

PILOT PROGRAM

The Chez Moi Digital Launchpad

Computer literacy, English and web development training in Port-au-Prince

The Knowledge Bank Foundation in partnership with **The At Risk Children Foundation**

LOCATION	Chez Moi, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
PARTNER	The At Risk Children Foundation (ARCF)
TARGET START	1 January 2027
FACILITY	Chez Moi
STUDENTS	ARCF students of all ages, additional local students where capacity allows
FOCUS	Computer literacy, English, and responsive web design

WHY THIS, AND WHY NOW

Since 2002 the At Risk Children Foundation has given Haitian children a home, meals and a place in school. It is a registered 501(c)(3) with more than twenty years behind it, and it has the structure and the students already. That is what makes this pilot possible.

What those students do not have are computers to learn on. Close to six in ten Haitians are not online at all,⁵ and most of the young people in ARCF's care finish secondary school without having used a computer.⁶ They leave capable and motivated but with little if any computer skills, into a job market that asks for credentials they don't have. The Knowledge Bank Foundation intends to change that, beginning with a small cohort of students in Port-au-Prince.

The conditions children in Haiti are growing up in are among the hardest anywhere in the world. Roughly 751,000 children are displaced inside their own country.¹ Close to half the population faced acute hunger in the first half of this year.² More than one in four Haitian children is out of school, and more than sixteen hundred schools across four departments closed under armed violence by the spring of 2025.³ Eight in ten primary schools are non-public, which for most families makes schooling a purchase rather than a provision, and recruitment of children by armed groups rose seventy percent between 2023 and 2024.³ For a great many young people these are not statistics but the terms of daily life: displacement, hunger, interrupted schooling, illness, and violence close at hand.

These conditions have long roots. Haiti was founded in 1804 by people who had freed themselves from slavery, and from 1825 it spent more than a century paying France an indemnity demanded in return for recognizing that independence — a debt that by 1914 was consuming most of the national budget, and that was not finally settled until 1947.⁴ Occupation, dictatorship and repeated outside intervention followed. What a young person in Port-au-Prince faces today was assembled over centuries of exploitation.

WHAT THE PILOT IS

In partnership with the At Risk Children Foundation, the Knowledge Bank Foundation will set up a modest computer lab at Chez Moi, a house that already stands in Port-au-Prince with running water, power, solar panels, a generator, backup batteries, and stable wifi, and turn it into a teaching space. We will start with ten to fifteen laptops, enough to run a real class.

Teaching will be carried locally. TKBF will recruit and pay one local student teacher to work with students through the curriculum day to day. TKBF instructors will travel to Port-au-Prince for training and check-up visits, and between those visits will be available by video conference for IT support and curriculum assistance, so that the local teacher is never left without backup.

Students will come from ARCF's care. This is not a program for young adults only — ARCF supports students across a wide range of ages, and the pilot is open to them. Where the students and the resources exist, local students from the surrounding area will be included as well.

Most students will start at the beginning: many have never used a computer, and will begin with basic computer literacy. Every student will also learn English if they do not already speak it. English is the working language of documentation, source code and technical interviews, and without it the rest of the curriculum does not open up.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

Three strands, taken in sequence or in parallel depending on where a student starts:

- **Computer literacy.** Operating a computer, managing files, typing, working in an office suite, and using a browser and email safely.
- **English.** Delivered through freeCodeCamp's English for Developers curriculum, which is free and issues verified certificates.
- **Responsive web design.** HTML, CSS, layout, accessibility and a portfolio of working projects, again through freeCodeCamp, ending in an internationally recognized certificate.

freeCodeCamp's curriculum and certifications carry no license fees and no per-student cost. Everything raised for this pilot goes to the facility, the equipment and the people doing the teaching.

WHAT WE STILL NEED

Operating the Launchpad at Chez Moi for one year is estimated at approximately \$38,000. That figure is the fundraising goal for a first year of the project at this scale, and this is what it covers:

- **Facility and utilities.** Water, electricity, internet, propane, garbage collection, cleaning and sanitation, meals, and the routine maintenance that keeps the house running.
- **Staffing.** A housekeeper/cook to prepare meals for students, a groundskeeper, night and daytime security, plus an additional security guard and a local student teacher who works with students through the curriculum day to day.
- **Equipment and set-up.** An upgraded generator, tax-free shipping to bring ten to fifteen donated laptops into Port-au-Prince, and folding tables and chairs for the teaching space.

AFTER THE CURRICULUM

Students who complete the curriculum receive continued job placement assistance from TKBF. Resume building, interview preparation, soft skills, and introductions through TKBF's small network of professional connections.

WHERE THIS GOES

This is TKBF's first pilot program. It is deliberately small, and it is meant as a starting point for larger projects, both in the United States and abroad — serving more students than one house in Port-au-Prince ever can. If the need and the resources exist, we are prepared to scale, including running structured groups of students throughout the week rather than the single group the pilot begins with.

As we move forward, we are working toward growing partnerships with local, remote, and overseas employers for alumni — which, for a student who wanted it, could open a pathway to immigration.

WHAT THIS RETURNS

Everything this program costs to run for a year, a single determined graduate will be able to earn in a year of employment in the future. A credential opens a career that was not previously on the map. A wage feeds a household and moves through a neighborhood economy. A young person who can support themselves is no longer a young person at risk. And knowledge, once someone has it, cannot be taken from them and does not depreciate — it is the one asset that holds its value under any conditions. What this program asks for is one year of support. What it returns compounds, in earnings and in the quality of a life, every year after that, for every student it reaches.

SOURCES

¹ UN Security Council Report, *Haiti Monthly Forecast*, Sept 2026, citing UNICEF (securitycouncilreport.org) · ² IPC, *Haiti: Acute Food Insecurity*, Sept 2025 – June 2026 (ipcinfo.org) · ³ Education in Emergencies Hub, *Haiti's Education Crisis*, November 2025 (eiehub.org) · ⁴ UN News, *How Haiti paid for its freedom – twice over*, April 2025 (news.un.org) · ⁵ DataReportal, *Digital 2025: Haiti* (datareportal.com) · ⁶ At Risk Children Foundation program reporting.

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