



Haiti Outreach Newsletter

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A Generous Public Donates Creatively For Haiti Earthquake

We have a door at the Haiti Outreach office covered with recent letters from our supporters. With a little more tape we could cover the wall. Our community of contributors has grown tremendously since the earthquake in Haiti and taken up the Haitian cause in wonderful and creative ways. From pictures of sleeping cats to baggies full of coins, letters in pencil on wide-ruled notebook paper, and the excited voices of our friends on the phone, people from around the world have responded in many different ways to our relief and reconstruction work in Haiti.



The Maeflies perform at "Hearts for Haiti", which raised over \$10,000 for Haiti Outreach.

Supporters at Breck School organized 6 different events, including a Haitian dinner. Numerous Rotary Clubs have made generous donations. Two different nights of local musical entertainment by the Latino community and local name bands such as the Maeflies, Trailer Trash and a group of Haitian musicians all donated their time and talents to raise funds for Haiti Outreach. Minnetonka Middle School East hosted Privilege Day and raised \$3500. Third graders Ella and Lily held a bake sale. Mari Harris offered reflexology treatments in exchange for donations. Alfred State College students bought "bricks" for \$1. Bank of America matched donations from their associates. Lyman Elementary School students sponsored "Hat for Haiti Day." Fifth graders at St. John the Baptist school sold hot chocolate, and CertainTrumpets.com is offering a red and blue Haiti Bracelet to the public. These activities and many, many more all support Haiti Outreach earthquake relief and reconstruction.

It is with great humility that Haiti Outreach takes custody of your well-wishes, your intentions, your sympathies, and your resources meant for those that are in such dire need of a neighbor's hand. It is with great pride that we carry the efforts of so many hands in our communities to so many in the communities of Haiti. On behalf of the people of Haiti, we thank you for your great support! ♦

Haiti Outreach in Action- Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction

Since the day after the incredible earthquake in Haiti on January 12, Haiti Outreach has used its resources to offer assistance to the people in the affected area. Here is a summary of what we have done so far:



- Delivered relief water to people in Port-au-Prince with our water truck for the first few weeks
- Assisted repairs of the water and electrical systems to the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince
- Installed a water supply for a hospital and recovery center that Doctors Without Borders is building in Port-au-Prince
- Responded to the Haitian government's water authority (DINEPA) which requested we handle the restoration of rural water supplies in the earthquake affected areas
- In fulfillment of that request, inventoried water sources in the Leogane and Gressier communes and currently working on inventories in Grand Goave and Petit Goave areas
- Repaired 50 wells in the Leogane area
- Worked with geologists from V3 Companies of Chicago to draw up plans for various water projects in the earthquake area
- Working with the Haitian government to GPS and map tent city locations; there are more than 600 tent cities that have sprung up.
- Asked by DINEPA to inventory wells and water systems in Gonaives area, and to propose and implement a well repair and management training program; as many as 40,000 people have moved there since the earthquake.
- Working with IOM on restoring irrigation wells in the Gonaives area for improvement of long term food supply.

We are very grateful for the financial support from around the country that has enabled us to provide this immediate help to tens of thousands of victims of this terrible tragedy. ♦

La Viktwa Public Secondary School Breaks Ground

The official groundbreaking for the La Viktwa public secondary school should occur during the week of April 5th. It was a long time in the planning stages, yet 7 classrooms, 2 administrative rooms, a well and latrines will be ready for 500 secondary school students by the start of the school year in September 2010.



The Minneapolis Uptown Rotary Club sponsored the Wine and Chocolate Tasting Fundraiser that raised over \$8000 for the La Viktwa public secondary school on February 12.

The Mayor of La Viktwa and local parents asked Haiti Outreach early in 2008 if they would help the community build a public secondary school. This coincided with several Rotarian groups in Minnesota approaching Haiti Outreach, wanting to continue their collaborative involvement in Haiti after an extensive "Safe Water" well and latrine program was completed. Initially the Brainerd Noon Club, Hutchinson and Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Clubs committed to raising the \$225,000 needed for a modern, public secondary school.

After the economic crash of October 2008 occurred, Rotary funding slowed. But they never wavered on their commitment to the LaViktwa community to get the school built. In March of 2009 the entire Haiti Outreach board visited La Viktwa to meet with the Mayor and the parent community to discuss the delayed status of the school project. The Haiti Outreach Board heard from parents that without a secondary school, families would have to send



Country Director Neil Van Dine and Haiti Outreach Board member Rachel Thibault talk to parents and school officials in La Viktwa about the school project.

their children to school in other communities. This would mean the youth would be on their own, renting rooms, cooking their own meals or having to pay someone to provide meals. They would be left on their own to make wise decisions about completing homework while living without the guidance of their parents. As parents, Haiti Outreach board members immediately understood the dilemma these parents were facing. The Board recommitted to the community that the secondary school would be built.

Fundraising efforts continued by Minnesota Rotary Clubs, including the Minneapolis City of Lakes, Brainerd, Hutchinson, Minneapolis South, Richfield, Bloomington, Eagan, Janesville, WI and others as shown in the pictures. The result is that enough money has now been raised to build the basic school.

Since Haiti Outreach requires projects to be sustainable, the Haitian Ministry of Education agreed to pay the teachers' salaries once the school was built. A computer lab powered by solar panels and a library are also in the plans, pending funding. The community will work with Haiti Outreach Animators (community organizers) to create a sustainable plan around computer use and training, as well as the security of the solar panels. While this part of the project remains open until funding is secured, we at least know that the secondary students in La Viktwa will be attending classes in their new high school in September, 2010. ♦



The Maple Grove Rotary sponsored "The Deep Freeze Dunk" raising over \$20,000 in January 2010, for the La Viktwa secondary school.

Seeking Apple Laptop Computers for Schools and Cyber Café

With the solar electrification of the Lycee, the public secondary school in Pignon, and the groundbreaking of the La Viktwa secondary school, Haiti Outreach is seeking new or quality used Apple laptop computers for the schools' new computer labs. The labs, set up as a cyber-café to cover the costs of the internet and maintenance, will be accessible to both students at the schools and the greater community. If you would like to donate an Apple laptop computer, know where we could obtain one or would like to donate money for these laptops, please contact us at (612) 929-1122. As we continue our work with communities to build schools, we look forward to providing them with electricity and computer labs as well. ♦

On the Ground with Haiti Outreach During the Earthquake

By James K. Adamson

Having worked extensively in Haiti over the past five years, I have spent many nights in Port au Prince, gazing over the expanse of the city. I have always been concerned about the susceptibility of the city and country to earthquakes. As a geologist, I was well aware of the risk, being continually exposed to how poorly constructed the entire city was; a disaster always seemed inevitable to me. There have been dozens of times when I was underneath an overhanging exposure or in a building that I was not convinced of its solid construction, praying that there would not be an earthquake at that time.

Fate put me in Haiti during the 7.0 magnitude earthquake. I was there with Concern Worldwide and Haiti Outreach Country Director Neil Van Dine, working on a water supply project. At the moment of the earthquake, we were about 20 miles from the epicenter in a small boat off the southwest coast of the island of La Gonave, traveling to an area inaccessible by truck. Being in the boat, we were completely unaware of this major event but were notified dramatically as we arrived at a small impoverished coastal village moments later. The next several days were to unfold beyond anything we could imagine.

The entire night was consumed with terrifying aftershocks and radio feeds listing the deceased from the Port au Prince area which was immensely humbling. The entire country slept outside that night in fear of tremors and in anxiety about the fate of family and loved ones. Some of our team members learned of deaths in their families and were anxious about the many others they had not heard from; they softly disappeared to mourn their losses. The village we were in would echo with random screams of mourning throughout the course of the night and next day. We were able to get an email out to our family the next morning, and I later learned the preceding evening to be a terrifying one for our families and friends back home. We still did not really know how bad things were in Port au Prince until Thursday (two days after the earthquake) when we drove into the city to check on friends and drop off our team members.



As we were just in Port au Prince the day before the earthquake, it was appalling to see the change. The scenes will forever last in my mind; it seemed the entire city was destroyed. The air was dusty, smoky, stale and humid. Bodies of children, young and elderly adults were tangled and

mangled in piles of concrete and rebar; bodies were piled at street corners. Looking at the bodies, you could visualize what the deceased were doing the moment they died, the clothes they wore, the unborn babies some women carried. It was one of the most traumatizing experiences in my life to see what Port au Prince was like that day.



Residents with bloodshot eyes and dusty clothes painstakingly looked through the bodies to find friends and loved ones. Everyone we saw in town had these sad looking eyes with occasional tears rolling down their faces. It was like the tears were gone and nothing was left but whenever a tear would build up it would immediately fall down the contours of their dusty faces.....leaving a distinct vertical lineation.

The smells were horrific and triggered some indescribable primal reflexes; people had toothpaste under their noses and some had leaves jammed up their nostrils. Amazingly, just two days after the earthquake, there was no evidence of rescue efforts, relief or any type of organized help. It was as though the earthquake had just happened. At first we thought that most of the rescue efforts had already occurred.....we had no communication with the outside world and no idea what was going on.

Realizing we could be more effective from the Haiti Outreach headquarters, we left Port au Prince to help organize a relief effort. Haiti Outreach's can-do mentality and ability to seamlessly handle logistics was immediately applied to mobilize water trucks to deliver water to the city in addition to facilitating medical teams to arrive into Port au Prince through the Dominican Republic.

Under the lead and direction of Haiti Outreach's country director, we spent the next several weeks working with the Haitian Government Water Authority (DINEPA) and UNICEF, assessing water supply conditions in the impacted areas. We designed water systems, identified water infrastructure that had to be repaired, and began to fix broken water wells. We also setup a water supply system for an emergency hospital and recovery center that was being built in Port au Prince.

It was an emotionally draining period of time for everyone, being exposed to everything on a daily basis and knowing that

family was back home, continually worried. It was inspiring for me personally to have a skill set that was in need in such a desperate and dire time and to have so much support from my wife and family. It was even more inspiring to see how effective and proactive Haiti Outreach was supporting the relief effort. I was also very impressed by the US Marines; they quickly had major transportation and utility networks back in order. Nothing physical or bureaucratic stood in their way to get things done. They had beach landing crafts, support aircraft and every piece of camouflage construction equipment necessary to get the jobs done quickly and efficiently. It made me proud to live in the United States and also made it easier a few weeks later as I paid my taxes.

Port au Prince intriguingly seemed back to normal when I left; the markets were back and there was lots of local food. The response of the Haitian people to this crisis was inspiring and will always be what I remember most from that time. Those memories will even precede the horrific things that come to mind soon afterwards.

The biggest issue in Port au Prince right now is shelter and housing. Most of the residents in Port au Prince are renters. Unable to live again in their destroyed homes or apartments, they have no choice but to move to the tent cities. The tent cities are turning quickly into permanent shanty town cities. Sheets had transformed into tin by week three and the tin was slowly becoming painted by the time I left Haiti. International food aid, water and sanitation are all provided to the tent cities and this is creating a dependency. This dependency needs to be thwarted by quickly constructing low income housing at an immense scale.

The future of Haiti depends on the international response related to rebuilding and the encouragement of international private investment. It is my hope that Haiti becomes less centralized through Port au Prince and that the Haitian government is able to lead their rebuilding with the direct help of the international community. Hopefully the rebuilding effort is the beginning of reestablishing Haiti as the "Pearl of the Caribbean" and I wish to be there every step of the way. ♦

James K. Adamson is a Geologist at Chicago-based V3 Companies.



Sad News for the Haiti Outreach Family

We are very sorry to inform our friends that on February 11, our employee Delima "Nene" Guerrier lost his life when the water truck he was driving for Haiti Outreach went over a cliff. He was driving to the next location where we would be drilling a well and following the well drilling rig. It appears either that he was not able to negotiate the hairpin turn along the hillside or that the edge of the road gave way. Although there were no witnesses that actually saw the truck go over the cliff, it appears that Nene was thrown from the truck as it tumbled down the hillside. He later died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. The water truck itself was also destroyed.

Nene leaves behind a wife and seven children. A designated fund to cover his funeral expenses and the cost of the education of his children has been set up by Haiti Outreach. If you're interested in making a donation to this fund, it would be greatly appreciated by his family. If a credit card or check donation is made, please designate it for the Nene Children Education Fund. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Haiti Outreach Trips Resume Following Earthquake

Haiti Outreach is once again welcoming donors and other travelers to Haiti! Our first post-earthquake trip, lead by veteran traveler and Board member Mark Hoiseth, left for Haiti on March 25th to paint the Lycee school addition in Pignon. Our trips typically last about 8 days and cost approximately \$1600, depending on airfare. Updates of the most current trip offerings can be found at www.HaitiOutreach.org. For more information on our trips to Haiti, please visit our website and click on the "trips" or "photos" tab. ♦

Upcoming Haiti Outreach Events

Chicago Spring Gala – Fundraiser for Haiti Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction

Date: Saturday, April 10, 6-9pm

Location: White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant, Niles, IL

Cost: Single \$50, Two Persons \$80 (Add'l person \$40)

RSVP: Call 866-795-3805 by April 2, 2010

Twin Cities Spring Luncheon and Fundraiser

Date: Wednesday, May 5, Noon-1pm

Location: BayView Event Center

687 Excelsior Blvd, Excelsior, MN

RSVP: Call 612-929-1122 by April 30th

3rd Bi-Annual Brainerd Lakes Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, May 8, 5:30-9pm

Location: Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, MN

Cost: \$75 donation

RSVP: Call 218-546-6809 by May 1st

Haiti Outreach Annual Fall Gala & Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010

Location: Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America, 3800 American Blvd East, Bloomington, MN

RSVP: Call 612-929-1122

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