

Dear Friends and Donors,

As Autumn is well upon us, soon followed by Winter, you must be eager to enter the holiday season and excited to begin 2011, a new year in which we hope you will find peace, health and happiness.

During these past few months, Rebuilding Haiti Now has continued to support our Haitian friends through the school rebuilding project that you have kindly supported. Thanks to you, we have already tackled repairs and construction at three schools, damaged during the January 12 earthquake.

In early October, Véronique Doebeli Saxe, vice president of Rebuilding Haiti Now and I travelled to Haiti to witness construction work at the three aforementioned schools. We were able to visit the schools of Nicolas, Molière and LaTremblay. This trip was fueled with adventure and emotion!



Crossing the river in the water to go to the School of Nicolas.

Adventure: Most roads in Haiti are unpaved, so frequent downpours since June have rendered access to the mountainous regions of Nicolas and Moliere even more difficult. Thankfully, with ongoing tenacity and strong will, especially from the construction team, we were able to reach each school. At times, we had to show confidence in our driver in spite of being frightened by the road condition: We crossed rivers in the water; our car was stuck in the mud on multiple occasions; the road is steep, narrow, slippery and next to the ravine with no guardrail. Needless to say, we

were glad to arrive safely at each school!



Road to Nicolas, we get out of the car. More mud...

Emotion: We were pleased to see the construction work that was underway at each school. The warm welcome from each school director/staff was truly unbelievable, given their meager resources.

At Nicolas, construction work is completed. Classes are now bright, and ready to welcome students. The school Director, Mr. Zacharie Danjou, shared with us what parents said to him just two days earlier:

“Lekòl sa a se li menm ki pi kanpé nan zòn nan”.
(Haitian Creole)

“This school is the nicest in the area.”

And the Director added: *“We really appreciated the team spirit from the construction team. The laborers they hired locally have learned a lot from them.”*



School of Nicolas ,rebuilt; these walls had collapsed on January 12.

At Molière, work is almost finished on one building; construction on the second building is underway. Teachers' dormitory will soon follow. There too, we witnessed school staff that was happy to see that they're not forgotten, hopeful that their school will soon be "back to normal". Some students were able to go back to the finished classrooms; others still study in the school courtyard.



School of Molière, construction work is progressing.

At La Tremblay, which is in a suburban area, road challenges were replaced by dust, pollution and unending sights of trash which is common in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas.



La Tremblay school, construction work is underway.

Here, repair work began at the end of August. The main building is almost ready for a fresh coat of paint. Construction at the second building is in progress.

Soon afterward, work on the latrines and the school fence will begin, as well as on the teachers' dormitory.

While we were pleased to see great progress in the work already completed, we also realized that much remains to be done as the majority of schools are still damaged and unsafe. Moreover, it was evident to us that while some schools in Port-au-Prince (ease of access) are beginning to find sponsors to rebuild, schools that are difficult to reach still struggle to find support. We are eager to continue in our endeavor, for Haitian children's sake.

Over the next few weeks, Rebuilding Haiti Now will decide, with its local partners, which school(s) we will rebuild. We remain confident that with your support, we will be able to complete this next phase of construction work.



In the classroom, 6th grade students (School of Molière)

We sincerely thank you for the confidence you readily showed in our school rebuilding project and for your generous financial support. In the name of all the children who are now able to return to school, we extend to you our deepest gratitude.

Gladys Doebeli Rocourt
President

Véronique Doebeli Saxe
Vice President