

HELP SUPPORT ECS SCHOOL IN HAITI

To Donate in Canada: <https://www.haitimamacanada.org/2023ECSFundraiser>

To Donate in USA: <https://www.haitimama.org/ecs>

Dear Friends,

As you may know, Tushar Mehta and Prashant Phalpher have been working in Haiti for the past six years. One of our most important projects is Ecole Communautaire de Santo or ECS (Santo Community School in English).

ECS is the first community school in the Santo area of Port au Prince, Haiti, and was founded by the Bastien Family. Established in 1993 the school has provided education to more than 30,000 children.

Since 2018 it has been funded through Haiti Mama Canada (HMC) and continues to be operated in Haiti by members of the Bastien family, with support and guidance from Dr. Mehta and Dr. Phalpher, and Brenda Atkins (Board Chair of HMC).

*(Note that this school is a separate entity from HEP Haiti, it's sister organization, though it shares a page on the same website)

We became involved in the funding and management of the school in 2018. In 2022 with your help, we raised \$80k CAD and ECS successfully purchase a second building to expand the number of students and teachers.

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.

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



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

We are striving for efficiency and transparency in our operation of the school. Despite our low cost, we optimize the quality of education under adverse conditions and aim for consistency, long term planning in order to serve a larger number of children, families, and the community.



This year our projected budget is **\$51,000 USD** for:

- 723 enrolled students (currently enrolled)
- 43 seniors in an adult literacy program
- 25 staff mainly teachers and 4 management staff (who also teach), an increase from 12 teachers and 361 students in 2018.
- Staff salary is about \$100 USD per month for avg 6 h per day of work, 5-6 days per week. (Salary was increased from \$80 per month in 2021) One of our goals through this fundraising would be to increase staff salaries.
- Our cost per student for a year of school, including meals, is \$70 USD
- There is also a small modest budget for repairs, teacher training and education materials.
- We minimize money transfer costs by sending funds in a batch every few months
- Our schools are simple, we do not have regular electricity use or running water There is a well and occasional generator use.
- Any funds raised over our initial goals will helping increased staff salaries, basic renovations, additional desks, teaching materials, and teacher training.
- Haiti Mama Canada is the funding partner for ECS school and provides tax receipts to donors to support our efforts.

Educational Goals

- Quality education for core subjects
- Cultural education is included.
- Basic English language education has begun.
- Limited computer literacy is taught.



Saving costs for Students:

- We are one of the few schools that do not require uniforms (which can be cost-prohibitive to many)
- Though many parents eventually acquire uniforms as part of a proud Haitian tradition. Safety is increased for youth wearing a uniform since gangs are less likely to target students.
- School books are photocopied at the lowest cost and provided for free and passed down year after year.

Meal Program

- 100% of this budget item (\$12,000 USD) is covered by a grant donated from a USA based organization, A Well-Fed World
- Most of our families are food insecure,
- Our daily plant-based meal has enormous impact on learning and attendance
- We source most food from local farmers, supporting them and reducing our cost.

Special programs

- This year we will be partnering with Street Business School to teach basic entrepreneurial skills and financial planning to students (<https://www.streetbusinessschool.org>)
- A girls empowerment program through leadership trainings

Humanitarian approach

- We pay special attention to include restavek children, who suffer a form of domestic slavery. These children suffer heavy trauma and are often years behind in education, requiring increased support.
- We encourage and normalize local families who have restavek children to send them to school.
- Gender equity, human rights and community responsibility are themes in our education



Community Services

- On weekends the school facilities are used for community meetings, community events, and church activities.
- During times of violence, the school may serve as a shelter for vulnerable people.
- Over the past year: we've hosted community sports and cultural activities to strengthen community.
- Peace Building workshops.
- Some outreach and inclusion of gang members, encouraging empathy and reconnection with the community.
- We hope to continue and formalize such programs in the future, if funding is obtained.



Current ECS Highlights and Successes

- We now encompass all grades: Kindergarten to grade 12 (in 2018 we only went up to grade 10)
- Our teaching staff is growing stronger as a team and have a motivation and enthusiasm for the school.
- ECS students' average ranking on government exams is higher than other schools in the area
- A hygiene program is taught; clean drinking water is provided via through a filter system
- ECS facilitates basic immunizations programs for students.

Future Infrastructure needs.

- Furniture (mainly more chairs and desks)
- Development of a library
- Improved curriculum and teaching materials
- Improved kitchen and meal facilities
- Electricity from solar or generator



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Our goal is to have a long term and consistent presence, while maintaining and improving the quality of education. There are a vast number of children who cannot access education.

Through a generous donor and the grant for our Kantine food program, we have secured 80% of the funding for this year's budget and we need your support to help us get to 100% or higher!

We hope to raise **\$15,000 CAD** in 2023.

As we continue to grow our funding, we hope to gradually increase enrolment balanced, with sustainability and quality. We aim for mutual responsibility and commitment with our staff and the community.

Please help support a better world!

Donations are Tax Deductible from both Canada and the USA, thanks to collaboration with Haiti Mama Canada and Haiti Mama USA!

Warmly

Tushar and Prashant

