

**Press Release**  
**For immediate distribution**

## **PIGraN'2017: Inauguration of the *Paul Gérin-Lajoie* Early Childhood Center (CPE-PGL) and Laying of the Foundation Stone of various buildings at the City of Knowledge**

**Génipailler – April 7, 2017** - Operation completed! GRAHN kept its promise and, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, launched the CPE-PGL (kindergarten) of Génipailler, Milot, in Haiti. GRAHN also laid the foundation stones of the next three buildings of the City of Knowledge: the primary (fundamental) school, the AMHE-GRAHN community health center, and the HL-Construction Pavilion – Professors' Residence. In front of a crowd estimated at more than 600, and in a joyful atmosphere, an entire population reconnected with the hope of a better life and a promising future founded on sharing, solidarity, and knowledge. All women and men present could witness that GRAHN's wild dream was now very far from the utopia that gave birth to it. In addition to Génipailler's population, which was well represented, various personalities and delegations came to express their support to the project and reaffirm their commitment to the dream. His Excellency Mr. Frantz Liautaud, Ambassador of Haiti in Canada, one of GRAHN's great supporters, made the trip specially for the event; His Excellency Mr. Manfred Auster, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Haiti, came to witness personally the impact of GRAHN's projects; the Senator of the North Department, Mrs Dieudonne Luma Étienne, came to confirm, through her presence, her interest in this development project taking place in her region; led by Mr. François Zago, a delegation of five members of the Lamentin Rotary club, in Martinique, an important contributor to the project, was present to express its solidarity towards the Haitian people; led by Dr. Reynald Altéma from the USA, a delegation of ten physicians and nurses of the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (AMHE) and of Quebec's Coalition of Haitian Nurses and Nursing Assistants was present to affirm its commitment to the project and lay the foundations for improved health for the region's inhabitants. More than 80 GRAHN members and



sympathizers came from all over the country (from as far as the Southern tip of the island) and from overseas (Canada, France, USA) traveled to participate in the event.

The ceremony started with the words of welcome of the Mayor of Milot who availed himself of the opportunity to express his gratitude towards GRAHN and affirm his support for the project. Those greetings were complemented with the show of the 35 children already registered at the

kindergarten. That was one the afternoon's touching moments, with a very eloquent demonstration of the developmental stage of these children in front of a crowd that was completely foreign to their reality. Their performance was strong evidence that the future is in good hands for the emergence of a new Haiti. They revived the confidence that was lost, as well as the optimism about a better tomorrow.

Following the performance, Professor Samuel Pierre spoke to explain the rationale undergirding the PIGraN project, describe the perspectives, and thank all the men and women who made it possible and continue to contribute to it. Then followed the address by Dr. Reynald Altéma from AMHE and GRAHN-USA to describe the mission and goals of the health community center. Another touching moment was the remarks by Mr. Hervé Lerouge, the first Haitian businessman to have donated a building to the City of Knowledge. It was with significant emotion that Mr. Lerouge confirmed his commitment to the project and his promise to build the professors' residence of the City of Knowledge. Then came the more formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, thus inaugurating officially the Early Childhood Center in the presence of several children and officials. A center that, after only 6 months of existence, succeeded in revealing the potential of Haiti's children. To continue on the same path, maintain the intensity of the dream, and reaffirm GRAHN's commitment towards Haiti, the ceremony concluded with laying the foundation stone for the three new buildings by the AMHE delegation for the AMHE-GRAHN health center; by Maggy Apollon, the architect in charge, for the fundamental school; and Mr. Hervé Lerouge for the professors' residence. Construction of the three buildings will start in 2017.



### **About GRAHN**

GRAHN is a worldwide citizen-watch organization, who is eager to contribute through well thought-out actions to the solution of the problems of Haiti. It aims to be a citizenly and nonpartisan movement, focused on the construction of a new Haiti that is founded on the rule of law, sharing, solidarity, education, respect for the environment, and a strong commitment towards the common good.

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