



Branch Lutheran
Schools of Haiti

FY 2024 Annual Report

2023-2024 School Year



Presented by
The Board of Directors

Mission

To provide for the educational, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of Haitian youth.

Vision

- Provide nutrition and Lutheran education for orphans and other children in Haiti.
- Identify and nurture children with the potential to serve in ministry to be trained by Pastor Rona Abraham.
- Provide vocational training to prepare children who must leave the orphanage at age 18.
- Grow Lutheran mission congregations at the schools that can expand into the neighborhoods.

About

Branch Schools is a WELS affiliate, Lutheran, non-profit organization that funds six schools in Haiti; three elementary schools, hosted at three orphanages in the Port-au-Prince area, one middle school in Pilate, one preschool-3rd grade in Les Palmes, and one preschool-1st grade in Cap-Haitien. These schools serve over 1,400 students and employ about 50 teachers.

Message from the Board Chair



Dear Friends of Branch Schools,

God has graced Branch Schools with continued growth during the 2023-2024 school year. More than 1,400 children, including about 80 orphans received a Christian education, nutrition, and water.

The spring of 2024 was especially challenging due to increased gang activity which impacted all six schools to some extent. The impact was greatest in the three Port-au-Prince area schools, all suffering food and water insecurity, gang violence, and school closings.

Due to your faithful giving, classroom expansion and additional teachers were funded, and scholarships were offered for the first time. We were able to fund unexpected needs during several crises caused by gang violence. We praise the Holy Spirit for filling your hearts with love for these children. We also thank God for the faithful service of Pastor Rona Abraham, the teachers, directors, and superintendent during these challenging times.

"It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure." – Psalm 18:32

We pray that the new school year will bring peace and stability for all in Haiti.

May your day be blessed,

Lee Petersen, Board Chair

History & Growth



WELS Origins

- A magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti in 2010
- WELS Christian Aid & Relief worked with a dozen orphanages after the earthquake
- WELS established Lutheran schools at three orphanages with confirmed Lutheran directors
- WELS funding ended in fall 2015; Branch Schools organized to fill the need



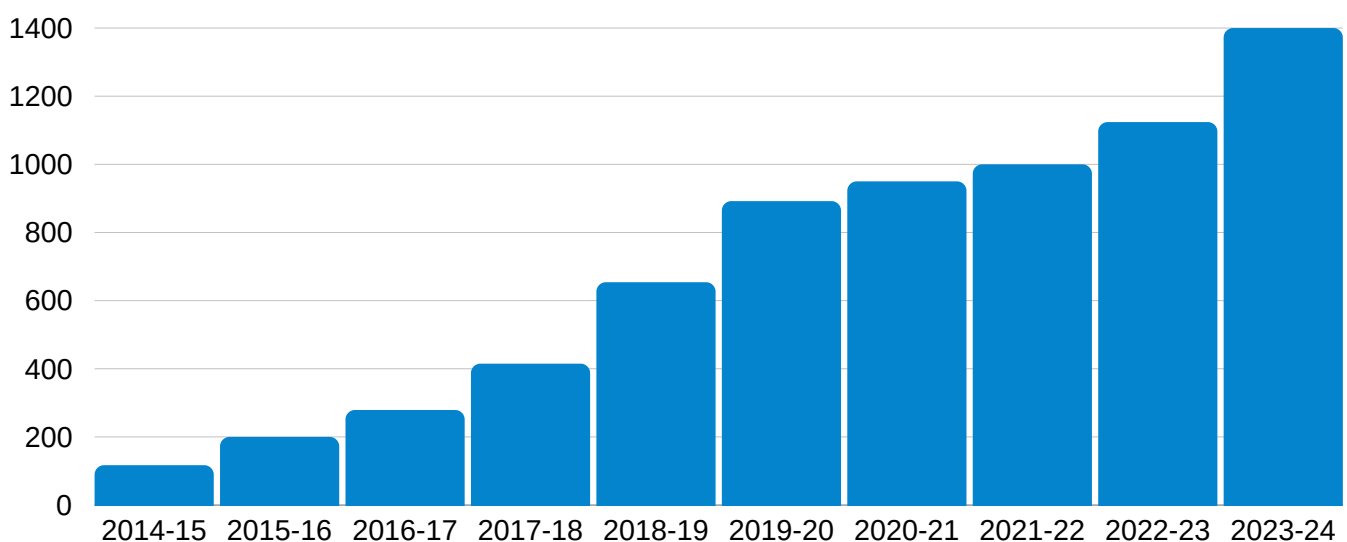
Branch Schools

- August 2015: Incorporated in Minnesota
- May 2016: IRS section 501(c)(3) charitable organization
- October 2020: Approved as WELS Affiliate Organization



Growth

- Enrollment:
 - 85 orphans (all have been baptized)
 - 1,300+ children from neighborhood families
- Added Pilate middle school in 2019
- Added Les Palmes preschool & kindergarten in 2021
- Added Cap-Haitien preschool & kindergarten in 2022



Branch Schools Family



**Middle School in Pilate,
Jean-Briel, Director**



**Preschool-3rd Grade in Les Palmes,
Nazaire Jean Tonny, Director**



**Preschool-1st Grade in Cap-Haitien,
Manette Abraham, Director**



Orphanage & Elementary School in Leogane, Jeanot Deceus, Director



**"I say thank you to the Lutheran
friends who give me the chance
to be here at school!"**

--Milot



Orphanage & Elementary School in Smyrne, Yvette Jacinthe, Director



**"I love my school, it teaches me
the word of God and teaches me
to read and write."
--Thania**



Orphanage & Elementary School in Carrefour, Luxon Boursiquot, Director



**"For me, school is the best path
to success tomorrow."
--Dorcens**



Challenges



The U.S. Department of State has maintained a Haiti “Do Not Travel” policy for many years. No U.S.-based staff or volunteer has been able to visit Haiti since 2018.

The 2023-2024 school year was very challenging. The United Nations reports: "The first quarter of 2024 was the deadliest for Haitians with around 2,500 people killed or injured in gang violence." Sadly, one of the people killed was a Branch Schools student, struck by a stray bullet.

Another student suffered a broken hip while running to avoid gangs. One orphanage school evacuated for a month to protect the safety of the orphans and students. Another student died of natural causes. Our most fervent prayer is for the violence and unrest to cease.

Highlights

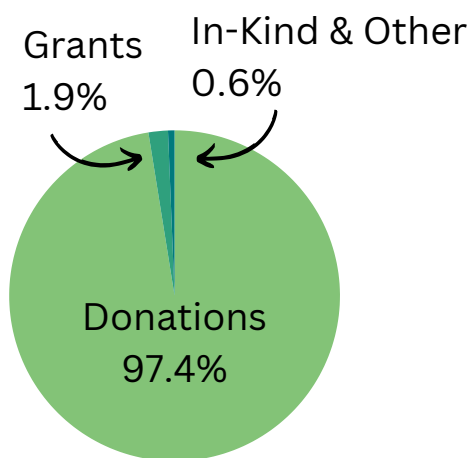
- Expanded enrollment at all schools.
- Pastor Rona Abraham was able to travel to the U.S. in January 2024. The Executive Committee met with him in person to learn of the status, challenges and triumphs of the six schools, as well as discuss long-range plans.
- Continued funding for six total schools.
- Continued development of sewing, electricity, and music training, to provide job skills for orphans, schoolchildren, their parents, and others.
- Two young men continue their studies toward ministry roles.



Financial Summary

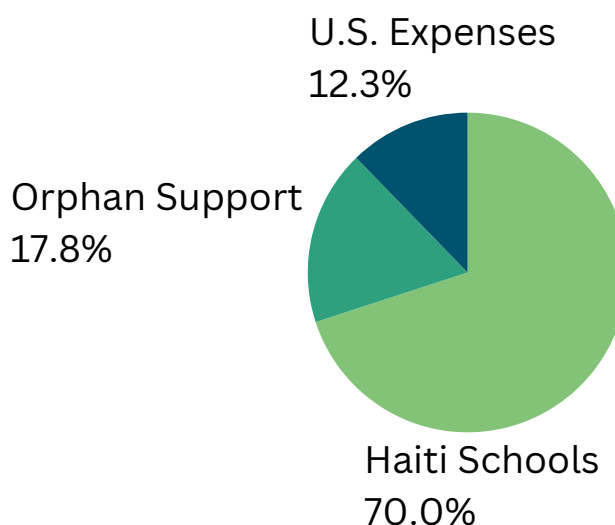
By God’s grace, 2023-24 was financially solid for Branch Schools. The July 1 through June 30 fiscal year information provided below is unaudited.

FY2024 Revenue: \$495,000



FY2024 Expenses: \$388,000

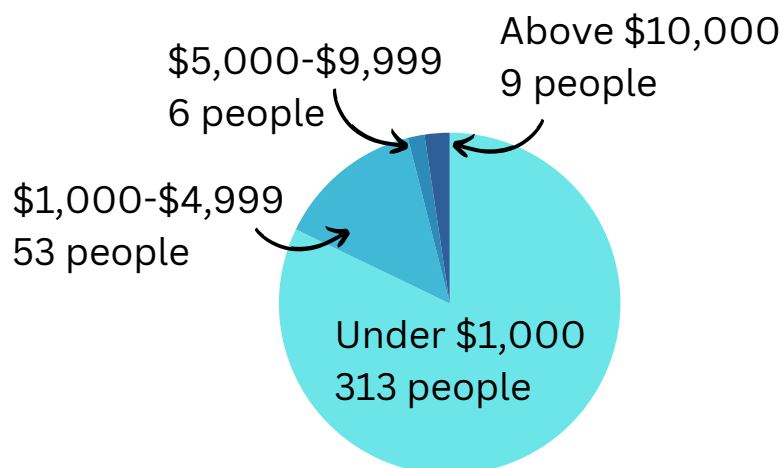
Expenses sent to Haiti: 88%



Donor Summary

FY2024 Total Donation Brackets:

Numbers represent how many donors are in each bracket.



FY2024 Donors:

Total Donors: 381

First-Time Donors: 80

FY2024 Campaigns:

Crisis Fund

- April-May 2024: Over \$20,000 raised

#GivingTuesday

- November 2023: Over \$48,000 raised

Contact Us



info@branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org



branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org



@BranchLutheranSchoolsHaiti

Board of Directors & Staff

Darryl Folkens, Secretary, Executive Committee

Jane Hayden, Director

Emily Helmen, Senior Development Coordinator

Dawn Klebig, Director

Michael Klebig, Director

John Kramer, Director

Thomas Kuster, Director

Becki Lonquist, Development & Communications Manager

Kathleen Menke, Treasurer, Executive Committee

Michael Nichols, Vice Chair, Executive Committee

Lee Petersen, Board Chair, Executive Committee

John Sebald, Director

Pastor Terry Schultz, Spiritual Advisor

How to Support Branch Schools:

Online: Visit branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org/donate to make a one-time or recurring donation via your credit card, bank account, or PayPal.

By Check: Please make checks payable to

Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti, Inc.

c/o Kathleen Menke, Treasurer

1627 Dunlap Street N.

Saint Paul, MN 55108

