This is necessarily a short report as we had to maximize the time we had to complete the school building and the little restaurant. It was hard work all day every day and all workers gave their time voluntarily or almost.

We brought in donated items to decorate the classrooms and the donated pigments for the wall paintings.

Roof frames, roofing sheets and gutter system were all bought in PaP and shipped to the island. The main iron gate was built locally and installed.

There was also much work done at the school garden and the issue of watering the plants detouring the street gutter and setting up an agreement to use it for half a day and share it with someone else down the road who was also using the same water.

We bought the equipment for the restaurant (fridge, coffee machine, gas stove, crockery and cutlery table items, decorations). We made sure there was a partition between the school entry and the restaurant which can feed the school children via the back door, but the children are not to enter from the street. The income over the Christmas holiday was good and I receive news that it is still working fine.

Parents worked hard at making the uniforms for the school which started with 18 children for whom we ran a sponsorship program selling Haitian art. So thank to all those who contributed to the school first year of operation. Thanks to Barbara Zoland, AAE Australia offered the one teacher’s wage for the first year.

Since, the number of children enrolled has increased to 88 (at last count).

I could not personally go for Xmas 2015-2016 due to family reasons, but we are following AAE closely from remote all year round and communicate daily with La Gonave.

Will go again in February 2017 or earlier, and we are working at long term connections of the island with its surroundings to improve the medical and agricultural situation plus create so much needed income-generating businesses.

Again thanks to all our supporters.

Orietta L’Abbate for AAE La Gonave