

# THE LAMBI FUND OF HAITI

*Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti*



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## REBUILDING AFTER HURRICANE JEANNE

Many of you responded to last year's pleas to help re-build communities destroyed by Hurricane Jeanne. Thanks to your support, thousands of Haitians are on the road to recovery! Here's how you helped:

### COLLABORATIVE REBUILDING.

First, the Lambi Fund staff met with the impacted organizations to determine together what was in most need of repair or replacement. Working collectively, peasant groups prioritized what needed to be done.

### JUMP STARTED THE BEAN PLANTING SEASON.

Several organizations decided to focus their efforts on an Emergency Bean Planting project to jump start the planting season. Beans grow quickly in the area and it was the upcoming season for beans. It was critical that the fields were sowed and planted immediately. The Lambi Fund helped organizations purchase seeds, tools and materials to push the process forward. Eight peasant organizations planted black, red and white beans and got a viable crop started immediately. The organizations successfully harvested and sold the bean crops at the local markets. During a recent meeting with the Lambi Fund staff, the farmers stressed the importance of this effort and gave credit to the Lambi Fund for saving their lives following the hurricane. With your help, hundreds of farmers reclaimed their hope for the future and support for their families.

### PROVIDED WORKING CAPITAL TO MARKET WOMEN.

Your support helped the market women from ten peasant organizations purchase anew their market goods lost in the floods. They were quickly able to resume their market activities. These small investments made huge impacts. At an organizational meeting, the women expressed their gratitude, "You helped us get back on our feet."

### REPLACED FARM ANIMALS.

Lambi Fund gave seven peasant organizations small grants to buy 50 female goats for those families that lost goats in the floods. Lambi also provided grants to buy two billy goats to improve breeding quality. Lambi Fund staff met with representatives of each of the organizations to strategically plan how to best purchase and distribute goats to the community members without problems. Three committees have formed in each area to supervise the operation.

### REPAIRED IRRIGATION CANALS.

Your support enabled the Lambi Fund to repair irrigation systems for three organizations, permitting groups to continue essential farming activities. One peasant organization encountered difficulties when a large international aid organization began repairing the irrigation canal that Lambi Fund had helped construct without consulting either the local peasant organization or the Lambi Fund. As a result, they began work on the irrigation canal with improper specifications. Community members' concerns prompted a meeting between the Lambi Fund engineer and the aid



*Collaborative meeting*



*Harvesting beans*



*A small market in Haiti*

*Continued next page*

## Update on Other Projects

### PEASANT ORGANIZATION OF TACH-7TH MOULEN (OPT7M) SUGAR CANE MILL

The Community of Tach/ 7èm Moulin is pleased with the services provided by the new sugar cane mill run by the OPT7M peasant organization. Now community members no longer have to walk miles to get their cane milled. Nor do they have to pay exorbitant prices charged by rich landowners who operate the other mill. Even better, residents of Tach-7th Moulen say the cane syrup or “siwo” produced by the OPT7M mill tastes good, is clean and of good quality.

The Mill has two kinds of “Siwo” “depending on how long the cane juice is cooked:

- “Siwo Mache” is a market syrup which is sold at the local market and is used as a sweetener by the peasantry instead of refined sugar.
- Industrial “Siwo” is used by the local residents as an ingredient to create a drink called Clairin in French, Kleren in kreyòl.

The users of the mill, pay the organization in “nature”, not money. For every eight buckets (1bkt = 5 gal) the organization is paid two buckets. OPT7M stores the “Siwo” and sells it. The proceeds are then used to pay the operators of the mill, to buy gas and use for all other expenses.

Tidjo, our field monitor in the Artibonite, asked OPG (another organization with a sugar cane mill financed by Lambi Fund six years ago) to help train the operator of the OPT7M mill. Another example of Lambi Fund collaboration! Thanks to World Venture Partners for helping make this project happen!



OPT7M members examine the new sugar cane mill

.....  
*Now community members no longer have to walk miles to get their cane milled.*  
.....

### OX PLOW PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH

Lambi has received many requests for ox plow projects in the South, an indication that planters in the area are very interested. Ox Plow projects run by the Peasant Movement of Periyen (MOPEP), Organization for the Development of Cavaillon (ODECA), God Is All-Powerful Organization of Gilgo (ODTPG), Small Church Community of Laval (TKLL) and the Farmers Organization of Dikòs (OPD) are proceeding well but are all impacted by the drought. These groups are collaborating in their farming activities as well. St. Cyr, our local field monitor in the South, is helping guide the organizations with training and organizational development skills. ✨



LFH Haiti Program Staff and Advisor (left to right) Tidjo, Paul, Josette, a local peasant leader, and Ferry. Seated: Marguerite, Advisor

from page one

## Rebuilding after Hurricane Jeanne

organization to develop the proper approach to the canal repairs. Working in tandem with the aid organization, the Lambi Fund staff negotiated an estimate using the proper specifications and work recently began under Lambi Fund supervision to repair the canal in the correct manner. This story makes a great case for the grassroots collaborative approach that the Lambi Fund uses in everything it does. Repairs and rebuilding are still underway in ravaged parts of the Artibonite Valley. We will give you progress reports as time goes on.

Thank you Lambi Fund donors for making a difference for the Hurricane Jeanne victims in the Artibonite Valley! Special thanks go to Public Welfare Foundation, Share Our Strength, American Jewish World Service, Christ Church, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, First Data Western Union, Beyond Borders, Tides Foundation, Share Foundation, St Robert of Newminster Church, and Dougherty Foundation. ✨

## New Projects

Lambi is very concerned about the environment and its degradation every day in Haiti. For that reason every new project that we finance in 2005 and after, has an additional reforestation component. New projects we are citing have this activity added to it.

In 2005, Lambi Fund is organizing a conference for women's groups in three departments (Artibonite, South and Central Plateau) with the theme "Environment and Family Health"

*The following new projects are in need of funding:*

### REFORESTATION

The Assembly of the Peasants of Pochèt (RPP) in the South wants to reforest the land on the top of their mountain that has degraded due to erosion and deforestation. Lambi Fund will provide tools and equipment (wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, picks, sprinkler, sprinkler pump, plastic bags, cement, pesticide) and 100,000 fruit and forest tree seedlings. Lambi Fund staff will conduct training to teach participants about the problems of deforestation and erosion and methods to prevent further degradation in the future. They will learn about composting and how to establish tree nurseries and agroforest gardens using sustainable agriculture techniques.



*Deforested mountains near Gonaïves*

### POTABLE WATER AND REFORESTATION

Konbit 2004, a peasant organization in Chato, wants to address the lack of potable drinking water for the community and the deforestation that is destroying the soil. To help provide clean water for families and children, Lambi Fund will finance this major undertaking by providing materials needed for the cisterns (cement, iron, binding wire, PVC, sheets of aluminum, transportation), ten 18-cubic meter water cisterns (4500 gallon capacity), 100,000 tree seedlings, and tools to raise the seedlings (wheelbarrows, shovels, wheels, hoes, rakes necessary to construct the tree nurseries. Lambi Fund will provide training on nursery techniques and sustainable agricultural solutions, as well as leadership and organizational development skills.



### MICRO-CREDIT AND AGRICULTURE

The Peasant Organization for The Development of Ennri (OPDE) in the Artibonite wants assistance in helping peasants become economically secure by providing resources to invest in farming, as well as reforestation of the area. Lambi Fund will start a micro-credit fund for the farmers, furnish agricultural supplies, seeds for planting bean crops, tree seedlings to reforest the land, and sustainable agriculture training.

### PIGS AND GOATS

Small Community Church of Dewonsre (TKLD) in the South wants to improve economic conditions for their community by starting a pig and goat breeding project. Lambi Fund will supply 21 pigs, 20 goats, feed for the animals, and veterinary services for one year. \*

.....  
Lambi Fund will finance this major undertaking by providing materials needed for the cisterns  
.....

# Information on the kidnapping incident

BY THE LAMBI FUND ADVISORY BOARD AND HAITI STAFF

*Note: Some of you may have heard bits and pieces about an incident that happened to four Lambi Fund staff and board members in April. Here is a brief factual account of the events.*

Every other year the Lambi Fund of Haiti (LFH) holds its annual board meeting in Haiti in different locations. On these occasions, LFH staff and board members that live in the US always have the opportunity to visit nearby LFH projects and meet with members of its partner organizations.

This year the meeting was scheduled to take place on April 14–18, in a seaside hotel on the Cote de Arcadins. LFH staff (both US and Haiti), directors of the board and advisory board members planned to visit four projects in the Artibonite Valley, one of the LFH’s geographic areas of project concentration.

LFH US staff and board members arrived in P-a-P on April 14. The LFH Haiti team met them at the airport and the group headed directly out of the capital on National Rd #1 in 3 rented cars.

On that road, specifically in Tamarinye after Bon Repos, a group of four armed bandits stopped the rented car. Inside the car were the LFH Haiti Project Director who was driving the car and four female staff and board members of LFH USA. The bandits blocked the road, held a gun to the LF Project Director’s head, made him get out of the car and then drove the car away with the four LFH USA staff and board members in the car.

The LFH Project Director immediately borrowed a phone and called the other LFH staff and board members that were ahead in the other two cars. After reuniting, they analyzed the situation in order to determine what to do next.

Meanwhile, the bandits drove down a remote road with the four LFH women in the car they had stolen. After terrorizing them with cocked guns and deadly

threats and taking all they owned—money, jewelry, laptops, and personal belongings—the bandits released them on Blanchard Road in the Cul-de-Sac plain. They did, however, return the passports to their victims.

Local residents directed the kidnapping victims to a nearby church where they sought help. From there, they were able to phone LFH staff, who rescued them. The LFH Haiti staff found the four women a secure place to stay the night.

Crimes such as kidnapping and highway banditry are happening everywhere, at anytime and to anyone in Haiti now. In this context, we remain convinced that LFH was not specifically targeted in this attack. We also have no idea who the bandits were or if they claim any affiliations.

Lambi Fund takes this opportunity to thank everyone who aided them in this difficult situation: the staff of the church run by the Oblates in Blanchard, who gave them refuge and much consolation; the staff of the Faculty of Agronomy that permitted LFH members to gather at the faculty to discuss the incident and make decisions; and the Sisters of Hospice St Joseph who took in the Lambi Fund women in their place that night.

The goal of telling this story is to correct misinterpretations and erroneous accounts regarding what happened. LFH staff received many solidarity calls, especially calls from organizations that LFH has supported. People asked Lambi Fund to not be discouraged...to continue the good work it is doing, to continue to support them. The Lambi Fund assures people it is continuing to support their struggle to obtain a better life for people in Haiti. ✨

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## Letters of Solidarity

BY KAREN ASHMORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As one of the Lambi Fund of Haiti team that was kidnapped while traveling through Haiti, I want to say that although this was a terrifying incident, it in no way deterred my commitment to the struggle of the people in Haiti. We escaped with our lives when they released us with just the clothes on our backs on a remote rural road. But it was the

grassroots people, the honest hard-working peasants of Haiti, who rescued us and delivered us to safety. Once again, the grassroots movement proved its strength in Haiti.

We returned to our homes in the U.S. traumatized, of course, but more committed than ever to the Lambi Fund of Haiti. This is because we were clearly reminded of the huge

need that the Lambi Fund is filling. Kidnappings and murders by lawless people are increasing each day as Haiti struggles for democracy. As devastating as our kidnapping was, Haitians live with this fear and violence each and every day. And, unlike us, they cannot board an airplane and leave.

This is why the board members,

the other staff, and I, although narrowly escaping death in Haiti, will continue to dedicate ourselves to the Lambi Fund. It is the best way we know to ensure that not one more person in Haiti dies of violence from the anti-democratic forces, of hunger, or of neglect.

We know that you, too, care

about the people who are left behind, who have no option but to continue surviving and fighting to turn their country's fate around. We know that you will share with us our delight in how the peasant-run projects that Lambi Fund supports are continuing to flourish. And we believe that you will keep funding our work, because

the Lambi Fund is one of the best ways that you, as one who cares about Haiti, can help.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of this whole incident is the letter of solidarity I received from representatives of 18 peasant organizations in Haiti. I share this letter with you:

De: Organizasyon Rejyon Latibonit  
Pou: Fon Lanbi  
Objè: Lèt de solidarite  
Dat: 15 Avril 2005

Zanmi kanmarad nou yo bonjou

Kijan nou ye? Eske nou rebran moral nou?

Nou menm òganizasyon patnè ki nan rejyon latibonit lan, nou te chita ansanm pa zòn pou nou te reflechi sou sak pase a. Dapre refleksyon nou yo, se yon aksidan ki rive, tankou sa abitye rive anpil nan manm nou yo sitou ti machann ki vwayaje Pòtoprens yo. Se ka ensekirite Global peyi a. Se vre se yon kou di pou LF pou chofè ki tap kondwi machin nan, lè li pa konnen ki bò yo fè ak kanmarad li yo. Sa yo pral fè ak yo. Se te pi di toujou pou kanmarad yo ki livre nan men kidnapè yo, kap sibi presyon, e yo pa konnen ki sò yo. Se te yon kou di tou, pou rès manm Lanbi yo, ki tap viv moman pak la tap rive. Bon Dye te la. Bagay yo pase jan yo pase a, konpliman pou Bon Dye.

Nou menm ki se òganizasyon patnè LF travay nan latibonit lan nou endiye devan aksyon revòltan sa a, kòm pèp ki reve yon chanjman, kòm moun kap batay pou yon lòt sosyete, aksyon sa yo revòlte nou anpil e se konsekans move pratik politik ki trennen peyi a nan lawont ak desepsyon li twouve l la a.

Zanmi nou yo kouraj, fòk nou kontinye lite pou chanjman reyèl la. Pa dekouraje òganizasyon baz yo makonnen fòs yo ak fòs pa nou pou n rive kwape fòs fè nwa yo bloke wout chanjman an. Kenbe pa lage!

From: Organizations from the Artibonite Region  
To: Lambi Fund  
Re: Letter of Solidarity  
Date: April 15, 2005

Greetings to our comrades and friends,

How are you? Is your morale better now?

Members of our partner organizations from the Artibonite sat down in our respective areas to reflect about what had happened. Based on our reflection this incident that occurred is what our members experience, especially the little market women who travel to Port-au-Prince. There is a global insecurity problem in Haiti. It is true it was a blow to Lambi Fund, especially to the driver who did not know what had happened to his colleagues and what their fate would be.

It was even harder for those kidnapped that were under pressure not knowing what their fate would be. It was a hard blow also for the other members of Lambi Fund who had to experience this with Easter around the corner. God was a witness and things happened as they did, thanks to God!

The members of LF partner organizations in the Artibonite are indignant with regard to this revolting action; as people dreaming of change, as people struggling for a different kind of society, actions like this revolt us very much and are the consequence of bad political practices that drag our country down in the shame and deception it finds itself in today.

Courage our friends because it is necessary that we continue to struggle for real change!

Do not get discouraged for we of the grassroots organizations join our forces with yours to overcome the forces of darkness that block the road to change. Keep the faith!

Groups that sent  
letters of solidarity  
to the Lambi Fund:

AFKB  
APS  
(See photo pg. 6)  
ODEPRIB

APMR  
AGPGM  
APCE  
OPB

AJS  
SOFAMR  
POFGM  
OPG

OPHAT  
FAD  
KBS  
OPT7M

FEGACD  
COPAHB  
REPREZENTAN

# Friends in the News

## Marie Gilberte Estimé-Thompson wins award

Earlier this year Marie-Gilberte Estimé Thompson, Treasurer of the Lambi Fund Board of Directors, was a recipient of the Haitian Lawyers' Association (HLA) of Miami Honoree Award. She is a founding member, past President of HLA, and was recognized for her advocacy work, tireless efforts, and activism on behalf of the Haitian immigrant community. The Lambi Fund is proud and honored that Marie has embraced the Lambi Fund's mission of supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti. Marie, mès pou bon travay wap fè pou Ayiti ak Lanbi!



## Wine label benefits Lambi Fund

After producing some of California's most highly sought after cabernets from its vineyards on Sonoma Mountain for twenty years, Patrick Campbell of Laurel Glen Vineyards took an exploratory trip to Chile in 1995 and liked what he saw. Making limited production (and hence, relatively expensive) wine had its charms; but Campbell, whose lifetime fascination with Che Guevara reveals a stubborn egalitarian streak, yearned to produce a more populist wine. The result was Terra Rosa, an affordable cabernet wine produced with environmentally conscious farming practices.



While Patrick was searching the farther reaches of the Chilean and Argentine wine worlds, one of his daughters, Maia, was engaged in setting up legal mediation centers in the Guatemalan highlands, and through her work encountered some colleagues who supported the Lambi Fund. Patrick was intrigued. Why not draw on his Terra Rosa contacts to develop a wine that not only tastes good but does good? Patrick ran the idea past his old friend and business partner, Tim Chegwiddden, an economist with broad experience in the international wine trade. Tim was as excited as Patrick!

Thus was born Chévere, a modest contribution to wine lovers with a social conscience. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of this rich and deep cabernet will be donated to the Lambi Fund to support its vital work. Look for the Chévere label at your local wine store or if you live in a state that allows wine shipments, order it online at [www.laurelglen.com](http://www.laurelglen.com). \*

## Madison Smartt Bell's new book is out

Following the widely acclaimed *All Souls' Rising* and *Master of the Crossroads*, Madison Smartt Bell gives us the climactic final chapter in the life of Toussaint Louverture, the legendary Haitian leader of the only successful slave revolution in history. *The Stone That the Builder Refused* is a masterly weave of the factual and the imagined. Madison is a longtime supporter of the Lambi Fund and read us a preview of this book at our 10th anniversary celebration last year.

## Changamire Benefit Concert

Well-known Washington DC jazz singer Changamire performed a concert benefiting the Lambi Fund in April. Several Lambi Fund members attended this inspiring event. Thank you, Changamire!

## Berkeley Travel Store Hosts Reception

*What the Traveller Saw (The World Culture General Store)* in Berkeley hosted a donor reception for the Lambi Fund in March. Lambi Fund Executive Director Karen Ashmore spoke at the event organized by Max Blanchet and Sandy Hunter of the Haiti Tree Project. Thanks Max and Sandy!



Leaders of Peasant Association of Sèl (APS), one of the groups that sent the letter of solidarity to the Lambi Fund.



## Sign up For Lambi Email News

Keep up with the latest news by signing up for our new email newsletter—send your email address to us at [info@lambifund.org](mailto:info@lambifund.org). Or visit our website at [www.lambifund.org](http://www.lambifund.org) for updated information on Haiti and Lambi Fund projects.

## How You Can Help

Want to help the Lambi Fund but not sure how? Here are some ways you can help:

- Send us the names and addresses of five friends who share your values
- Host a house party for the Lambi Fund
- Email our website link to 20 friends and encourage them to donate
- Pass this newsletter on to a friend who does not know about the Lambi Fund
- Volunteer to translate documents from kreyol to English
- And, of course, make a tax deductible donation yourself!

For information or to volunteer on any of the above, email us at [info@lambifund.org](mailto:info@lambifund.org).

## Contact info

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Phone: 202-833-3713  
Email: [info@lambifund.org](mailto:info@lambifund.org)  
Website: [www.lambifund.org](http://www.lambifund.org)



*Please cut out and return to address above:*

yes!

- Yes! I want to help peasant organizations in Haiti!
- Yes! I pledge to give this newsletter to a friend who shares my values and ask them to help, too.

Enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Lambi Fund of Haiti. All donations are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Why I Give

By JEAN MEAD

I have heard people speculate about why a loving God would allow little innocent children to die of starvation and why terrible diseases like cancer, AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are so prevalent and killing so many undeserving people.

But I have always felt that, actually, our earth is a beautiful and plentiful place, where there is enough to feed everyone, and disease need not be prevalent. But we have not been good stewards of this earth—we have not shared its abundance, and not cared wisely for our environment. Our selfishness, we, among the people who have, and control most of the earth's



bounty, has brought about the suffering and death around us.

It is, in my small way, a hope of alleviating suffering, that I give. I am also ashamed of the foreign policies of my country. These foreign policies of the United States, which purport to be humanitarian and generous, are usually militaristic and self serving. I am also ashamed that most of our foreign aid is given for military purposes, and not for the welfare of the planet. And, by the way, Haiti, being only a little more than a stone's throw from the southern tip of Florida, suffers intensely from some of my country's disastrous foreign policies.

And so I try in my small part to counteract my country's destructive impact on my planet. That is why I give to the Lambi Fund. \*

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## STAFF

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- Josette Perard  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Lambi Fund's mission is to assist the popular, democratic movement in Haiti. Its goal is to help strengthen civil society as a necessary foundation of democracy and development. The fund channels financial and other resources to community-based organizations that promote the social and economic empowerment of the Haitian people.

## SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Send us an email at [info@lambifund.org](mailto:info@lambifund.org) if you want to be on our email list for periodic updates directly from Haiti. Or check our website [www.lambifund.org](http://www.lambifund.org) for blogs from Haiti, information on delegation trips to Haiti, job openings and other up to the minute news.

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Lambi Fund of Haiti  
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