



Hope for Haiti®

1042 6th Avenue North • Naples, FL 34102

NEWSLETTER

September 2008

Hunger in Haiti



There is a place barely 500 miles off the coast of Florida, where mothers feed their children mudcakes to quiet their hunger pains. That place is Haiti.

Brittle and gritty, these mudcakes made of dirt, salt and coated in oil are left to dry in the sun and have become a staple for entire families. This inflation proof “food” causes a burn in the belly described as “swallowing Clorox”. The global food and fuel crisis has hit Haiti harder than perhaps any other country, pushing a population already mired in extreme poverty towards starvation and revolt. The United Nations predicts that Haiti's food import costs will leap 120% this year.



According to the UN, two thirds of Haitians live on less than 50 cents a day and 50% are undernourished. More than 60% of those are children. The Haitian children of this generation, those who survive and don't succumb to malnutrition, will suffer stunted physical and intellectual growth as a result of this period of food shortage.

As *Hope for Haiti* staff assessed the gravity of the situation, they decided to act quickly by purchasing over 9,000 meals of rice and beans in the local markets of Les Cayes for immediate distribution to *Hope for Haiti* sponsored schools, clinics, and nutrition centers. Shortly thereafter, a container of food was



donated to Hope for Haiti by Kids Against Hunger and with the help of *Rotary International* was shipped to Grand Guave. Donations from concerned *Hope for Haiti* supporters, mainly members of the *Order of Malta American Association* paid for shipping and rented trucks used for distribution. Over 300,000 dried and enriched meals are being distributed to rail-thin women cradling infants with yellowing hair, a symptom of malnutrition. And so was born *Hope for Haiti's* Emergency Hunger

Relief Initiative.

In rural areas, the situation seems even worse. *Hope for Haiti* continues to bring relief to the poorest of the poor in the most remote areas of southern Haiti where we support education and nutrition programs for mothers, children and the elderly. Although the hunger crisis in Haiti is no longer on the front pages of the media, the cry of hungry children and desperate mothers can still be heard. It's a cry we cannot afford to ignore. With your help, *Hope for Haiti* can continue our quest to improve the life of the poorest of the poor.

If you only have 5 days, get your hands dirty and go on a *Hope for Haiti* Mission Trip. Help paint a classroom, distribute supplies to schools or clinics, care for and play with the children at an orphanage.

From Our Founder





Wow! We've come a very long way, baby! NEVER in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that we would be touching the lives of over 500,000 people a year, when we began by sending a few children to school in 1990.

Education was my biggest concern at the time. It still is. I feel strongly that without an education the Haitian people will never be able to break the cycle of poverty. Today **Hope for Haiti** is helping to educate over 12,000 children in 45 schools.

In 1997, I met Dr. Keith Hussey, a gastroenterologist, who encouraged us to expand into the areas of healthcare and nutrition. Today we support 4 nutrition programs for extremely malnourished children and last year alone we sent \$5,000,000 worth of medications and supplies to Haiti, the poorest country in our hemisphere. I have watched the Haitian leaders come and go and observed the economy of the country dwindle before my eyes.

To all of you who have believed in us for the past 19 years, I cannot thank you enough. I CAN assure you that we will continue to serve the poorest of the poor of Haiti and keep our overhead low. Our plan is to expand our efforts to help many more people and I feel confident that will happen under the new leadership of Dorothy Pullen as **Hope for Haiti**'s Executive Director. Watch us closely in the future but in the mean time please accept all the hugs of thanks sent by the 500,000 Haitian children and adults now benefiting from your generosity!

In Grateful Partnership,

President
 **Hope for Haiti®**



In Honor of **Hope for Haiti**'s Wonderful Volunteers!

Over the past couple of years **Hope for Haiti** has been truly blessed with a gift that is integral to our operation - **our volunteers!** Words can not do justice to the environment they create and the work that they do. Our Naples staff is outnumbered daily by a crew of dedicated and hard working volunteers who share our vision and ease our work load.

To Heather, Dave, Katie, Gigi, Lori and Alexis, and many others from all of us at **Hope for Haiti** and the Haitian community, our lives are easier and richer because of you. Thank you so much for opening your hearts, giving your time and using your hands to help **Hope for Haiti**.



If you only have 1 day, volunteer your time at the **Hope for Haiti office, packing life-saving medications for the men, women, and children of Haiti .**

Who We Help



One night this past January, we found Baboo sleeping on the hood of the **Hope for Haiti** vehicle parked on the side of a street in Les Cayes near our home. Baboo was one of the many street kids of Les Cayes. He did not go to school. He worked all day every day trying to make money by washing cars, gambling, begging, or if need be, stealing in order to eat. His father died before he was born, and his mother passed shortly thereafter leaving him in the care of an uncle. Although he is a caring man, his uncle had eight children of his own. A total of twelve people live and sleep on the floor of the uncle's small two-bedroom house located in a slum of Les Cayes. He had no resources to provide for his own children much less for another child. So at a very young age, Baboo was forced to provide for himself on the streets of Les Cayes.

In April, **Hope for Haiti** learned of a small boys' home called Fraternite Des Jeunes (Fraternity of Youth). We heard that they had one bed available and immediately Baboo came to mind. After a couple months of tedious paperwork and preparation, **Hope for Haiti** field staff, and his uncle, brought Baboo to Fraternite Des Jeunes to officially welcome him to his new home. Baboo quickly sat down on what was going to be the first bed he had ever slept on. His days and nights on the street were finally over.

Today, Baboo is well adjusted and enjoying his chance to finally be a child. Just last week, Baboo held a pencil for the first time and wrote his birth name "Wilfred Agette" as he smiled with great excitement and pride. At 10 years old, Baboo now has the opportunity to be educated, to play, and to be loved. Tonight, Baboo goes to sleep with a full stomach, in a bed where his dreams won't be disturbed any longer.



We Welcome Our New Executive Director

Dorothy Pullen has joined **Hope for Haiti** as Executive Director. Ms. Pullen will draw from her longstanding fundraising and development experience to support our organization's planned expansion of its education, nutrition and medical projects in Haiti. Prior to joining **Hope for Haiti**, Ms. Pullen was Director of Development for Habitat for Humanity in Paterson, New Jersey.

JoAnne Kuehner, founder and President of the Board of Directors said: "**Hope for Haiti** is ready to respond to the enormous need of the children of Haiti by expanding our involvement in the poorest areas of that country three fold. Our success will depend on growing our donor base and the monetary contributions in the United States, recruiting more volunteer groups of doctors and nurses to work in our clinics, and identifying new programs and partnerships with proven records of accomplishment in Haiti. We believe that Dorothy Pullen has the ability to lead **Hope for Haiti** in this ambitious strategy for growth over the next five years. The Board is confident that she is capable of implementing what we envision."

If you only have 2 hours, watch the *Agronomist* on DVD



Clean Water Flows in St. Laurent

Hope for Haiti's Solar Powered Ultraviolet Water Purification Systems have gained tremendous support within and outside of Haiti. Thanks to the dedicated support of our donors who believed in this project last year, our *Hope for Haiti* Water Initiative has been contagiously successful. Just this past month, *Fund for the Poor* partnered with Catholic Relief Services to provide a matching grant to fund the continuation of the *Hope for Haiti* Water Initiative, providing energy independent, chemical free, ultraviolet purification, to remote communities in Haiti.

Last month a new Solar-Powered UV Purification System was installed in the Parish of St. Laurent lead by a greatly loved Priest, Father Max Mathieu. With a strong engineering background, Fr. Max knew the effectiveness of UV purification. He requested a system to provide clean, dependable, drinking water to his school children and entire community. *Hope for Haiti's* Director of Operations, Mikey Stewart, installed the system and educated Fr. Max as well as the other community members



about the specifics of the system and how to keep the *Hope for Haiti* water system properly maintained.



Earlier this summer, St. Laurent residents welcomed Mr. Jim Boyle, a loyal *Hope for Haiti* donor who has donated his time and resources to visit *Hope for Haiti* water projects and participate in clean water testing. The water testing results confirmed that the water source where the community had been obtaining their drinking water was contaminated with dangerous levels of bacteria and coliforms that cause harmful health problems. Today, the community of St. Laurent has access to over 500 gallons of safe drinking water with 99.999% purity each and every day. This special gift of HOPE and LIFE is truly priceless.

If you only have 1 hour, clean out your medicine cabinet and donate your unexpired and unused medication and supplies to *Hope for Haiti*.

Together... We Can!

This year *Hope for Haiti* is proud to announce a new partnership with *Building with Books*, an international organization that focuses on empowering local villages through their own development efforts by building schoolhouses in rural communities. After visiting their project sites, *Hope for Haiti* made a commitment to sponsor the construction of one school in the rural village of Tete Source.



For three months, this community has volunteered their time, strength, and local resources to construct a school building for their children. *Building with Books* has provided the construction materials and skilled staff trained in rural schoolhouse construction and community mobilization. Men and women of all ages, including many of the children, have worked hard and with an incredible amount of heart, to dig the foundation, bring rocks, sand, and water, and pour concrete – all with only the materials that God provided plus a little support along the way. There isn't a day that goes by that the villagers of Tete Source aren't hard at work, singing and dancing, while they carry water or lay each and every rock.



Starting in September, the community of Tete Source will have a new school to be proud of with only one another to thank. By working together with the support of *Building with Books* and *Hope for Haiti*, this rural village has created something special through dedication and full community participation. Their sense of ownership of this valuable resource will insure that this Haitian community will send their children to school proudly and that they will care for the school

for years to come. *Hope for Haiti* is truly blessed to have the opportunity to work side by side with the men, women, and children of Tete Source and to partner with an organization that shares the passion of empowering the Haitian people through education and community driven development.

If you only have a half hour, visit the *Hope for Haiti* website and learn more about what we do in Haiti, and tell a friend.

Our Generous Partners



Kids Against Hunger with the help of **Rotary International** has generously donated over 300,000 meals of rice and fortified soy-protein that have been shipped to Haiti and distributed to the men, women, and children in the greatest need.

American Farms is one of the largest individually owned flower farms in the United States. When Christine Somoza and her partners are not busy beautifying theme parks, they are generously sending their trucks to **Hope for Haiti** to pick up boxes of medication and medical supplies and taking them to Miami International Airport for shipping to Haiti. This service

has saved our organization thousands of dollars that can be used to benefit the people of Haiti instead.

In April, **Order of Malta American Association** heard the cries of the hungry children of Haiti and rose to action. As a result of their generous contributions, **Hope for Haiti** has been able to provide 300,000 meals to men, women and children which have saved their lives and abated malnutrition.

Building with Books provides US and International programs that are centered around promoting education and self-reliance. Since 1992, **Building With Books** has built more than 400 schools located in Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Senegal. Tete Source, supported by **Hope for Haiti**, is the 9th school that **Building with Books** has built in Haiti. We look forward to our continued partnership in promoting education and community mobilization within rural Haitian villages.



The caring doctors and nurses of **Advanced Medical Center**, in Naples, Florida take their Hippocratic Oath very seriously, especially the part that reads "...I will prevent disease wherever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure. I will remember that I have special obligations to all my fellow human beings..." As such, they have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in medications and medical supplies which **Hope for Haiti** has shipped to the clinics, hospitals and nutrition programs that we support.

If you only have 1 minute, imagine your frustration if you were not able to feed your child's hunger pains.

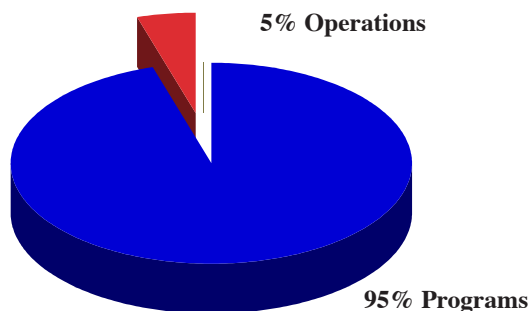
Why I Give to *Hope for Haiti*



The best way to know that your donor dollars are being well spent is to actually go to Haiti and see for yourself. I saw the effectiveness of *Hope for Haiti*'s work firsthand when we visited a school in Le Bon Berger. Word had gotten out that we were coming and when we arrived, not only were we greeted by students and teachers, but also by the parents and the whole community, who had gathered in the school courtyard in a show of appreciation. The sixth grade had written a song, which they sang to us in English, saying "thank you" for transforming their school from a lean-to made of palm fronds to a concrete structure. They thanked us for keeping the burning sun off their bodies and the rain off their books. By transforming this school we had transformed these children. Actually, we had transformed a whole village by giving them hope for the future. The cost to build the school was \$20,000; the cost of my experience was priceless.

Contribute with Confidence

For over 18 years, *Hope for Haiti* 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 **\$1000** donated to *Hope for Haiti*, we deliver **\$50,000** in medication to our clinics and hospitals.



Hope for Haiti has received the highest possible rating from *Charity Navigator* which sets the standard for charity accountability.

Learn how **YOU** can give the gift of **HOPE** that keeps giving:

Hope for Haiti can help you create a **PLANNED GIVING** program:

- Bequest – Designate *Hope for Haiti* as a beneficiary in your will.
- Designate *Hope for Haiti* as a beneficiary of your Life Income Charity Trust.
- Designate *Hope for Haiti* as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
- Set up a life estate with *Hope for Haiti* as your beneficiary and continue to enjoy the benefits of ownership during your lifetime.

For information, please contact Dorothy Pullen at *Hope for Haiti* in Naples, Florida, 239-434-7183.

If you only have 30 seconds, imagine a world without hunger.



Hope for Haiti®

1042 6th Avenue
Naples, FL 34102

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



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Your
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Education Program will be matched.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help
the children of Haiti receive a quality
education and a brighter future.

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.