

# PROFILE FROM THE FIELD



## Margarette Merilus

### Fonveret, Haiti 2011

My name is Margarette Merilus, I have a 3 year old child and live in Croix des Bouquets. I joined Fonkoze over 2 years ago and was a client of the Ganthe branch. Before coming to Fonkoze, I worked as an elementary teacher. The pay was very bad. That is...when you got paid. Realizing teaching would not feed me and my family, I decided to start a little commerce. I did this for some time, but for some reason, I still could not make ends meet. One day, the pastor of my church spoke to a group of us regarding Fonkoze. He said that Fonkoze was an organization dedicated to helping women. I was curious and asked around, and found out that no one had anything negative to say about Fonkoze. I decided to become a member. Almost immediately, I was voted Center Chief for 6 solidarity groups. The groups trusted me to represent them and to speak on their behalf. My business was thriving, I found out how to switch business in order to be profitable. Different seasons, different months, I would sell what is most needed for the period.

I stayed in that position for a year and a half. During that time, I found out that I

knew very little about business. That is the reason, I could not be profitable before. After taking the business module of the literacy program, I realized what I was doing wrong and made adjustments. I also became an alpha monitor and was able to teach my peers how to read and write and also introduce them to the right ways to do business. Since joining Fonkoze, my life has been

---

*"I don't know many places that would give someone such an opportunity, but I know Fonkoze took the chance and I will never let them be sorry for that."*

---

so different. I started looking forward to getting up and going to work every day. I love Fonkoze, in fact at the July general assembly, I wrote and recited a poem that came straight from my heart. I wanted everyone to know what Fonkoze meant to me, how Fonkoze has helped me and given me so much hope.



Today, I am no longer a Fonkoze Ti Machann, I am a Fonkoze employee. For the past 3 months, I have been working as a cashier at the Fonveret office. At first, I was a little scared I would not be able to do the job, but the training and the welcome I received from my colleagues made me realize that I will only fail if I let myself fail. My love for Fonkoze keeps growing daily. Fonveret is not an easy place to get to, but I am getting used to it because just the way that I love Fonkoze, is the way that I love my job. I don't know many places that would give someone such an opportunity, but I know Fonkoze took the chance and I will never let them be sorry for that.