

HOPE FOR HAITI

HOPE IS LIFE FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 2010

Trip to Haiti proves Fruitful

Visiting Haiti and meeting the local people was a heartfelt experience for us. We went directly to Haiti from Thailand and spent several days with the local community. Our trip was very successful and the sun was shining all week except a few heavy rains in the evenings.

The Haitian people are wonderful! Even after suffering such a horrific experience, they managed to greet us with smiles and open arms. Children played on the street. Mothers washed clothes and took baths in open-air

tubs along the roads. Tents and tarps put up by foreign donors are seen everywhere, along roadsides and empty lots. Haitians have set up small businesses along the narrow streets selling food, bananas, shoes, charcoal and necessities.

Hope is Life Foundation Sponsors Children's Enrichment Center

Hope is Life Foundation will work with CAFT Foundation and the Artists' Centre ELT (Edikasyon Lavi Timoun) in Port-Au-Prince to develop and grow a community-based school. David Thebaud, the owner, holds free workshops for the children of the neighborhood every weekday afternoon from 1- 4 pm where they learn useful skills.

On weekday mornings, the space will be occupied for the community school. CAFT Foundation, a locally-based NGO in Haiti, will hold Grades 1 and 2 classes in the mornings, using locally trained teachers.

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Community Empowerment!

To rebuild and create a vibrant community where children can enjoy academic and moral education, where the community can enjoy material and spiritual prosperity, it is important that the local community be empowered to participate and sustain the development process.

Whether to start a socio-economic development project or to start a community school, HIL Foundation's goal is for the local community be endowed with an understanding of concepts, learning the skills, and acquiring the knowledge of the project.



The people of Haiti are friendly and incredibly resourceful. They are aware that the attention of the world is on Haiti like it has never been. Nearly 45 percent of the population are children and are the



most disoriented and vulnerable of the survivors of the earthquake. Many tens of thousands have lost their parents and their homes. Ninety percent of the schools in Port-au-Prince are damaged or



destroyed. Reconstruction has not begun yet. All classes are conducted outside the damaged buildings under temporary shelters or trees.

Healing Through Art Curriculum

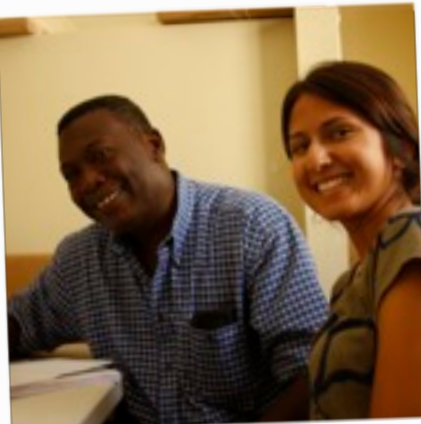
Hope is Life Foundation is funding the kickoff of an arts curriculum, *Healing through Art*, for elementary students in a local school, developed by a retired art teacher in the U.S.. The goal is to develop a Visual Arts Program with the hope of providing Haitian children and the community a spiritual and safe environment to emotionally grow. The need for such a program came from the local community and they are being provided with training and knowledge. This program can provide teachers insight, understanding, and skills to provide engaging and effective art and arts-integrated lessons across all areas of curriculum. The proposed curriculum will inspire students and spark creative interest in all subjects.

Basic art principles will be taught through creative lessons, allowing the children to have many expressive experiences using different art media. Art lessons will support and be integrated into basic subjects already taught so that many of these lessons will eventually become part of the basic curriculum and will not be taught as a separate subject.

Art can enhance their understanding of the world around them and their ability to explain their place in it. Expressing themselves through art can allow students another avenue to share their ideas and feelings. Initially, training will be offered for kindergarten through third grade teachers of a school in Port-au-Prince November 15-20, 2010. Later the program will be evaluated and expand to other grades and to more schools in the community.

We are also exploring the possibility to build a Teacher Training Institute that can also be used as a Community Learning Center, with the help of Architecture for Humanity and CAFT Foundation.

MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Natascha Yogachandra, along with Linda Gershuny of CAFT Foundation, met with Mr. J.M. Cesar, Deputy Minister of Education for Elementary Education, to discuss the local needs for education in private and public schools. They also received a briefing of the current situation of the schools after the earthquake. According to him, the total educational system of Haiti has collapsed.



The day after we arrived, Natascha visited nearly eleven classrooms (all classes are currently conducted outside of the buildings) and talked to the students, comforting them as part of the healing process.



Children at the Arts Center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Children's Enrichment Center will be conducted at the Arts Center.

THANK YOU!

I want to personally thank all my friends, fellow students, principals, and faculty members of various schools, business establishments, and media publications, in Bangkok, Thailand and Fairport, New York, USA, and several friends and family around the globe who believe in my passion to serve humanity. Without their encouragement and support, I would not be able to fulfill my mission in Haiti and around the world. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

- Natascha Yogachandra