



# THE LAMBI

Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti

## Celebrate with us in NYC this summer!

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting an event on July 15th, 2015 at Penthouse808 Long Island City, NY featuring acclaimed Haitian



Edwidge Danticat

author, Edwidge Danticat. There will be Haitian food, drinks, and music, as well as a chance to learn about Lambi Fund's 20 years of impact in Haiti. Whether you're an old friend of Lambi or just want a chance to learn more about what we do, we'd love for you to join us.

**Interested in receiving an invite?** Please email [katiana@lambifund.org](mailto:katiana@lambifund.org) or keep an eye on our website for more info!

## Don't Live in NYC?

We didn't forget about you! This 20th anniversary event will be streamed through our website and be available for viewing all over the globe.

Want a bit more of a celebration? Contact: [stephen@lambifund.com](mailto:stephen@lambifund.com) about hosting your own streaming party in your town!



## Winter Delegation Visits the Artibonite

Arriving in Bige in the Commune of Gwomon, we were summoned to a meeting of the Organization of the Peasants of Bige by the call of the lambi. It had been quite a journey: having snuck out of Port au Prince on back roads the previous day in response to a national transportation strike to protest gas prices, we were held up at a road block for a half hour that morning on our way to Bige. The journey was worth it. OPB, with whom Lambi Fund has been working for the better part of a decade, had an air of near prosperity about it. Ten water cisterns provided clean drinking to the entire community. Reforestation projects not only helped to prevent erosion; they provided shade from the heat of the midday sun. Goats, which provided milk, cheese and meat – or as needed, tuition for school or money for a hospital bill – scampered about.

In addition to its visit to OPB, the delegation visited five other projects including a women's credit project, ODEPARIB, recently funded, in part, through a grant from PRBB. Moving testimony from the women as to the impact of the loans was reinforced through a meticulous recapitulation of the flow of money into the loan fund, out of the loan fund in the form of loans and its eventual return with interest.

A visit to the Center for Plantain Propagation featured a demonstration of the remarkable decortication process through which a single offshoot of a plantain eventually becomes up to 60 separate, disease free plantain trees. The CPP, with funding from the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation, has recently added fencing to discourage theft and is in the process of installing a well to facilitate watering of the newly decorticated offshoots.

If you'd like to read more about the delegation, journalist Anna Ferdinand has written a lovely essay that has been posted to our blogspot at [www.lambifund.blogspot.com](http://www.lambifund.blogspot.com). If you are interested in joining us for a delegation in the winter of 2015, please write drop us a note at [info@lambifund.org](mailto:info@lambifund.org).

# THE GROW HAITI COLLECTION

After a long and snowy winter, spring is finally here and it's time to think about rising temperatures, sunny skies, and spring plants!



A sampling of labels from the Grow Haiti Collection.

Our Deputy Director, Stephen and Digital Outreach Manager, Sophie met with Myrtle from Log House Plants earlier this year to discuss a future collaboration. This Oregon-based nursery is planning a fundraiser for the Lambi Fund featuring a “Grow Haiti” collection of traditional Haitian vegetables, including an heirloom tomato dating from the colonial period, burgundy okra, and two different types of peanuts.

A percentage of the proceeds from the plant sales will go to fund our reforestation projects in Haiti.



Stephen & Sophie meet with Myrtle.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date on when and where you can purchase these Haiti-inspired plants!

# BUILDING A NETWORK FOR JUSTICE BASED ADVOCACY IN HAITI

*A Letter from our Executive Director, Marie Marthe Saint Cyr*



At the Lambi Fund, we have passed an historic milestone: 20 years of dedicated service to support rural farmers. 2014 was a year of reflection and consternation; a time for contemplation and for assuming responsibilities for the next steps in our well-established partnership. The celebration took the form of testimony by the rural organizations that gathered in Latibonit (central plateau) and then in Kamperen (in the south). They spoke of their experiences as they challenged themselves and us to enter into a new relationship: The intersection where justice-based education meets with local and international advocacy to increase visibility and to promote the voice of those whose life is impacted in an atmosphere where democracy has taken a step backward. When there are no elections, and no legitimate representation of the people, then we know we must be vigilant, and that we must collaborate and network to build a broad based advocacy to rekindle the rights and power of the poor majority.

The Board of Directors, in their wisdom, has set a direction towards greater education and support to build a platform for networking for our partners. Our goal is to maximize dialogue and to promote the 250 organizations with whom we have worked so that they might exchange work/life experiences, where they can discuss and find agreement on their specific and collective goals, towards a policy-changing environment.

## Why this proposition?

As is always the case with the Lambi Fund, this initiative arises from the farmers and their organizations that have asked the Lambi Fund for assistance so that they might have a continuous dialogue amongst themselves about their common interests, common grounds and common strategies.

Second, it is an important step to consolidate their base and move forward to mobilize for their rights to the basic essentials for living and for the opportunity to thrive.

Systematically, we must strengthen peasant organizations through awareness, education and training, going beyond basic civic education to justice-based education so that our partners have the capacity to rise above their current situation and demand their rights as citizens of a meaningful democratic nation.

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In 2006, following the devastation of Hurricane Jeanne, which washed away more than 15,000 hectares of topsoil, and killed more than 4,000 of my fellow Haitians, the Lambi Fund has insisted that each funded project plant at least 20,000 trees. Since that time, we have planted nearly 3,000,000 trees across rural Haiti, nearly 500,000 trees last



year alone. We can plant a tree for as little as \$0.35. We will launch nine new projects in 2015, including three reforestation projects.



There will be campaigns in Haiti for parliament this summer; and a campaign for the presidency this fall. Here at the Lambi Fund, we will be launching our own campaign this year – and in the years to come – a campaign to reforest Haiti.

# GIVE WATER, GIVE LIFE UPDATE

I'm sure you remember Mesie.

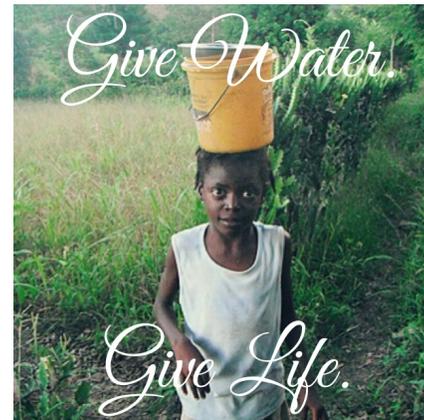
In 2014, we launched a campaign to build 20 cisterns in three communities in drought-ravaged Northwest Haiti. We called that campaign, "Give Water, Give Life." Our poster child was a little girl named Mesie who, like many other women in drought-prone regions, would walk miles to fetch water, foregoing school and work.

Last July, on Global Giving Day, 65 different individuals made gifts to support the campaign. Out of more than 2,752 projects that were supported that day, Give Water had the 5th highest number of donors. We received a bonus of \$1,820 as a result of the overwhelming support and raised a total of \$7,874 that day. Wow!

On top of that, many, many other individuals and foundations supported the campaign. So many, in fact, that although our total goal was a little more than \$80,000 for 20 cisterns, we ended up raising \$114,384. And so we will be building **30 cisterns!** Thank you!

But the best news of all is that the first 10 cisterns – in the community of Dityet – have already been built. Because of these cisterns, because of your support, over 4,000 individuals already have access to clean water!

Please take a look at some of the photos that we just received!



Working together to build the cisterns.



Laying the foundation of the cistern with concrete.



Water!



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## PLANT TREES FOR LIFE

Trees have been called the lungs of our planet. They breathe carbon, moderating the climate, and provide shade, moderating the weather. Forests generate their own weather, bringing much needed rainfall. They exhale oxygen. One tree can supply us with enough oxygen for 18 people. They prevent soil erosion; some trees even fix nitrogen. Their fallen leaves enrich the soils for our crops. They provide us with an endless variety of foods, from staples that fortify us like plantain and breadfruit to the fruits that nourish us like mango and avocado and the fuel to cook our food and to heat our homes.

You only need to look at Haiti, a country we all love and support, to know that trees are truly the givers of life. Here, the loss of tree cover has created desert-like conditions where lush forest once grew. Between 2011, a year after the earthquake, and 2014, Haiti fell from 161<sup>st</sup> to 168<sup>th</sup> on the UN Development Index of 187 nations; Haiti was 150<sup>th</sup> before the earthquake. Since 2008, the percentage of Haitians who are undernourished rose from 47% to 50%.

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