

Pub Crawl: Hope for Haiti hosts fifth annual bar hopping fundraiser

BY: John Osborne

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Sometimes you need to crawl to get from Point A to Point B in the quickest possible fashion.

In that spirit, Hope for Haiti, a Naples-based nonprofit that focuses on providing education, clean water, health care, infrastructure and economic opportunities to needy families on the impoverished island nation, will hold its 5th annual Pub Crawl Saturday, Aug. 1.

Hosted by ABC-7's Krista Fogelson, the "Peace, Love & Haiti"-themed event kicks off at 3:45 p.m. at Bar Tulia, on Fifth Avenue South in downtown Naples.

An hour later, revelers will move on to Hobnob Kitchen & Bar at 720 5th Ave. S.

The final stop in the crawl begins 5:45 p.m. at 7th Avenue Social, 849 7th Avenue S.

Tickets are \$50 and include three drink tickets, good for one libation at each stop.

"We've sold out the last four years, so it's always one of our most popular events," said Hope for Haiti President and CEO Tiffany Kuehner, noting that participation is limited to 125 people.

"We've got about 40 tickets left, so anybody who wants to go should act sooner rather than later," she said.

Kuehner said the first 100 people to purchase tickets will be guaranteed a limited-

edition T-shirt. After that, it's while supplies last.

"Every year, it's just a whole lot of fun," she said.

Kuehner said those who bring in at least three hygiene items would also have a chance to spin the "Wheel of Fun" for some great prizes. Suggested items include full-sized bar soaps, razors, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, full-sized deodorant, 15-ounce bottles of shampoo, eight-ounce containers of hand sanitizer and combs.

Though Haiti has largely receded from the headlines since the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 100,000 people in 2010, Kuehner said much work remains to be done.

"Five years later, Haiti is just now reaching where they were before the earthquake," she said. "But you need to remember that Haiti was the poorest country in the western hemisphere before the earthquake, so even though Haiti has made tremendous progress, our help is still needed as much now as ever."

To underscore her point, Kuehner said 50 percent of Haitian children still have no access to education.

"What we're trying to do with our efforts, ultimately, is end the vicious cycle of poverty in southern Haiti," she said.

With that in mind, Kuehner said Hope for Haiti relies heavily on the efforts of its volunteers.

"We have 100 volunteers who work with us pretty steadily throughout the year, and as many as 400 for certain events, but we're always looking for more," she said.

Kuehner said volunteers help her organization keep operating expenses at 5 percent of a \$13 million budget.

“Thanks to our generous volunteers in Southwest Florida, we’re able to be more effective in our programming work,” she said. “Thanks to a lot of hands working together, it makes the load lighter for all of us.”

Kuehner said Hope for Haiti works directly with 30,000 people in Haiti to provide health care, medication and medical supplies, which the nonprofit hand-delivers to more than 60 locations around the country.

“Through our associations with other organizations, we indirectly serve as many as 500,000 people a year, so even though we’ve made a lot of progress, there is still a lot of work left to be done,” she said.

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IF YOU GO

WHAT: Hope for Haiti’s 5th annual Pub Crawl

WHEN: 3:45 p.m., Sat., Aug. 1

WHERE: Bar Trulia, 462 5th Ave. S., Naples

COST: \$50 per person

MORE INFORMATION: www.hopeforhaiti.com/events

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