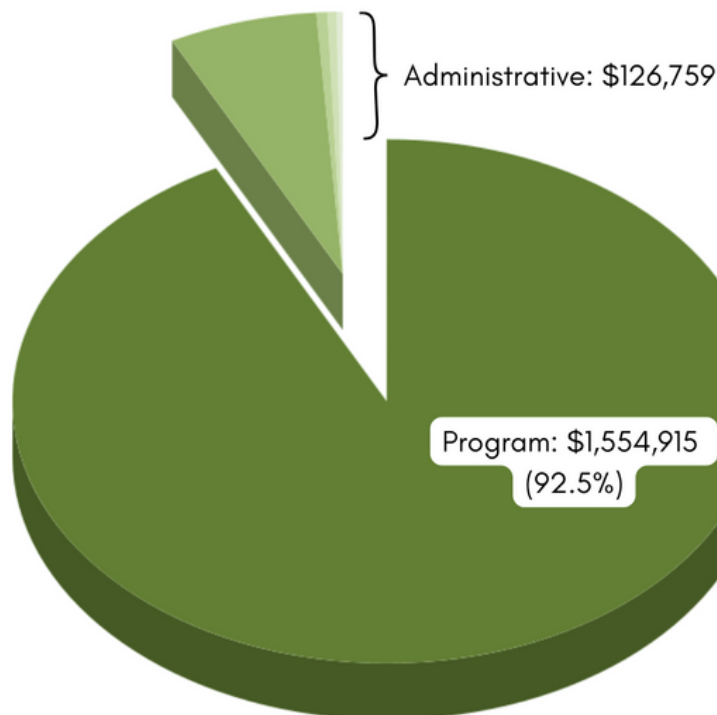
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*Wethank
you*

Statement of Functional Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2024

	Year 2024			2023 Totals
	Program Services	General and Administrative	Totals	
Grants	1,554,915		1,554,915	1,661,937
Professional services	20,640	87,126	107,766	73,609
Miscellaneous		7,954	7,954	15,653
Insurance		6,494	6,494	6,363
Travel and meetings		4,545	4,545	5,232
Total Expenses	1,575,555	106,119	1,681,674	1,762,794



Statement of Financial Position



As of December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Year 2024	Year 2023
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	377,222	101,534
Investments	353,657	485,706
Pledges receivable, net	454,047	120,960
Total assets	1,184,926	708,200
Liabilities and net assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	18,571	14,007
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	284,101	17,690
With donor restrictions	882,254	711,883
Total Net Assets	1,166,355	694,193
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,184,926	708,200



Total assets
\$1,184,926



Total liabilities:
\$18,571



Net assets
\$1,166,355



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