Dear Friends of the What If? Foundation,

Sending our annual report is one of my favorite jobs, because every year, I have the privilege of sharing a story of incredible progress. With every meal, every lesson, and every new student who walks through the halls of the Father Jeri School, Na Rive demonstrates the hopefulness, joy and determination at the heart of Haiti. And your support demonstrates the power of compassion when it reaches across borders to lift up those most in need.

It is a true privilege to collaborate daily with our Haitian partners as they carry out this life-changing work. Shared commitment is what hope and change are made of. Thank you so much for everything you have done and continue to do to support the children of Ti Plas Kazo. As you’ll read, it’s working. Together, we show the world what can happen when we see all children as equal regardless of where they are born.

Here’s one more way you can show your support: share this annual report, or one of our newsletters, with a friend. Spread the word about the real Haiti we all believe in so deeply. Your donations make an incredible difference, and so does your voice. The more of us who believe in a brighter future for and by Haitians, the bigger the difference we can make.

With love and gratitude,

Suzanne

Suzanne Alberga
Executive Director
What If? Foundation

Top
Lavarice Gaudin, Na Rive Program Director and Suzanne Alberga, Executive Director, What If? Foundation

Bottom
Margaret Trost, Founder, What If? Foundation
A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

From the early days when social justice advocate Father Jean-Juste and I came together to start the food program to where we are today, the What If? Foundation is a testament to partnership, perseverance, and the difference that can be made when love and vision are put into action.

I recently returned from a visit to Haiti where the transformational power of our work with Na Rive was vibrantly present in each classroom at the Father Jeri School and in every plate of food that was served. The sounds of students learning and playing lit up the neighborhood and my heart. The sounds of spoons scraping plates clean at the food program reminded me of how critical each meal is for a hungry child and the importance of what we do.

In a world where the enormity of problems can bring a sense of overwhelm and futility, I give thanks for the What If? Foundation and Na Rive. This unique and experienced partnership offers a tangible way to be a part of something beautiful - something that is truly contributing to the creation of a more loving, just, and peaceful world. This Annual Report shares the story. Thank you for being a part of it!

Margaret Trost
Founder
What If? Foundation
FOOD

Hunger and malnutrition remain a daily reality for the majority of Haitian children and their families. La Manje, Na Rive’s community food program which started in 2000, continues to provide vital nourishment for the Ti Plas Kazo community. There are three ways that your donations support local children and families.

HOT MEAL PROGRAM
Every Monday through Friday, the Na Rive cooking team serves a hot, nutritious meal to the children who live nearby. Up to 800 meals are distributed with love each afternoon.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA
Every school day, students and staff of the Father Jeri School are served lunch in the cafeteria. This is a rare occurrence in Haiti, since most schools do not provide food to their students. But Na Rive knows this daily meal supports the nutritional needs for learning and creates the bonds that nurture a powerful sense of community.

FOOD PANTRY
A substantial part of the community Na Rive serves moved to Ti Plas Kazo after the 2010 earthquake, when a tent settlement was established there for those who had lost their homes. In October 2016, the Haitian government dismantled that tent community, forcing hundreds of families to leave. These families – who have been relying on the food program for years – are now miles away from the place they have come to consider home, without permanent housing or enough income to reliably purchase food.

To address this need, Na Rive created a food pantry where these displaced families can pick up rice and beans to cook at home. Up to 60 families visit the food pantry each week, keeping nutrition on their tables and saving them from walking miles to Ti Plaz Kazo every day to participate in the hot meal program.
EDUCATION

Our Haitian partner, Na Rive, opened The Father Jeri School two years ago to foster the next generation of leaders in Haiti: children who are empowered, thoughtful, resilient, resourceful, proud of their heritage and ready to work together for positive change.

FATHER JERI SCHOOL
The Father Jeri School is growing quickly in both reputation and size. 351 children, aged 3 – 19 years, are currently enrolled from Pre-K to 12th grade. Our shared goal with Na Rive is to expand over the next few years to offer education all the way through from Pre-K to high school diploma.

There are 47 teachers and 23 staff working at the Father Jeri School. The teaching team, which includes 8 full-time and 39 subject-specific part-time teachers, brings depth and breadth of expertise to the curriculum. The staff includes an administrative team, a doctor, a nurse, a cleaning crew, and a team of afterschool teachers.

In addition to the wide variety of classes, the school provides students with cultural and community enrichment activities throughout the year, including field trips to important national sites and a weeklong retreat.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The What If? Foundation continued to support the scholarship program which began in 2001 to help students attend school in Port-au-Prince. 95 scholarships were provided in the 2016-2017 academic year. The students who remain in this program are either in a grade that the Father Jeri School does not yet offer, or they live too far from Ti Plas Kazo to attend school there every day.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
Na Rive’s popular afterschool programs continue to thrive. Father Jeri students and community members receive academic assistance after school hours, as well as the ability to learn income-generating skills or life and leadership skills like financial management and public speaking. More than 200 students were served by these programs in 2017.

SUMMER CAMP
Over six weeks during the summer, parents can rely on a safe place for their children to play, receive nutritious meals, and learn income-generating skills like macramé, computer basics, calligraphy, and sewing. 600 children joined the summer camp in 2017.
“In 2017, we saw the seeds of our efforts bearing fruit. The Father Jeri School deepened its roots in the community. The students expanded their horizons, and with the support of What If, we were able to open our classrooms to more children. Our food program continues to provide vital nourishment to the most impoverished among us.

It has been a year of growth and progress. As always, we remind ourselves that with compassion and perseverance, change is possible. Piti piti na rive! ”

Lavarice Gaudin
Program Director
Na Rive
HOPE

Haitians continue to endure incredible challenges, from political unrest to economic injustice, drought, food insecurity, and cataclysmic weather. Every program your donations support is designed to foster hope and opportunity for the Ti Plas Kazo community.

Food and education are key building blocks to create positive systemic change. And behind those building blocks is a deep, trusting relationship between What If and Na Rive. From fundraising to networking, creating strategic relationships, and finding the resources that fuel ingenuity, our shared commitment means we work together every single day to make hope possible.

The Father Jeri School has become a symbol of hope not just for its students and teachers, but for the community as a whole. Standing proud on the hill, the building represents determination, resilience, and the possibility of a better future for all. Community events like the annual Labor and Agriculture festival invite the whole neighborhood to share a meal in celebration of the hardworking people of Haiti.
2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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STAFF

Suzanne Alberga
Executive Director

Mia Masia
Donor Relations Associate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Margaret Trost
Founder, What If? Foundation

Bryan Sirchio
Director, Haiti Allies

Since 2000, the What If? Foundation has partnered with members of the Ti Plas Kazo community in Port-au-Prince, Haiti to provide food and educational opportunities to under-served children.

By pairing the commitment and expertise of our Haitian partner, Na Rive, with financial resources provided by our donors, we work together to make a difference in the lives of some of the world’s most impoverished children, providing hope and opportunity for a brighter future.

We are a 501 c 3 charitable organization established for the benefit of children in Haiti.

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