

To build a structure with your own hands is to shape the world around you. Builders in La Gonâve are working on parish projects all around the island—Plaine Mapou, Anse-à-Galets, and Ti Cotelette all have major construction in progress. Buildings are imagined, drafted, and constructed by the local workforce and funded by U.S. partners.

The Professional Training Center of St. Francis is growing. They added a cosmetology program last year, bringing the trades they offer to 7 (culinary arts, restaurant, bar and banquet service, flower arranging, fashion, and sewing). They need more space! A new classroom is under construction to house the programs. This year, over 70 adult students are enrolled in classes.



Progress on the classroom at the Professional Center



Les Saints Innocents classroom foundation is laid!

In Ti Cotelette, another classroom building is being built for Les Saints Innocents PreK - 6th grade. Their school buildings are some of the poorest in the parish. Environment is so important to learning – students will experience the care and respect the community invests in their education. Progress was halted while church leaders worked to assemble materials from both the mainland and La Gonâve. The Beast (the parish dump truck) then transports goods up the treacherous roads to rural communities like Ti Cotelette to control cost.

In Plaine Mapou, erosion has changed the once lush and grassy campus of St. Jean Baptiste into a barren clay field. The foundations of the campus are damaged. Increasing security challenges have made it necessary to be able to lock up supplies needed for school lunches, microfinance, education, and medical emergencies. St. Jean Baptiste started building a wall around the campus in 2025 to address these issues. This wall means that St. Jean Baptiste will remain standing for many years to come.



The Beast moves supplies across rugged terrain



Front entrance at St Jean Baptiste where a gate will be installed

Proper infrastructure creates growth. Projects stimulate the local economy by creating jobs. Regular maintenance of all buildings includes weatherproofing/painting, maintaining water collection systems, and performing repairs. All structures are built to multitask; classrooms are used for the microfinance program, churches double as mobile clinic sites, and every building is an opportunity for water collection.

After the devastating impact of the 2010 earthquake, all new buildings are designed with updated standards that make them much stronger. These buildings are made to last for generations to come. Someday, kids will say that their grandfather built that.

La Gonâve Haiti Partners are so grateful to all of our US partners who support these projects. Together with our Haitian partners, we are transforming infrastructure on La Gonâve.

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