



Follow Up Report

Name of Funded Organization: The Haitian Health Foundation

Website:

Featured Program in November 2009

Amount of DFW Donation: \$24,017

Mission: The mission of HHF is to provide health care, economic development, nutrition, self-help, education, and empowerment to the population of rural southern Haiti, with a concentration on maternal health and child survival. Haitian women are disenfranchised and often abused, yet they are the primary money makers and caretakers for their families. HHF offers health care, education, and other support to decrease maternal mortality, prevent early pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases, as well as economic support, housing, animal distribution, and other strategies to promote survival of this vulnerable population.

PROJECT NARRATIVE: OBJECTIVES

The Dining for Women project was designed to help women by providing:

- Health services to the rural villagers of Sassied for one year;
- 33 female breeding goats to destitute women farmers;
- Health and nutritional care for ten destitute, at-risk pregnant women at HHF's Center of Hope facility.
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RESULTS:

The project achieved its objectives.

- ❖ Dining for Women supported Sassied, a rural village, an approximate 6 hour walk from our main Clinic in Jeremie. With your support, **Sassied's Health Agent, Ifiginie Louis, provided health care to nearly 3,000 rural villagers.** This care included immunizations, especially for women and children, health education, growth monitoring and nutritional education, especially for malnourished children.

- ❖ **33 pregnant female goats were distributed to women villagers.** The recipients can breed the goat to develop a herd – and/or sell the ‘kids’ to pay for such expenses are food, clothing, and education. Goat manure will be used for gardens. Each goat will help the women and families become more self-sufficient.
- ❖ HHF’s ‘Center of Hope’ is a residential facility for women in high-risk pregnancies. 90% of rural births in Haiti are at home – women squatting on dirt floors in hovels made of banana leaf, thatch, and rusted metal. The “Midwives” in the villages are really “Traditional Birth Attendants” (TBAs) or “Granny Midwives”, who have no formal medical training. Not only do they not provide any prenatal or postnatal care, but they often engage in unsafe practices, such as putting cow dung on the umbilical cord, or having the woman squat over a cauldron of boiling herbs to “close the uterus”. These TBAs are not prepared to handle emergencies. If a woman does develop problems with her delivery, she must either walk hours to get to medical care, or be carried hours on a “litter”. Some of the villages HHF serve are up to an 18 hour walk from medical care. **HHF is working to address these issues by providing an “ambulance” service to the mountains, as well as more training to the TBAs.**
- ❖ Health Agents, like Ifiginie, monitor the health of the pregnant villagers very closely and refer any who are “at risk” to HHF’s Center of Hope. “At-Risk” pregnancies include: first-time mothers, especially teenagers, mothers who are over 40, mothers with many previous pregnancies, multiple births, high blood pressure, and anemia. HHF’s ‘Center of Hope’ provides a safe environment, a clean bed, excellent nutrition, and pre and post-natal care. **DFW funding was used to help provide this excellent care to ten at-risk mothers at the Center.**

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES

Haiti is a country of challenges. It is desperately poor country with high unemployment, a plethora of unskilled workers, little infrastructure, and mass malnutrition, to name only a few problems. **The earthquake of January 12 added to the problems significantly – not only killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of people, but also destroying what buildings and businesses that did exist.**

Though HHF’s facilities are located 100 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake, over **120,000 people fled the horrors of Port au Prince to come to HHF’s region of Haiti – the Grand’Anse. This influx of people has stressed our already busy**

Clinic, Center of Hope, and health workers - for example, many of the pregnant women arriving from Port au Prince (some 8-9 months pregnant) had never seen a doctor. Our health staff has been very busy providing care to these refugees, which, unfortunately, has put them behind in such important activities as childhood immunizations. This increased stress does not include the intense need for additional food distribution and other relief efforts to the traumatized refugees, or the need for additional income-generating activities in an area with already 70% unemployment. **However, because of our 20 year history in this area, HHF was able to provide help – such as food distribution – without any rioting or theft. This year, DFW members were particularly generous, donating above and beyond the requested amount. The balance of your gift was used to help with these earthquake challenges. Now the scourge of cholera has hit our area of Haiti, and our health workers’ responsibilities are increased again, with education about prevention and treatment of cholera, distribution of oral rehydration salts and antibiotics, etc.**

Particular challenges to our work in Haiti always include ensuring that the donated funds are used wisely and frugally. Our Administrator and Public Health Directors are American women who have worked in Haiti for over 20 years. Our Director of Finance and Administration is also an American woman – she has worked for HHF in Haiti for two years. These women are well educated and aware of the corruption that is rampant in Haiti and take pains to ensure that donors’ money is spent appropriately. **For four consecutive years, HHF has received the highest designation from Charity Navigator – 4 stars – for excellent financial accountability and low overhead.**

PROJECT DETAILS: Specific ways the funds from Dining for Women were used.

Adopt a Village: \$5,000

\$3,600 – salary and expenses, Village Health Agent
\$1,400 - medicine, gasoline to transport supplies, etc...

Give a Goat: \$150/goat X 33 goats: \$4,950

Center of Hope: \$500/woman X 10 women: \$5,000

Breakdown of Center of Hope expenses (length of stay usually between 1-3 months):

Ambulance Transportation to Center	\$50
24/7 Staff Support (MD, RN, etc...)	\$150
Food	\$100
Medicine, Lab Work	\$125
Laundry, Water, etc...	\$20
Delivery Fees at hospital (normal, not C-Section)	\$75

Total: \$14,950

IMPACT:

At least 2,720 people were impacted directly from this grant – 2,667 of the villagers of Sassied, 33 goat recipients, 10 pregnant women, and 12 babies, delivered safely.

The Adopt a Village funding affected 2,667 people directly, with health education and preventive health care through a Village Health Agent. **In addition, because many people living in neighboring villages walk to Sassied and Douranton to receive education, preventive and curative care, our Public Health Director estimates that health care access is at least doubled, to over 5,000 villagers in total.**

The Give-a-Goat donation affects 33 women directly; however, since each household is comprised of at least 6 people (12 now since the earthquake), a conservative estimate would be that **at least 200 people will be affected by this gift.** This does not include the local farmers who make a living off of selling the goats to HHF so we can distribute them. This “buy local to sell local” mentality helps keep the money right in the rural villages.

The Center of Hope funding provided medical care, excellent nutrition, and delivery support, directly impacting 10 women, and their 12 babies (2 sets of twins) – 22 people total. The indirect impact, on the rest of the family, can be estimated at, minimally, 60 people (assuming the lower estimate of 6 people per household), as the mothers are the primary caretakers for the other children in the family.

Note from HHF Executive Director: I am personally inspired by the dedication of the members of Dining for Women. Your dedication to helping those in need – especially the most vulnerable – *women* – will truly, truly make a difference in this world. Keep up the good work!

TESTIMONIES of women, in their own words, whose lives were affected by the funded project and photos are attached.

**Haitian Health Foundation:Actual Expenses
2009-2010**

Payroll & Benefits	\$ 925,654
Company Payroll Taxes	\$ 22,172
Workman's Compensation Insurance	\$ 1,800
Clinic/Center of Hope/Medical	\$ 110,525
Travel/Repair/Maintenance	\$ 285,481
Equipment	\$ 84,292
Transport	\$ 32,364
Supplies	\$ 59,064
Legal and Accounting	\$ 53,012
Utilities	\$ 32,982
Program Expense	\$ 111,218
Fundraising	\$ 26,711
Miscellaneous	\$ 36,915
Save a Family Assistance	\$ 191,491
Save a Family School-Related	\$ 117,078
Save a Family Construction	\$ 13,623
Feed A Child/Akamil Project	\$ 73,428
Goats, Latrines, Happy Houses	\$ 112,632
St. Pierre Project	\$ 34,389
Testasse Project & Other Special Projects	\$ 159,180
Vehicles	\$ 76,585
Building Costs	\$ 70,083
Earthquake Disaster Funding	\$ 260,666

FY 2010 TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,891,345