

**Earthquake
Edition**



You *are* making a
difference... now more
than ever.

EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES HAITI



Everyone is already aware of the destruction wrought upon Haiti by the powerful earthquake of January 12. In spite of the extensive coverage that the mass media has provided, much is still not known about the after effects. As the media move on to the next *cause célèbre*, Servants for Haiti will stay with the people of Port-au-Prince for the long haul.

The Cite Militaire and Village Solidarité neighborhoods, home to more than 4200 families, are only two miles from the National Palace that was almost completely destroyed. It is only 12 miles from the quake's epicenter. Many of the local houses and businesses - like the one in the photo above - were destroyed. Yet the CJRA school and Kingdom Kids orphanage, both of which are supported by SFH, were left essentially unharmed.

While a small amount of non-structural damage was sustained by the school, both it and the orphanage building have been inspected by authorities and judged intact and usable.

SFH was at work on earthquake relief within days of the tragedy. Already, we have sent three teams to the area where we serve. The teams brought much needed food, money, and other supplies. Detailed accounts of the teams' work can be found on our new web site, www.servantsforhaiti.org.

Many individuals and groups have been generous with SFH and other relief organizations during this time of emergency. The truth is, however, that Haiti has been in difficult straits for a long time. The earthquake has only exacerbated a desperate situation. Servants for Haiti is committed for the long term. We hope you are too.

More Earthquake News and Photos

So much has happened since the earthquake that it is impossible to cover all of it here. We recommend that you check out our web site on a regular basis for all the latest information.

In spite of all the bad news, there are a number of things to be thankful for. First and foremost, everyone associated with SFH's work in Haiti is alive and well: the orphans, as well as the staffs of the orphanage and school.

More good news is that the school and orphanage are structurally sound. While the children and staff at the orphanage have been sleeping outside in tents because of the continuing aftershocks, they are spending most of the day inside.

Also, four of the orphans at KKO were brought home by their adoptive American families as a result of the US State Department allowing in-process adoptions to be expedited through a humanitarian parole program.

It's great to have things like these to be thankful for, but we need to remember that there is still a great deal of suffering in post-earthquake Haiti. Besides the school and orphanage, we have been working with Pastor Rigaud to help as many people in the local area as possible. Our local people's knowledge of the area was instrumental as they assisted the large relief agency World Vision when they distributed food to the neighborhood, employing local residents in the process.

Many residents of the area are living in tents. The usually lively streets are deserted at night as people return to their "tent cities" in fear that they may be robbed of what little they have left.

The only casualty we are aware of is to George Dorilien, the medical school student that we support through our Higher Education Scholarship Program. He suffered a broken arm and leg, but is doing well.

One thing we cannot be sure of is the well-being of some of the students of the school. Unfortunately, we may never know the fates of all of them since some have undoubtedly moved out of the city.

Much remains to be done as we try to rebuild what was lost. The population of the orphanage has exploded to 60 children. They must all be cared for. Another important goal is to reopen the CJRA school as quickly as possible. That should help restore a sense of normalcy to the vicinity. SFH has already sent funds that will allow us to make repairs to the school. We await government approval for reopening schools.



Tents for homeless families fill the streets.



In spite of the school being closed, children are still being fed at CJRA school.



Even the earthquake could not shake the smiles from the faces of these children at Kingdom Kids Orphanage.



Many Thanks to Many People

In the wake of the earthquake, many of our usual supporters were joined by new ones to reach out to our Haitian friends in their time of greatest need. In the period immediately following the earthquake, SFH raised over \$50,000 for emergency aid. While it would be impossible to name them all, here are a few that stand out in their generosity:

» *Grace Community Church in Chelmsford, MA, took a one time collection that raised more than \$11,000!*

» *The Lowell Kiwanis, always a strong supporter of our efforts, pitched in once more with a \$1000 donation.*

» *Ceragon Networks employees' generosity was matched by that of their employer. Together, they gave over \$10,000.*

» *Our good friend Kevin Ashley raised money to buy more than 250 tents then arranged to have them shipped down to Haiti - no small feat in itself!*

» *Green Mountain Diapers (we have friends in all lines of work!) donated a water filtration system and a generator that are both now in use at the orphanage.*

» *Three schools in Westford, MA got into the act. The pre-school and kindergarten held a fundraiser for food and cash donations, while the Abbot and Nabnasset schools combined to raise over \$2000.*

» *Northern Bank and Trust, based in eastern Mass., put signs in their windows and at the tellers' stations to collect money for SFH.*

» *Two women holding baby showers for their daughters gave money that would have gone to favors to SFH.*

To these and many others, we give our sincere thanks in the name of all the people of Haiti. May God bless you for your generosity.

More examples of the generosity and creativity of our supporters can be found in the "Fundraising" section of our new web site. Check it out!

The need continues...

The large one-time gifts are great and we truly appreciate them. The foundation of the work of Servants for Haiti, however, is built on the smaller gifts, the long term monthly support of individual children cannot be replaced. As a result of the earthquake, the population at the orphanage has increased by more than 50%, jumping from about 40 to over 60 children. Each one of these children needs monthly sponsorship for feeding, medical care, and education. That's where you come in. Your faithful support of the children of Haiti is what makes it possible for us to serve Haiti one child at a time.

New Web Site Unveiled

Servants for Haiti has a new web site. It's the same location, www.servantsforhaiti.org, and you'll find the same useful and up to date information there. However, we have switched to a new underlying technology that should help us be more flexible adapting to change in the future. Over time we will also be adding many new features, such as online donations.

The old site served its purpose, but as we tried to keep it current with the volatile situation caused by the earthquake, we knew we had to make some changes. The result is what you will see online.

The new format is far simpler than the old one. Critical information is easier to find. There are two types of articles. Those that are more static, such as our contact information and programs, can be found through the menu selections across the top of each page.

News that is updated more frequently - fund-raising efforts and trip reports, for example - are listed as blog entries at the bottom of the page. These can be accessed topically or by date of entry. Additionally, you can add your comments and other feedback to these kinds of articles, helping us to communicate more effectively. All the news posts can be accessed in chronological order through the News/Blog menu entry at the top of the page.

To further enhance communications, we have added several new email addresses through which we can be reached. In addition to the longstanding info@servantsforhaiti.org address, you can contact us through the following addresses:

- **webmaster@servantsforhaiti.org** - *to report issues with the web site*
- **development@servantsforhaiti.org** - *for help with fund-raising events and problems*
- **trivia@servantsforhaiti.org** - *to RSVP or get more information on the first annual Trivia Night fund-raiser (see the related story on page 4)*

We hope you take advantage of the feedback features of the new web site to let us know what you think, not only of the site itself, but also about the content we present in it. Your input to our work is very important to us. The site could change over time as we receive your comments. Our driving desire is to make it easier for you to keep up to date with work you are helping to make happen in Haiti. We look forward to hearing from you.

Trivia Night Fund Raiser

April 17 marks what we hope to be an annual SFH fundraising event. We will hold a "Trivia Night" where participants will be able to flaunt their knowledge of useless information, all the while performing a useful function: raising money for Haitian relief.

The event will be held at Grace Community Church in Chelmsford, MA at 7 PM. Funds will be raised in two ways: through an entrance fee of \$10, and a silent auction that will run concurrently with the trivia contest.

Prizes available at the silent auction are impressive, ranging from a week of day camp for some lucky child to a weekend on Martha's Vineyard for some lucky family. We've also got tickets and merchandise

from the Lowell Spinners, Single A minor league franchise for the Boston Red Sox.

We are also asking attendees to bring one or two small items that we can bring down to Haiti with our next work team. Possible items are diapers and formula for the babies at the orphanage, toothpaste and toothbrushes, vitamins, children's aspirin, etc. Another thing that would be helpful are tarps, which will help keep dry those families who are still without homes or tents.

This is a unique opportunity to do a great thing while having a great time. See you there!

For more information, or to reserve your place at the table, write to us at: trivia@servantsforhaiti.org.



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You can help us lower our costs even more by sending us your email address so that we can send you this newsletter without paying postage! Or you can simply find the latest news on our web site, www.servantsforhaiti.org. Either way, you'll make us more efficient with our funds so we can do more to help Haiti.

Did You Know??

Servants for Haiti is an officially recognized 501(3)(c) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code. You or your group can deduct donations to SFH at tax time!