



## EARTHQUAKE FUNDS UPDATE



*The Day the World-and Haiti-were changed forever...  
January 11, 2010.*

As the horror of the disaster in Haiti unfolded, the response and concern were phenomenal. From the day the first news came right on thru the next 5 months, donations poured in from almost every corner of the United States, and even a few from overseas. Regular donors and many new donors reached deeply into their pockets. Grade schools through technical colleges raised thousands of dollars and supplies. Churches, civic groups and individuals also expressed their concern through donations. Children gave birthday money, and some high schoolers did their own fundraisers.

The outpouring of concern for the desperate people of Haiti is awesome, as are the notes of concern and thanks for what we do there.

It was a baffling time to know where to use the funds to best advantage for human relief. Immediate responses include the following:

- 1) \$10,000 to one of our long time helpers to help set up a tent city near Cap Haitien in order to get people out of the city. Later, an additional \$4,000 was sent to buy food and medicine.
- 2) \$5,000 to Matthew 25, the hospitality house in Port au Prince where our Friends of Haiti travelers stay when arriving or returning home. The building was damaged; but partially usable. Within hours, a triage center was set up on the soccer field and cared for thousands. It also became a tent city and still is one today.
- 3) \$12,000 was provided to schools in and near Grand Boulage and Thomazeau for food and repairs.
- 4) International Medical Alliance was granted \$10,000 to help with a hospital just across the border in Jimani, Dominican Republic. We were receiving firsthand accounts of the tremendous work being done there through Drs. Carol and Tom Ritter, who were there within days of the disaster, and were our eyes and ears.
- 5) \$500 was allocated for a young Haitian to assess the damage in the areas where our work is done. Sadly, an injury became infected and he could not continue. His work did help to confirm what the situation would be for the April medical team.
- 6) \$6,000 was allocated to help relocate a whole tiny mountain side village that was destroyed.
- 7) \$15,000 was added to the medical budget for the year to make sure enough supplies were carried.
- 8) \$5,000 was approved for repairs to St. Therese School in Thomazeau. The plans have already been reviewed by an engineer.

Many offers of supplies had to be refused because there was no way to get shipments into the port, or even the airport.

Moving forward, ongoing dialogue and planning should result in practical plans for the remaining \$155,000 of relief funds. However, it will not solve all the problems in the villages where FOH's regular work continues. In collaboration with our friends in Haiti, and other NGOs, it is hoped that the very best uses of the money will be discerned. Buildings have crumbled, water supplies have shifted with the earth movement, and greater medical needs are continuing. The schools are handicapped by portions that were destroyed. Education will be the life blood of the future, as will agricultural development, water harvesting and water purification. ***The work is monumental. Your relief contributions will make some of it happen. Look for updates on how your relief donations are working in future newsletters and on the web page.***

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### TRIP SCHEDULE

Medical Missions:  
October 11-22, 2010  
March 28-April 8, 2011  
October 10-21, 2011

Surgical Missions:  
October 31-Nov.6, 2010  
May 1-7, 2011  
Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2011

- November Water/Development – late fall, dependent on arrival of supply shipment.
- An education team will accompany the fall medical team.

There are literally hundreds of groups that work actively in Haiti. Many of them are in Wisconsin. Sometimes it is confusing knowing what is what and who is who! Friends of Haiti, Inc. always uses our official name and logo on mailings, etc. This is the official newsletter, see the logo!

**Donations may be sent to FoH, P.O. Box 1174, Green Bay, WI 54305. To volunteer of make inquiries, call Jackie at 920-469-0024 or write to the PO Box number. You can also communicate via the web site. Especially needed are local persons who could help prepare shipping.**

*Mission Statement:* Friends of Haiti is a nonprofit organization operating as one interconnected family with the people living in the four sections of Thomazeau, Haiti. We are devoted, through our mutual efforts, to improve their health, education and economic development.

## A MESSAGE FROM BARBARA AND DR. ED VOGEL

Dear Friends:

Like many of you across the country whose hearts have ties to Haiti, we sat glued to the television in the hours and days following Haiti's tragic earthquake. We became Anderson Cooper's constant companion as he traveled to Port-au-Prince; we walked the crumbled streets, smelled familiar smells, and heard the agonizing cries of Haitians who had become our brothers and sisters - dig through the nights and days that followed. We held our breath as they scratched and clawed at the debris to reach a voice, to hold a hand, to comfort a fear, to save a life.

We wondered how special friends there fared - our interpreters and their families who live in Port-au-Prince as well as our friends at Matthew 25 House, the safe-house where we always catch our breath, enjoy a shower, and rest our weary bones after coming out of the mountains. We worried about three-year-old Salomon who lived with us last year while undergoing correction for his club feet; he lives in the mountains where houses are built of stones and sticks and mud cement. We wondered, too, why a tragedy like this had to happen to those who had nothing and then had even less. Haitians are by nature a happy and resilient people, remaining ever hope-filled and eager to work with us to make tomorrow better for their country.

It may have taken weeks and in some cases months before we heard of everyone's safety, but it took only hours before Friends of Haiti began to receive calls from our community and beyond, sharing our concern and offering encouragement for our mission. Not once did we receive a check without a personal note of support and acknowledgement that one hundred percent of the donation would go to earthquake relief (even the 2% operating costs were waived for relief money).



Our board met immediately to prioritize our actions. Within days of the quake, people were transported to our main mission site of Thomazeau which lies a mere twenty miles away. Our efforts continue there with medical care as well as support for the orphanages that have been inundated to beyond capacity with children who have nowhere else to go. Because of your generosity we continue to repair schools and homes, as well as feed the hungry and help heal the children, the elderly and the weak.

**Our board continues to be mindful of our promise that every dollar is spent wisely, working together to help the thousands heal both physically and emotionally.** We find it important that we employ Haitians at every opportunity to help them help themselves. Those of us who work for a better Haiti are grateful to God and to you for the opportunities given to us and to them. Always remember that some give by going; others go by giving.

Gratefully,  
Barb and Ed Vogel  
Friends of Haiti Board

*Even as relief work took front and center stage, the normal work in Haiti continued.*

**MEDICAL** – Medical missions continued. More sites were visited. This made it easier for the people to get help in the mountains. Increased supplies and providers were needed. Preparation is now underway for the October trip. Without the long hours that it takes to ready supplies for the trips, there would be no trips. Our medical crew and pill packers are just great! In 2009, the cost incurred for all expenses per patient is \$9.00. This included meds and vitamins.

Important adjuncts to normal medical care are fitting of eyeglasses and expanding dental care. Equipment was procured and a Haitian doctor received training and preformed the first cataract surgery. We hope many more will follow.

### First Surgical Trip

March 6, 2010 - Our first surgical team of 21 doctors, nurses, and support staff performed four days of surgery at Double Harvest in Croix des Bouquets. This is a modern hospital by Haitian standards. It is run by the Southwest Baptist Church. The hope is that FoH will be able to go regularly and perform surgeries for the people referred from our clinics. The estimated cost per surgery is about \$75.00. In June a group of 4 surgeons and support staff did 42 procedures. The next trip is scheduled for Oct. 31 - Nov. 4.

### DEVELOPMENT

A variety of projects are continuing in several areas. The Development (water and agriculture) and Education teams try to keep progress moving forward. As our working relationship with the Haitians evolves, it will be possible to expand these projects to other areas in a way that the people will help determine.



**AGRICULTURE** – Family and school gardens are slowly increasing, and people are beginning to realize the importance of composting.

Harvesting rain water and storing in cisterns are vital to success. Nursery Manager, Jean Rony, will receive additional training at Double Harvest in composting and harvesting, seed collection and tending tree seedlings. Earlier this year about 3,000 trees were distributed from the nursery. A second nursery is planned for Trudeau where there is an adequate water source. Trees for erosion control, animal food, and fruit trees, and some coffee trees are being planted.

**GRAIN** - Grain Storage- Grain can be stored at harvest and bring a better price later.

Five women were loaned \$100.00 each and had a 20% profit last year. This year they felt that free food distributed after the earthquake made a dent in the profits. If it can work, these dedicated women will make it happen.

**RABBITS** - There was a scare in the rabbitries recently when rabbits began to die. Initially, antibiotics sent by FoH to Haiti were administered.



Kelly Crowdis, a veterinarian, discovered much of the problem was lack of protein. Fruit has been added to the diet and seems to be working. John Malcheski was impressed with the women who care for the rabbits and remarked that the cages were neat and clean.

**GOATS** - Veterinarian Dr. Kelly Crowdis has rec'd a contract to conduct additional goat management training in Grand Boulage. One issue to be resolved is whether confinement of the goats is the best option. That is the current practice; but Dr. Kelly and John feel it may not be the best plan.

**CASSAVA** - Pere Sufrin, Pastor of St. Anne's Parish in Thomazeau, advised

FoH in October 2009 that the parish was legally given a cassava processing facility in the Cadette area. He asked FoH for start up help. Members of the Development Committee of FoH crafted a proposal to help make the facility operative and created a strategic plan document. This economic development proposal supports our mission goals by supporting an opportunity that promotes self sufficiency and a good food source. Local employment at the facility along with small loans for farmers to increase production of cassava will benefit the local economy. The plant operates on a rental basis now and so the manager only gets paid when someone wants to rent it. As in all new ventures, there is much to learn.

**WATER** - Helping make clean and adequate water available is a huge task. Over several years, a system was developed to pump water 400 feet up a steep mountain grade so that Grand Boulage villagers would not have to make the torturous journey carrying 40 pound, 10 gallon pails of water UPHILL.

Although there have been breakdowns, the pump is always able to be fixed. There are some indications that the water table shifted in the earthquake and has lessened water supply. In April, our group witnessed so many people getting water that not all paid for it in the confusion. Water payments go toward paying for the people who are in charge of the pump. The water committee has been visiting springs in varying sites and evaluating future possibilities. They observed a ram type pump and were impressed with the simplicity and effectiveness. Planning includes building cisterns to harvest water.

Work has been done to help people put eaves on buildings to save rainwater in the cisterns.

Contaminated water is one of the leading causes of disease in Haiti. FOH is using and evaluating several types of purification units. Solar Pasteurization units have been distributed to some families, and an orphanage and several schools in the Thomazeau and Joineau area since 2008. A health agent has been retained to train and monitor families.

Clean Water for the World UV light purification units are also in the Joineau area of Haiti, in Merceron and at St. Therese School They can be installed anywhere - even on a tree. The whole system fits in a box and weighs 35 lbs.

The water comes from the usual open well or river where they always get water and is strained through a cotton paper filter that removes particles that could provide cover or protection for deadly pathogens. The water then passes through a stainless steel ultra-violet light chamber that sterilizes the pathogens and renders them non-viable. When the water comes out of the faucet, it is pure and free of all harmful bacteria and/or viruses and safe to drink. The ultra-violet light chamber has an LED light that monitors water usage and automatically shuts the system down when the light needs to be replaced. The unit produces up to 5 gallons of pure water per minute. Clean Water for the World, an NGO in Kalamazoo is connected with Dartmouth College and has donated six additional units; and they will be installed this fall.

Another type, from Sawyer Water Filters, is used by our teams while in Haiti. They use no chemicals or chlorine and have lifetime filters. Cleaning is as easy as backwashing the filter (not required often). Some of these have been given to our translators and families and more will be distributed in the mountain region.

**EDUCATION** – In the four sections of Thomazeau where FoH works, education can be roughly compared to that of the 1800's in the United States. Many teachers have less than an eighth grade education themselves, the children come to school hungry, there are few teaching supplies, and until recently the government has stipulated that French be used. Creole is spoken and so language is a barrier too.

**And many children just stop coming when families do not have money for tuition.**

There are at least a dozen schools in the area that FoH hopes to include in ongoing efforts to improve. The biggest plus is that families do want education for their children. The government decreed that all schools be closed after the earthquake until they could be inspected. Children lost school time, and the lunches, which are many times the only meal of the day for them.

Support has been used for school lunches, teacher training, supplies, school repairs, benches and other improvements.

## EARTHQUAKE REFLECTIONS BY FOH FOUNDER

Fr. Larry Canavera, founder of FoH, shared the following reflection upon return of the April mission, the first since the earthquake:



This was the regularly scheduled spring medical mission (October and April) that became the largest ever undertaken. We have been doing missions for 10 years. Veterans have become friends of the people we go to assist and wanted to get back to Haiti. Newcomers wanted to help. It is a crisis for the Haitian people. It is an historical benchmark. The worst has come. We now need to help recovery and (as the saying now goes) "build back better".

Preparation was complex because communication was difficult. An assessment of needs and conditions could only be approximate. We did not rush in. We were already preparing for April before the earthquake. The needs increased. Our response expanded. We conducted 7 clinics instead of the usual 4 or 5 and treated 6,833 people. We went to where our people live instead of setting up in some areas and indicating that they should come to us. ALL of the people have been suffering. They vary only in degrees. There was much gratitude that we care, we come, and we came to them.

Without knowing where we would sleep or hold clinics, many large tents, screen houses and tarps were taken along. They were left in Haiti for homeless. We were grateful to connect with our people. Many seemed sicker than usual. Our volunteers at home had prepared extra meds and supplies. The little left at the end of clinical trips was given to a poorly equipped public clinic whose doctors are our friends.

Travel was another unknown until we arrived, with limited information on 'off road' conditions. With a shortage of gas and diesel, our drivers did very well and were able to get us to all the clinics with only a few minor glitches. They also were able to transport some of the critical patients to the University of Miami-MediShare tent hospital near the airport. Incredible work was being done there. They were a blessing to our team, as was the fact that there were only minor vehicle problems under such poor conditions.

**Many, many people continue to sleep outside under tarps/ metal roofing or in tents. The fear of concrete structures is great. The homeless? About 1.3 million.**

Schools are now resuming with plans to run through July and August. Numbers are down. Meal programs – for the most part – have not been operating.

A small water/education team followed the medical mission. Their goal was water purification work and planning and follow up for the education team that was part of the medical mission. Preparations for October are already underway as evaluation and planning continues. There is much to do; and you are all part of that work. Know that the people of Haiti, and all of us, are grateful for your help.