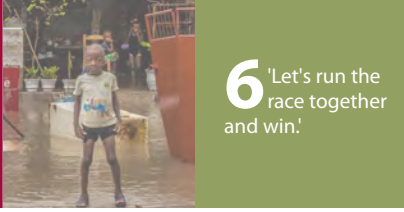


**3** A new journey full of hope



**4** Hope through life's hurricanes



**6** 'Let's run the race together and win.'



**7** Field Agents Driven by Mission of hope



# Nouvel **Fonkoze**

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 2

## Poverty's Breaking Point

How **HOPE** is winning the battle in Haiti



Believe. Empower. Defeat Poverty.

Photo: Maxence Bradley

Like a rubber band that has been stretched beyond its limit until it eventually breaks – poverty, too, has a breaking point – giving way to the pressure that HOPE, when continuously ignited, puts on it. All throughout Haiti where we work, we see hope alive and well in the lives of thousands every day. The dots and circles you see across this map represent the change that is happening as a result: **Poverty is losing the battle.**



With you by our side every year – standing in solidarity with the women and families we serve – we have been able to continue empowering the economically poor throughout Haiti with the tools, resources and support needed to lift their families out of poverty. We can't thank you enough!

Together, let us continue our work by sending a strong message to Poverty: You will lose. In the end, there is no match for HOPE when it is fueled by love, determination and a desire to overcome.

We hope you, too, will be inspired by the stories you read in this newsletter. They are but a small glimpse into Fonkoze's world, where we have witnessed hundreds of thousands of women transform their lives through our programs and services. Thousands more are currently on their way!

In solidarity,

Joseph Philippe, CSSP  
Founder



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Belans/ Belle-Anse	Montòganize / Mont Organisé
Bòmò / Beaumont	Okap / Cap-Haïtien
Boukànkare / Boucan Carré	Okay / Les Cayes
Ench / Hinche	Okoto / Les Coteaux
Fòlibète / Fort Liberté	Piyon / Pignon
Fondèblan / Fond-des-Blancs	Pòdpè / Port-de-Paix
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Latwazon / La Toison	Twoudinò / Trou-du-Nord
Lavale / La Vallée	Tyòt / Thiotte
Lenbe / Limbé	Wanamant / Ouanaminthe
Leyogàn / Léogane	
Marigo / Marigot	

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# A new journey full of hope



Suzane Felix in front of her home in Lachapèl, Haiti

When our team first met Suzane Felix, she avoided eye contact, feeling shy and "embarrassed that people were taking such an interest" in her. After being invited to CLM, our graduation program for women living in Ultra Poverty, she became excited and started to show more confidence. "When the case manager came to see me and explained the program, I was in disbelief," she smiled. "I don't have the words that could explain my gratitude for this chance."

Suzane is raising two growing boys, ages 13 and 7, on her own, with no assets or reliable income. Prior to joining CLM, she had all but resorted to begging. The village where she is from considers her a "lost cause."

Living in a one-room shack covered by a roof made of coconut leaves - she and her boys have to stand in the driest corner of the makeshift home to avoid the rain. "During the rainy season, we hardly get any sleep."

**"I was in disbelief."**

As a CLM participant, Suzane will be empowered with the tools and skills needed to change her life. During this intensive 18-month process, she will be closely accompanied by a CLM case manager who will help her to build a sustainable livelihood and the confidence needed to overcome extreme poverty - to ultimately create a future full of hope and possibilities.

To date, the CLM graduation success rate is above 95%. Suzane possesses the qualifications and drive for success, but it won't be easy. She will have to work hard and face many obstacles along the way. As she makes her way through this difficult journey, we will be there to support and guide her steps.

When asked what she wants most from this program, she said, "I want to see my children become something, get a good education and live a good life."

**950**  
new families have  
joined CLM as of  
**August 2017**

A little boy stands in front of a restaurant in Les Cayes, a week after Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.



Photo: Maxence Bradley

## Did You Know?

### CHOLERA RESPONSE

Fondasyon Kole Zèpòl (Fonkoze Foundation) launched its Cholera Awareness and Prevention Campaign in the six branch regions most affected by Matthew.

In November and December 2016 alone, Fonkoze's health team trained nearly **400** Center Chiefs (community leaders) on the importance of hygiene, hand-washing and drinking treated water. In turn, the Center Chiefs trained over **13,000** members of their Credit Centers, benefiting approximately **67,000** individuals (based on an average household size of five).

All clients in the six branch regions received at least one month's supply of water purification tablets (Aquatabs). The team distributed nearly **3.6 million** tablets.



Fonkoze's Linda Boucard (left) visits a client in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

When Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times wrote, "I've seen it in action. It's terrific," he was referring to the time he visited our work in the field a year after the catastrophic 2010 earthquake. He was able to see firsthand what it is Fonkoze means when we say we "empower Haitians to **lift themselves** out of poverty." He saw the very heart of our mission carried out through women like Ms. Jean, who only after 13 months in CLM, (our Ultra Poverty graduation program) went from extreme poverty to earning a living and providing a better life for her 5 children. Armed with a new set of tools and skills that Fonkoze helped her develop, Ms. Jean was now empowered to do the work needed to change her life - herself.

The same is true for the women and families we serve throughout Haiti today - including the ones who have suffered through devastating events such as Hurricane Matthew. Although they experience major setbacks and loss from these situations, they are now able to face them with more courage, knowing that there is a viable way for them to recover and rebuild their lives.

In our Adult Education classes, for example, women not only learn to read, write and manage money, they also learn how to prepare for disasters. This knowledge, when applied, is more valuable than if we were to simply hand over money and walk away. More than 130,000 women have participated in these classes. As a result, 130,000

"I've seen it in action."

are better prepared to handle adversities than ever before. By the end of 2017, hundreds more will have also participated.

We hope that Haiti will never have to endure another Hurricane Matthew or a 2010 Earthquake. But if it does, Fonkoze will be there, on the ground, as we have been for nearly 23 years. Although we are not a "relief" organization, our poverty-defeating mission combined with our physical presence (44 branches) throughout the country enables us to help our clients in a way that is truly impactful - long term.

## Hope through life's hurricanes

Hurricane Matthew, a category 4 hurricane, struck Haiti in the early morning of Tuesday, October 4, 2016, devastating the southern part of the country. It was one of the most powerful storms to hit Haiti in several decades. According to a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Situation Report, 2.1 million have been affected. In coastal areas of the South department, the World Food Program reported a 95% loss of housing and harvest. **Full recovery is expected to take years.** Damaged piped water systems, contaminated water sources and overflowing latrines has led to a dramatic increase in Haiti's cholera epidemic.

Fonkoze's recovery response in the days and months that followed was swift. As a result, many of our clients living in the most affected regions were able to start recovering and rebuilding their lives more quickly. **Your support in the wake of hurricanes such as Matthew and during the other months of each year enables us to build our clients' capacity to weather life's storms - with hope as their driving force. Thank you!**

# 'Let's run this race together and win.'



Charlotte Ménard runs for miles to prepare for the next pentathlon world championship.

A world champion pentathlete, Charlotte Ménard will be competing in various events around the world this year - but winning isn't her only mission. Charlotte has decided to represent Fonkoze at each event, in an effort to raise awareness and to shine a global spotlight on the work we do.

"What I do in life has to be more than what I get from it" she says. "I want to try and make a real difference in the world and this is one way that I can do that."

When asked why she chose Fonkoze, she said, "You are empowering women to change their lives themselves. I

admire the courage and strength they possess. Their stories and faces will stay with me for a long time. Whenever I feel like slowing down or giving up because the race has become too difficult, I will think of them and the unimaginable things they have to overcome every day. To the world, I say, 'Let's run this race together and win. Let's defeat poverty.'" Pictured Below: Charlotte (center) and her team win 1st place at the UIPM 2017 World Championships in Spain.

To follow Charlotte's worldwide run for Fonkoze, visit [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org) and our social media pages ([facebook.com/fonkoze](https://facebook.com/fonkoze), [twitter.com/fonkoze](https://twitter.com/fonkoze) and [instagram.com/fonkoze](https://instagram.com/fonkoze)).



*YOU can run the race with Charlotte!*

Whether you start a fundraiser on Fonkoze's behalf, raise awareness on social media and/or donate to our mission directly - your support in these ways helps us to continue our work for the most vulnerable women and families in Haiti. Visit the "TAKE ACTION" section of [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org) to learn more.



Solidarity client Ms. Isemanie Bois-Pierre

Clients like Isemanie Bois-Pierre (pictured above), who started in Solidarity, are trained and closely guided throughout the program to position them for growth. Isemanie used the business skills she had developed with the help of her Field Agent and the loans Fonkoze provided her to grow her small commerce into a nation-wide success.

Today, she is at the top of our "Staircase Out of Poverty" and her products (cleaning supplies, toiletries etc.) are being sold all over Haiti.

To learn more about our poverty-defeating programs and services, visit the "What We Do" section of our website: [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org).

## Field Agents Driven by Mission of Hope

Shycanta Amy (pictured above) is one of many Fonkoze Field Agents whose sole purpose on the job is to help our Solidarity clients succeed in overcoming a life of poverty. Passionately driven by our core mission, this hardworking group works closely with each client, motivating, training and guiding them through their difficult and often tumultuous journey.

Solidarity is Fonkoze's core lending program. It provides loans to groups of five women (called a Solidarity group), creating a built-in system of accountability and support. The loans (beginning at \$45 and increasing to over \$850) that are provided enable women who have already established themselves as micro-entrepreneurs to expand their businesses for long-term success.



Shycanta Amy's Solidarity group sings a song during their monthly meeting.



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## YOU Make It Happen

Your gift to Fonkoze is helping put loans in the hands of more than 60,000 women throughout rural Haiti!

### Keep Fonkoze in your thoughts and prayers.

Your prayers and positive thoughts are a source of strength and inspiration for Fonkoze staff and clients.

**Make a tax-deductible contribution.** Your gift is more important than ever! Visit our website to make a secure online contribution ([give.fonkoze.org](http://give.fonkoze.org)), or send a check payable to Fonkoze USA to 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20009.

**Give through the employer matching gift program.** Submit your company's matching gift form with your donation, and Fonkoze USA will process and return it to your employer. Or, send us your donation first, then present your acknowledgment letter to your employer for processing a match.

**Give through the CFC.** Fonkoze USA participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Designate your contribution to Fonkoze USA, CFC ID # 31204.

**Remember a loved one.** Give a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. Provide the details via our online giving form at [give.fonkoze.org](http://give.fonkoze.org), and Fonkoze will notify your honoree on your behalf with a beautiful card.



[fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org)

## Leave a Lasting Legacy for Fonkoze and Haiti

Join us in working shoulder-to-shoulder for a better Haiti – a Haiti where all Haitians can participate in their country's development, where rural economies thrive, and where families have access to financial services, education, healthcare and more.

**Leave a lasting legacy** towards rural economic development in Haiti by becoming a member of the Fonkoze USA Shoulder-to-Shoulder Society.

To find out how to make bequests to Fonkoze, contact Leigh Carter, Fonkoze USA Founder, at 202-628-9033 or [lcarter@fonkoze.org](mailto:lcarter@fonkoze.org).

Please visit our website, [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org), for more information on how you can support our work.



**Fonkoze is featured in the Center for High Impact Philanthropy (CHIP) [2016 High Impact Giving Guide!](#)**

**CHIP** is the only university-based center with a singular focus on how philanthropy can achieve greater social impact. The High Impact Giving Guide is designed to help donors make a bigger difference with their philanthropic gifts.