

Make Change Possible Join Our Board of Directors

Over 80% of children living in orphanages worldwide have at least one living parent who could care for them at home. Placed in orphanages with promises of a better future, these children too often find themselves in situations of neglect, abuse, slavery and human trafficking by corrupt orphanages. In 2017-2018, Haitian Social Services (IBESR) performed an audit of approximately 750 orphanages in Haiti, of which 95% failed to meet national standards of care. Yet even those orphanages that are operating legally and are well-intentioned can be emotionally and developmentally damaging to children. Research shows that compared to children raised in a family environment, institutionalized children suffer more harmful outcomes, including higher rates of suicide, crime, trafficking, prostitution, homelessness, and poor health.



Yet positive change is possible and is happening in Haiti – and around the world. There’s a growing movement to support child protection and the transition away from orphanage models, to family-based care and community development. LFBS works closely with Haitian authorities to support this process in Haiti and protect vulnerable children from exploitation and abuse. Haitian orphanages.

Little Footprints Big Steps (LFBS) is a Canadian International Development Organization operating in Haiti that works to protect vulnerable children by reuniting families and empowering them with resources and opportunities to build a self-sufficient future.

LFBS was founded in 2011 by Canadians Morgan Wienberg and Sarah Martin who, while traveling to Haiti to volunteer after the devastating 2010 earthquake, witnessed the abuses and deception being perpetrated against children and families by the exploitative orphanage industry. What started as a temporary emergency safe house for children in Les Cayes, Haiti, has grown to encompass holistic support to families in 45 communities across 9 departments. Our programming focuses on child well-being, family and community development, advocacy of child rights, and community health.



Our work spans from comprehensive care provided in our transitional safe houses to inclusive community interventions ranging from education and vocational training to micro loans and business start-up activities to mental health, nutritional and medical care. A respected leader in the children’s rights field, LFBS is widely acknowledged for our holistic approach to child protection and sustainable family development. In collaboration with Haitian Social Services, UNICEF, LUMOS, and other stakeholders, LFBS works to fulfill the right of every child in Haiti to grow up in a safe and loving family environment.

Opportunities: Board Member

LFBS is currently seeking new membership to join our Board of Directors and to volunteer time and expertise to advance our strategic priorities. We are especially interested in those who have experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Construction/Building
- Finance
- Legal/Policy/Compliance
- Fundraising/Partnership Development
- International Development/Peacekeeping
- Child Protection/Child Development
- Strategic Planning & Risk Management
- Human Resources & Corporate Experience
- Haitian Business/Bureaucracy/Governance



Board Member Commitment

Board Members serve a term of 3 years and may be reappointed for a further 3 years. In addition to their role on the Board, members also serve on at least one committee.

Board meetings are held remotely and occur monthly for 2 hours on the last Tuesday of each month (8pm-10pmEST). It is anticipated that a up to 20 hours/month will be required for Board meetings and Board related work.



Opportunities: Committee Members

We are also seeking members who can bring legal, governance, financial, fundraising and communications, diversity/inclusion/equity expertise to the following Board Committees:

- Anti Oppression
- Governance Committee
- Recruitment Committee
- Financial Oversight Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Construction Committee

Committee Member Commitment

Committee meetings are held remotely and typically occur monthly for 1 to 2 hours on a date and time as determined by each Committee. It is anticipated that a up to 10 hours/month will be required for Committee meetings and Committee related work.

Expressions of Interest in Joining Our Board or a Board Committee

Please submit your expression of interest to the attention of Franca Hoda, Board Chair at: franca@littlefootprintsbigsteps.com

To learn more about LFBS, please visit our website at <https://littlefootprintsbigsteps.com/>



*LFBS is a registered charity under the Canada Revenue Agency 84792 2101 RR0001 and
United States Revenue Agency 501 (c) (3) 98-1224282*

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