



Hope for Haiti®

1042 6th Avenue North • Naples, FL 34102

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Former Foster Youth Put Haiti into Perspective

It might be difficult to imagine what two ex-Peace Corps volunteers turned non-profit professionals, one former attorney turned dedicated volunteer, six students transitioning out of the Florida Department of Children and Families foster care system, and a rural community in southern Haiti have in common. Adding a [Hope for Haiti](#) volunteer Mission Trip to the mix, however, explains how these disparate groups came together this summer in a remarkable way.



Partnering with the Miami-based non-profit, Educate Tomorrow, [Hope for Haiti](#) welcomed the team of six young adults and their leaders for a week of pushing personal boundaries, building intercultural bridges, and performing invaluable voluntary service. Spending three days and two nights in the community of Ravine Sable, the group experienced life in the Haitian countryside, spending substantial time and energy on the elemental activities needed to get by: fetching water, gathering food, cooking, and keeping clean. More important, they assisted the community with their classroom construction project made possible by [Hope for Haiti](#) in collaboration with buildOn. Thanks to this partnership and to the painting, plastering, and labor of the group, three new classrooms were available to the school's 400 students this September. And yet not all aspects of the trip were so rosy idealistic. As the students soon realized, life in Haiti is difficult, even compared to an adolescence in the US foster care system. Hardship and privilege are relative phenomena, and visiting Haiti greatly shifted the students' perspective of the challenges they face back home, the opportunities they have, and the value of their own education.

Their trip culminated at one of Haiti's beautiful beaches with 17 children from a local orphanage. Former American foster youth and Haitian orphans swimming, laughing, playing soccer, and sharing an afternoon together captured our commitment to education and improving quality of life through partnerships, people, and the mutual exchange of compassion. Our sincere gratitude goes to the students, their uninhibited curiosity and willingness to give of themselves, to Educate Tomorrow and buildOn, and to the generous community of Ravine Sable for making this [Hope for Haiti](#) experience possible.

Lespwa Fè Viv.
Hope gives Life.

From Our President

This is a bitter sweet time for me, one that I find very emotional. As you all know [Hope for Haiti](#) is like my 5th child. It filled in the gap of the empty nest while I was falling in love with the Haitian people. When Tiffany was only 15 years old and came to Haiti with me for the first time, never did I think she too would be bitten by the same bug as I, which then gave her Haitian fever.



Tiffany spearheaded the writing of all of [Hope for Haiti](#)'s correspondence and entertained Mission Trips while overseeing the 65 programs, just to mention a few of her responsibilities which she took very seriously. Seeing Tiffany in action, listening to the children chant TIFF-A-NY brings tears to my eyes. Thank you Tiffany, for putting [Hope for Haiti](#) on the map, particularly in the Les Cayes area. You are the true Karen von Blixen of Haiti. As your grandmother, I couldn't be more proud watching you serve the poor and the sick. God Bless you in your next adventure and know you are always welcome at [Hope for Haiti](#).

True to Tiffany's style, she found Patrick Eucalitto, a graduate of Georgetown with a B.S. in Foreign Service and a minor in International Development (who speaks French fluently) to replace her as the Program Director. Patrick has been in Haiti since June working with Tiffany and Mikey and is doing a great job as you can see by this newsletter.

Please welcome Elizabeth Davison as our new Executive Director (moving up from Administrative Director) in the Naples office. She is a take charge person and a great leader of the [Hope for Haiti](#) Team. It is a very exciting time at [Hope for Haiti](#) and we look forward to serving the Haitian people with new sparks of boundless energy.



From Our Office

By Jennifer Lopez, Naples Office Manager

This past June, I had the opportunity to make my first trip to Haiti.

Upon returning from my trip I was repeatedly asked, "So, is there hope for Haiti?" I can now say wholeheartedly: yes, there really is! I saw first hand how helping even one person at a time makes a huge impact in the lives of the Haitian people.

My emotions were stirred many times on my trip. Seeing our wheelchairs and walkers give mobility to people who lacked it before, helping to provide medications and vitamins to hundreds of patients in our dispensary and mobile clinics, and witnessing hundreds of babies and children being revived from malnutrition both overwhelmed and inspired me.

I cannot adequately describe the smell or sight of poverty, or the feelings that arise when you drive down the streets in Haiti. But I do feel better

knowing that [Hope for Haiti](#) is making a difference. My experience changed my life and my view of everything that goes on around me. I will always remember the children who stole my heart and the people who gained my respect.



*Tout sa ou pa konnen pi gran pase ou.
"All that you do not know is greater than you."*

Who We Help



That emergency medical care in Haiti is scarce to nonexistent poses a huge problem for people like Yvemérie Jean-Jacques. Suffering from two months of incessant menstruation, she came to the [Hope for Haiti](#) Infirmary with life-threatening anemia. She needed to go to the hospital, but her family feared the costs so much that they took her home instead. Without our Emergency Medical Relief program, which targets those with no access to healthcare in urgent situations, Yvemérie would have died of blood loss at only 19.

Because of our Emergency Medical Relief program, [Hope for Haiti](#) was able to provide the resources for multiple blood tests, a sonogram, and three emergency blood transfusions which literally brought Yvemérie back to life. Because of this program,, her elderly uncle, who slept on a concrete bench outside the ward night after night while she recovered, teared up when he thanked us for helping his adopted niece.

The ability to respond and save a life, whether for a Haitian family or for our in-country staff, cannot be converted into Haitian gourdes or US dollars. Thanks to you, Yvemérie Jean-Jacques – now rejuvenated, beautiful, and returning to school – is one among many saved by [Hope for Haiti](#)'s immediate, decisive medical action.

The Volunteer Corner



Beverly Barnes Elizabeth Davison

This summer [Hope for Haiti](#) was blessed with the energy and talents of several student volunteers. Thank you to Naples High's Christine Morley and David Barrett, University of Florida's Austin Perlmutter, and Ave Maria's Herby Berson. Also special thanks goes to our wonderful intern from Harvard University, Beverly Barnes, and the support provided by Naples' Harvard University Alumni Association.

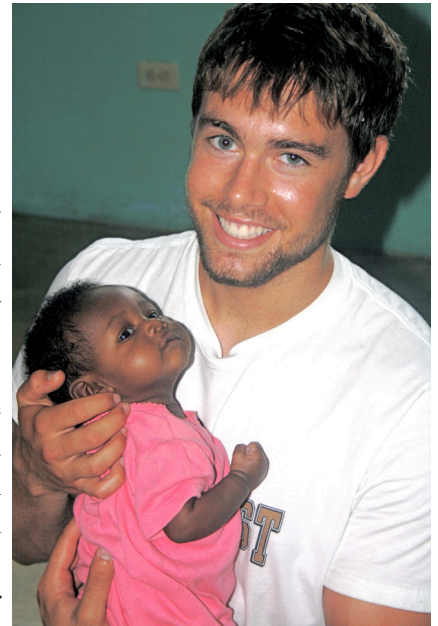
Austin Perlmutter, a junior majoring in English and Pre-Med, also made a two-week trip to Les Cayes, where he was an invaluable assistance to a week-long Medical Mission.

Regarding his office work, Austin remarks, "it's hard to comprehend just how important our assistance is...when we're miles and miles from the eventual recipients of our donations." But in the [Hope for Haiti](#) office, "there is a sense of purpose that extends far beyond the reaches of that building."

After his trip, he affirms, "I've been lucky. I have seen those whom the organization assists...and understand why it is so dedicated in its pursuits. Though I cannot shake the potency of the sights I witnessed in Haiti, I am inspired by the determination and productivity of the [Hope for Haiti](#) staff and hope to be involved with this organization for many years to come."

As always, a special thanks to the LaCharities and Heather Lerner for their constant support throughout the summer months.

By Elizabeth Davison, Executive Director



Austin Perlmutter

Byen mal pa lanmò.
Very sick isn't death...there's still hope.

Back-to-School buzz brings more than just books



This year's "back-to-school" checklist includes a new item: classrooms! As families purchase books, students don uniforms, and teachers plan their lessons, the communities of Tete Source and Ravine Sable are each welcoming the new academic year with a brand new school building. The strong cement structures, beautifully painted and each containing three classrooms, are the products of [Hope for Haiti](#)'s partnership with buildOn.

We give special thanks to the late Mrs. Helen Mark, whose generous contribution enabled Ravine Sable to build their school. Monplaisir Benicio, a third grade teacher at Ravine Sable's primary school, echoes

[Hope for Haiti](#)'s gratitude to Mrs. Mark and her dedication to quality education. "It is important to have a real school that the community can be proud of," he affirms. "If we have a real school building, parents want to send their children to school."

The project directly impacts a total of 800 students at these rural schools, whose community members are justifiably proud of the ownership they have taken over this project and the investment they have made in themselves and their future.

Partnering for Healthy Babies

The prevalence of many illnesses afflicting newborns in Haiti is directly linked to their intake of micronutrients like Vitamin A. An insufficient amount of key vitamins increases the likelihood that a child will be born underweight, suffer chronic health problems, or die before the age of five. To respond, [Hope for Haiti](#) has partnered with Vitamin Angels to obtain the micronutrients that infants, children, and their mothers need to survive.



The fruits of this partnership are impressive: in June, we began distributing 6.2 million pre-natal vitamins, worth over \$4.15 million dollars, to our network of over 60 health facilities, nutrition clinics, and schools. Without vitamins, pregnancy can become a serious threat, leaving women and their babies highly vulnerable to Haiti's countless other health challenges. Because these supplements specifically target pregnant and lactating women, they are helping reduce Haiti's high rates of maternal and infant mortality, one child at a time.

Because school also renders children more susceptible to illness, we are adding thousands of Vitamin A supplements to our distribution route to bolster students' immune systems. [Hope for Haiti](#) is grateful to work with such a dedicated organization as Vitamin Angels to protect women and children – Haiti's most vulnerable populations.



Byen mal pa lanmò.

"Very sick isn't death...there's still hope."

Storm season brings preparation, not disaster.



Hurricane season has arrived, and [Hope for Haiti](#) stands ready. In the midst of last year's devastating storms, we crafted and implemented a new Emergency Disaster Relief program to supply survivors with essential fortified dry meals, water purification tablets, blankets, personal sanitation kits, candles, and matches. Over the past year, it has been our goal to transform that initial program from an ad-hoc response to a long-term investment in the wellbeing of the Haitian people.

To that end, we have prepared and begun disseminating 1,000 Emergency Relief buckets (an increase of 100% from last year's distribution) to partner organizations and key access points around Les Cayes. Thanks to our longstanding contacts with local community leaders, the buckets will be easily accessible to a wide geographic area when the next storm arrives. While many in Haiti worry about the next inevitable storm, [Hope for Haiti](#) is confident in our ability to provide safety, health, and comfort to thousands whenever it arrives.



There is HOPE for Haiti



Community Development through Cooking School

Every Saturday afternoon, the [Hope for Haiti](#) House in Les Cayes becomes more than just a residence and workplace. Four local women, under the direction of [Hope for Haiti](#)'s own Carmene Alverbe, transform the modest kitchen into a delicious laboratory of culinary delight. Teaching her students not only to prepare but also to plan for, purchase, clean, serve, and store a range of dishes, Carmene equips these women with the skills and confidence needed to better feed their families and impress potential employers. Sharing skills and forging friendship while mastering meat, soup, cakes, salads, and croissants never tasted so good.

Closer and Closer to our Clean Water Goal

[Hope for Haiti](#) continues to install UV water purification systems, moving one step closer to achieving our Clean Water Program goal of installing 17 systems. The Ti Moun Kontan Nutrition Center is now providing potable drinking water to the approximately 5,000 children it nurses back to health each year. The system also serves the 350+ students at the adjacent St. Hélène Primary School and their families in the surrounding community.

But what exactly does it take to install a functioning water system? At Ti Moun Kontan, a thorough site assessment showed that a cement foundation was needed to secure the 500-gallon cistern that stores unpurified water. After the system was wired to its own solar panel for an independent and sustainable power source, the three filters were installed, the UV light tested, and the first buckets of water analyzed for cleanliness. Thanks to the technical expertise of Country Director, Mike Stewart, this complex process has become a seamless [Hope for Haiti](#) protocol.



*Piti piti zwazo fè nich.
"Little by little the bird makes a nest."*

Who let the Dawgs out?

In many parts of the US, it's easy to take shoes for granted. Our closets are full of so many shapes, colors, and sizes that our dilemma is which to put on, not whether or not we have any to wear. In Haiti, though, many people are grateful to have just one fresh pair. That is why this summer [Hope for Haiti](#) is providing shoes to hundreds of children and families in need throughout the Les Cayes area.

What we are providing is not just any shoe, but the functional and fashionable Dawgs sandals that we've obtained through the coordination of [Hope for Haiti](#)'s good friend Margarite Burns, Ron Robinson of Castle Sales in Green Bay, WI and especially the generosity of U.S.A. Dawgs, Inc located in Las Vegas, NV. Thanks to their efforts, we have brought both shoes and smiles to two orphanages and several groups of street children. The only thing better than distributing these shoes is seeing them walking around town several weeks later. On behalf of these children, thank you to U.S.A. Dawgs for helping us help others.



Emergency Medical Vehicle Within Reach



We were thankful earlier this year to receive a grant from the Newman's Own Foundation for a larger, safer, and better-equipped Mobile Medical Vehicle. Then, we were thrilled to receive a remarkable \$20,000 matching fund pledge toward the truck price of \$70,000 from an anonymous donor. Since then, we've been working to match that pledge (within 90 days) with donations and bring a new vehicle to Les Cayes to enhance our Healthcare and Nutrition programs. Now, the best way we can thank our partners is to actually reach our final goal and turn their generosity into a real truck. We appreciate your help today! As we go to print, we still need \$12,330 to reach our goal.

Save the Date

[Hope for Haiti](#)'s Gala 2010 promises to provide a Passport to an "Evening in Provence."

March 13, 2010 at the Jubilation Center, Naples Fl.

Be prepared to have a fun and delicious evening with authentic French cuisine provided by Matthews & Gardner. Dancing, Music and Entertainment are among some of the exciting events which will take place. We will end the evening with the drawing of the most fabulous raffle [Hope for Haiti](#) has ever provided:

A week in Provence, France at a gorgeous, beautifully furnished 5 bedroom villa which lies in a gated community with a golf club which comprises two golf courses (the house sits on one of them). There is also a Four Seasons Hotel in the middle of the community which has a great restaurant (2 Michelin stars). The house has on its property a swimming pool and a gym.



Tickets are now on sale, raffle tickets at \$25 each or \$100 for 5, and Gala tickets at \$300 per person. Call [Hope for Haiti](#) at 239-434-7183 or email info@hopeforhaiti.com for information on the raffle or the gala.

Again, be sure to mark your calendars.

Ou dwe pise pou pise.

"Take Action. Don't just talk about it, do something."

Why I Give to Hope for Haiti

Jim Boyle, an ardent supporter of [Hope for Haiti](http://hopeforhaiti.com) whose generosity has provided the installation of three UV water purification systems, reflects on the motivation behind his participation and his philanthropy.

Jim explains, “Judy and I give because we are blessed with surplus and we feel it’s our loving duty to share this surplus with those in need. The challenge, we find, is to identify the truly needy and to work with an effective organization to deliver sustainable relief. We are confident, based on our personal visits, that [Hope for Haiti](http://hopeforhaiti.com) is doing innovative, efficient and sustainable work to provide basic relief, especially clean water, to the needy in Haiti and we are delighted to support these efforts.”

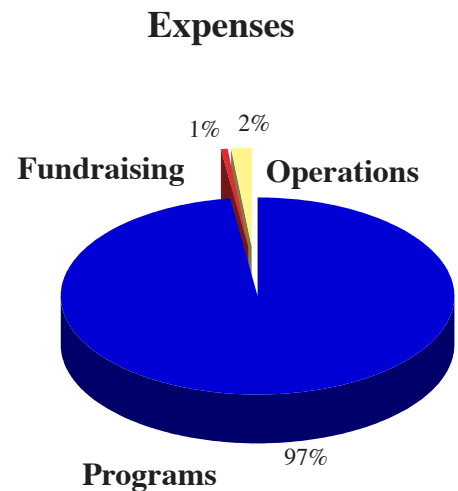
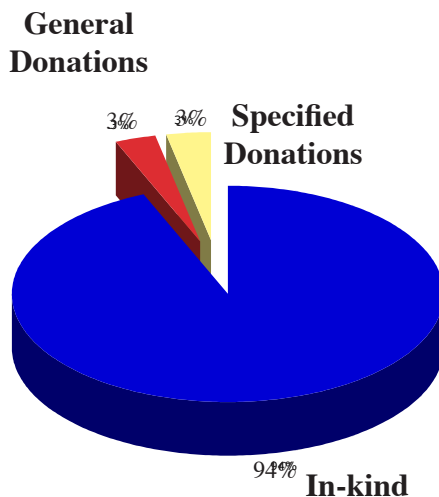
Jim and Judy Boyle



For nearly 20 years, [Hope for Haiti](http://hopeforhaiti.com) has helped the poorest of the poor through education, nutrition and healthcare. Through our local partnerships we receive in-kind donations of medications and supplies. Our generous donors provide us with the ability to ship them to Haiti. For every **\$1,000** donated to [Hope for Haiti](http://hopeforhaiti.com), we deliver **\$50,000** in medications and medical supplies to our clinics and hospitals.

Our promise to you....

More than 95 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to benefit the men, women, and children of Haiti.



Be sure to check out our new web site at hopeforhaiti.com.



[Hope for Haiti](http://hopeforhaiti.com) has received the highest possible rating from *Charity Navigator* which sets the standard for charity accountability.

Anpil ti patat fê chay.

“Many sweet potatoes make a load...many small things amount to much”



Hope for Haiti®

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Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the Haitian people, particularly children, through education, nutrition and healthcare.

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Hope for Haiti®

Gala 2010

Save the Date

Your Passport to an Evening in Provence

March 13, 2010

Be prepared for a fun and delicious evening with authentic French cuisine, dancing, music, and entertainment.

Why do we ask for e-mail addresses?

The use of e-mail helps us lower mailing costs, ensuring more funds go directly to support our programs.

Thank you for your assistance.