



# Hope for Haiti®

1042 6th Avenue North • Naples, FL 34102

**NEWSLETTER**

April 2009

## Not losing Hope in the Aftermath of the Storms



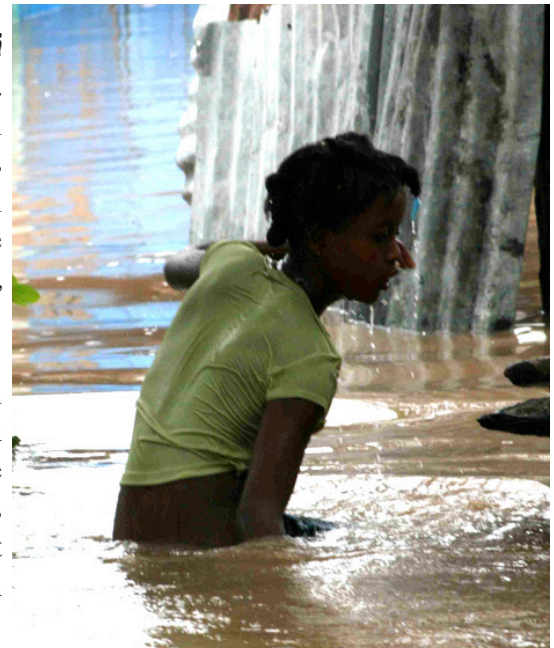
“It was 6 am on September 2nd, 2008 in Haiti, and rushing water had surrounded the *Hope for Haiti* house at almost four feet in depth in only two hours. We had never seen water rise to such a high level so quickly! It came without warning, without chance for preparation.

As the water receded, it unveiled the destruction left behind. Thousands of homes destroyed, animals and crops washed away, and human lives lost. People were stranded on rooftops, scared and desperate.

Can you imagine bearing witness to such devastation, realizing that there was no help on the way? It was a feeling of such isolation and helplessness that, as Americans, we had never experienced before,” explained Tiffany, our Program Director, as she described her experience after Hurricane Hannah.

Immediate problems require solutions. *Hope for Haiti* staff combed the town of Les Cayes, searching for supplies. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, water purification tablets, antibacterial soap, laundry detergent, candles, matches, along with Kids Against Hunger of S.W. Florida meal packets, were all collected and repackaged as emergency survival buckets. The survival buckets were distributed through churches and schools, throughout Les Cayes to families in the greatest need.

For the past 20 years *Hope for Haiti* has remained resolute in our mission. But that incessant string of hurricanes has caused *Hope for Haiti* to embark on a new responsibility to the community. *Hope for Haiti* will be implementing strategies for hurricane season precaution, reaction and response. The next time Mother Nature decides to pull the rug out from underneath our Haitian neighbors, *Hope for Haiti* will be ready.



*Lespwa Fè Viv.*  
**Hope gives Life.**

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## From Our President

We have much for which to be thankful! In a year of back-to-back hurricanes in Haiti, and an economic disaster in the United States, we at *Hope for Haiti* are ever so grateful to:

- The *Hope for Haiti* staff, both in Naples and in Haiti, as well as the dedicated volunteers who have pushed themselves to the limit;
- The **Order of Malta** which allowed us to turn-on-a-dime and respond to the hurricane victims critical need for food;
- **Bill Earls** who flew his own plane to Haiti stocked with food, desperately needed medications, and chocolates from **Gertrude Hawk** to help show our love for the suffering people of Haiti;
- The **Catholic Medical Mission Board**, **MAP International** and **Airline Ambassadors** for supporting *Hope for Haiti's* relief team;
- The **Griffin Foundation** which has established an emergency fund to allow us to be financially prepared for future disasters, and *Hope for Haiti's* generous **donors** who responded to our "survival bucket initiative" and;
- **Kids Against Hunger of S.W. Florida**, with the assistance of **Rotary International**, who donated over 300,000 meals of rice and fortified soy-protein to our relief effort.



Joanne Kuehner, Papal Nuncio to Haiti,  
Fr Rick Frechette

You can see why, at a time when it's a struggle for everyone in the United States, as well as in Haiti, we are ever so-o-o- grateful to those of YOU who stretched until it hurt.

God bless you.



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## Because of YOU

A tribute to *Hope for Haiti's* wonderful volunteers!



Because of YOU, donated items valued at over \$14 million dollars were organized, documented and packed for shipping in 2008. Because of YOU, our data base is being updated. Because of YOU and your dedication to *Hope for Haiti's* mission and goals, the Naples staff is able to keep up with their daily duties. Because of YOU, our operation runs like a well oiled machine. Because of YOU, we are able to change the quality of life for over 500,000 people in Haiti each year.

Many thanks to ALL of our volunteers and welcome to our newest members of this valued group: Edda, Nisha, Peg and Betty.

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*Se anpil dlo ki lave kay tè.*  
**It takes a lot of water to wash a mud hut.**



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# Who We Help



## — Kidney Clerger

This spring *Hope for Haiti* celebrates the successful surgery and recovery of beautiful baby girl, Kidney Clerger. She was born on December 13, 2007 to Sandra, who noticed that Kidney had bands around her left wrist and left ankle. Her left fingers were all stuck together as well and a bit malformed. Kidney was born with amniotic band syndrome, a congenital disorder that results in constricting rings around extremities. Sandra arrived at the Missionaries of Charity in Les Cayes to seek help for her little girl, whose left foot was extremely enlarged, in pain, and unable to walk. *Hope for Haiti* worked to find the right medical attention quickly. The overall consensus from medical opinions, domestic and abroad, was amputation and any delay could lead to infection and death in a child so young. *Hope for Haiti* wanted to be sure that there was no other option for surgery that could save Kidney's foot. With the help

of Caribbean Children's Foundation (CCF) and Hospital Cite Lumiere, Dr. William Ten Haaf "Dr. Bill" answered our call.

After having a consultation with Kidney, Dr. Bill explained that he would leave amputation of the foot as the last possible option and would perform a surgical procedure to increase blood flow to Kidney's limb immediately. After a successful surgery and two weeks of recovery, Kidney is happy and able to walk! Kidney's procedure cost \$350, a small price to pay to save this beautiful girls life. Without *Hope for Haiti's* medical support and connections, Sandra would have had no resources to help her daughter. To Sandra and Kidney, *Hope for Haiti's* help is absolutely priceless.



## — Making Dreams Come True!

This February, *Hope for Haiti* installed three more solar powered Ultra-Violet (UV) water purification systems providing 500 gallons of 99.99% purified drinking water to schools, clinics, and communities each day.

One new system was installed for Father Luc Jolicoeur's mission of Little Brothers of the Good Shepard. He started an orphanage in 1991 which has grown to care for over 160 boys and, with *Hope for Haiti's* help, has established a primary and secondary school which educates over 600 students.

Father Luc, now 70 years old, explained that his next dream was to have clean drinking water. With no means of purification, the people were all too often getting sick from drinking the city water when it was available. *Hope for Haiti* answered that dream. Today, Father Luc, his children, and the community rejoice in having purified drinking water available to them each day.

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*Byen mal pa lanmò.*

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

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## Nourishing Body and Spirit



### — Venia Izaak

Last December, Venia Izaak, 17 years old, was unresponsive from severe malnutrition that left her unable to walk, talk, or even lift her head. The severity of malnutrition had made her age unidentifiable, with only her eyes and her teeth providing hints of her body's development. Her legs and arms had begun to show signs of Kwashiorkor, a disorder caused by extreme protein deficiency. In desperation, her mother, Dieula, carried Venia over 2 hours from the mountains to one of *Hope for Haiti's* supported medical nutrition centers, Ti Moun Kontan "Happy Children" of Aquin.

The Sisters of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, who oversee the nutrition center, were dedicated to doing everything possible to save this child's life. Today,



we are happy to report that Venia is well on her way to recovery. She is walking, smiling, and playing. Sadly, Venia will never recover her full physical growth that has been severely impeded from years of malnutrition and extreme poverty. Thankfully, Venia is a living survivor who reminds us every day how vital nutrition is to development and the over all wellbeing of a nation.



### — Expansion of Health and Hope

With the generous support of Dan and Beth Hughes, *Hope for Haiti* is expanding its healthcare outreach to better serve the basic medical needs of the poorest of the poor in Les Cayes and the surrounding areas. Renovations have been completed on the *Hope for Haiti* Dispensary and will open in April. This new healthcare facility is dedicated in memory of Charles J. Hughes and will be the home base for all of *Hope for Haiti's* healthcare projects and collaborations.

Just last year, *Hope for Haiti* provided over \$15 million worth of humanitarian aid to Haiti, the majority of which were medications and medical supplies that benefited over 20 healthcare centers. These medications and supplies improved the quality of lives for over 350,000 men, women, and children. *Hope for Haiti* is dedicated to helping provide access and quality of healthcare to the Haitian people in the greatest need.

*Hope for Haiti* is always looking for any medical personnel who are interested in volunteering their services to benefit the Haitian people. If you are interested in joining one of our next medical mission trips, please contact the *Hope for Haiti* office to receive more information.



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*Petit se riches malere.*

**One's hope and riches lie in the future of one's children.**



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## There is HOPE for Haiti



Last November, Haiti welcomed a special mission trip made up of five Naples, Florida residents and members of the Order of Malta American Association lead by JoAnne Kuehner, Founder and President of *Hope for Haiti*. Richard and Francesca Copeland, Thomas O'Reilly, and Lynne Redmond, were first timers to Haiti, but have been long-term supporters of *Hope for Haiti*.

Team members had an experience that was both emotionally and physically challenging, maximizing their short visit to provide the most love and care to as many men, women, and children possible. Team members cared for emaciated and sick children, forgotten elderly in nursing homes, discarded handicapped children and adults, while also assembling survival buckets, unpacking medications, and distributing supplies to *Hope for Haiti* programs. In only six days, these friends of *Hope for Haiti* had the opportunity to experience the lives of the Haitian people and to better understand the work and impact of *Hope for Haiti*, an organization that they have supported for years. The mission ended with a very memorable experience for all. The team accompanied 30 handicapped children to the beach to swim in the water and play in the sand, something these children never have the chance to do. The team brought inner tubes from the States in preparation and spent the week blowing them up individually. The day was full of fun, happiness, and absolute joy in sharing some of Haiti's most beautiful treasures with the children who need it most.

After a long rewarding week, Richard Copeland explained, "Organizations like *Hope for Haiti* are truly making a difference. They don't just work from the perimeter and give funds, but they are on the ground working with their hands and providing hope and love to the people."



### Gala 2009

With the spirited sounds of the steel band at the door, *Hope for Haiti* welcomed guests to its annual gala on March 7th. The mood was festive and lively, as the evening not only raised \$300,000 but provided an opportunity to reconnect with supporters over a few of our signature Calypso Cocktails. In case you missed it, the much-deserved winner of the stay at the exclusive Mexican resort, was long time supporter, Willy Gorke.

Our sincerest thanks go to both businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the *Hope for Haiti* Gala. It takes the cooperation of both donors and volunteers to create one special night.

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*Se lanmoun ki pou geri lanmou.*

Love must heal love.

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## Our Generous Partners



Dear *Hope for Haiti*,

As the global economic crisis deepens, the world's poor will face even greater challenges to improving their social and economic conditions. Perhaps today more than ever, the majority of people living in Haiti face an increasing and overwhelming scarcity of health care and education. Your work has now become even more crucial.

I would like to commend *Hope for Haiti* for its extraordinary programs that ensure improved living conditions for the elderly; better access to medicine for the sick; improved education for children; emergency relief for the disaster stricken; and hope for so many vulnerable yet proud Haitians who desperately seek and deserve a better life.

In 2008, we were able to improve the quality of education for more than 200 boys and girls in the community of Tête Source by building a primary school. This year, thanks to the support of *Hope for Haiti*, we will be able to complete two additional school projects that will ultimately improve education for more than 500 Haitian boys and girls.

I am convinced that the impact of *Hope for Haiti's* support to buildOn will not only touch the lives of the students who attend classes in the new school buildings, but it will also help create a ripple effect of development amongst the parents who volunteered their labor to help build these schools for their children. Their dedication to the cause is truly inspiring!

We look forward expanding and strengthening the partnership between buildOn and *Hope for Haiti* in the years ahead.

Thanks again,  
*Skyler Badenoch*

Skyler Badenoch  
Manager of International Programs  
buildOn



### Coming soon...

*Hope for Haiti* is happy to announce that we are partnering with buildOn to construct two more schools this summer. Dedicated humanitarian, Mrs. Helen Mark has generously sponsored one school for the community of Ravine Sable. *Hope for Haiti* is still looking for other donors who would like to be a part of sponsoring our second school construction for this year. A \$20,000 donation will build a three-classroom school, providing a better education to over 300 students.

Construction will begin on May 15th and will be completed by the start of next school year. We invite you to be a part of the construction process with the community or join us for the school's dedication!

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*Anpil men, chay pa lou.*  
**With many hands a load is not heavy.**



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## Why I Give to *Hope for Haiti*



“Hearing Fr. Rick describe the conditions for children in Haiti opened our eyes. Our May 2008 visit to Haiti convinced us we must act NOW!”

- Dan and Beth Hughes



The Order of Malta is a lay religious order dedicated to caring for the sick and the poor and the marginalized in today’s world. In feeding and caring for the people of Haiti, “*Hope for Haiti*” allows us to “...live poorly as Christ did, with the poor in order to live with Christ,” said Jean Vanier. As Cardinal Etchegary explained in a talk to young people in Rome for the new millennium, “The renewal of the church always comes as we dare to live a covenant with the poor.”

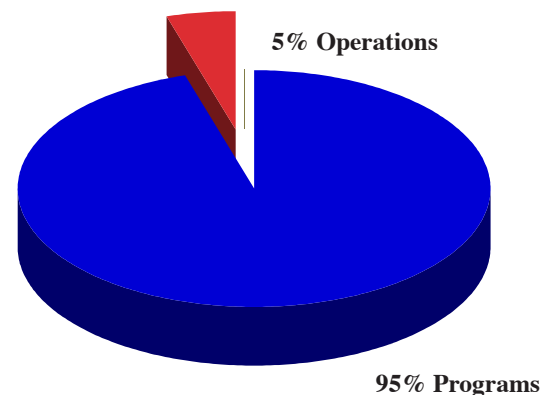
You are the missionaries of the Order of Malta, and through your good works you allow us to see the face of Jesus in the suffering people of Haiti whom you love and serve so well.

Confraternally and with prayers,  
*Joe Metz*  
Joe Metz  
Hospitaller  
American Association

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## Contribute with Confidence

For nearly 20 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 \$1,000 donated to *Hope for Haiti*, we deliver \$50,000 in medications and medical supplies to our clinics and hospitals.



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

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*Wè jodi a men sonje demen.*  
See today, but remember tomorrow.



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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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Thanks to the generosity of  
**The Griffin Foundation**

Your  
 tax deductible contribution to our  
**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.