

# Note from founders



HELPING HANDS BRING SUNSHINE

# HHBS News Update

Welcome to Helping Hands Bring Sunshine (HHBS). We are thrilled to bring you our second newsletter. We have been very busy putting all of our resources into helping the people of Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake and have wonderful new accomplishments to share with you.

These past months have been extremely difficult for HHBS especially for Haiti. We will never forget January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 when tens of thousands of lives were lost and thousands of homes were destroyed in the worst natural disaster in the country's history. Our own HHBS' team members suffered the devastating

loss of some of their own family members and their homes. Our prayers and support are with all the earthquake victims in Haiti.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, Fran was one of 54 medical professionals who travelled to Haiti as part of the first AMHE (Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad) mission trip. She wore her critical care nursing hat and traveled to Port Au Prince, Haiti with a medical team to provide care to many of the thousands of injured patients. Working around the clock in some of the worst conditions many medical professionals had ever seen, Fran re-

ferred to her missionary trip as a "life changing experience".

We have so much more to do in Haiti in terms of providing relief, reconstruction of hospitals and schools, and rehabilitation. We believe out of every misfortune comes hope. HHBS is committed to bringing that hope to Cabaret, Haiti with the construction of a new school, the opening of a new health clinic and by providing needed supplies to the people of Cabaret. HHBS is actively collaborating with other organizations in order to further solidify our objectives and achieve these and many other goals.

We believe together we can bring change and renewed hope to the people of Haiti.

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### Upcoming Events:

- *HHBS is preparing for a clinic and school Grand Opening in early 2011*
- *HHBS is getting ready for its 3rd distribution in Cabaret, Haiti*
- *HHBS 3rd Annual Fundraiser in New York City, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011. More information to come at a later date*

## Accomplishments...

We would like to thank all of you who donated to HHBS after the earthquake. Below are the areas in which the donations are currently being utilized and our other accomplishments to date:

- HHBS is currently in the process of building a school and a community Center in the same Cabaret/ Simonette area. . In addition, Mr. Mark Tanis, Manager of Shopper's World in Brooklyn has agreed to donate the uniforms for the students.

- HHBS has received technical assistance from the Children's Aid Society (CAS), a non-profit that serves as the national center for community schools. CAS was responsible for the implementation of 22 community schools in NYC and serves as a consultant nationally and internationally for schools who are interested in transitioning to their model.

- HHBS is actively assisting those in despair and under tents by providing food, water, clothing and safety.



*Fran Juste, RN working around the clock in a Post Operative unit at the General Hospital in Port Au Prince. January 2010*

## Past Events...

HHBS second annual fundraiser event was held at the Woolworth Tower Kitchen on June 12, 2010. Over 125 guests attended and supported our cause. The theme for the evening was: "the Haitian Resilience". Among the Haitian- American artists who participated, were Marcel Wah, Richard Laurent aka "Earthman Experience". Dj Hard Hittin Harry treated our ears to some wonderful music while guests

mingled among friends, family, food and drink. We would like to thank our special guest **Johnny Davis**, 10 year NFL Veteran, for his unwavering support and endorsement! HHBS also recognized those who provided care to the earthquake victims:

### The Honorees

Alexandra Bastien MD,  
Ernest Benjamin MD  
Dolcine Dalmacy MD  
Richard Garvey MD

Rachael Jones RN,  
Charles P. Melone, MD

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Patrick Coty, PA  
Tracy Estriplet, LPN  
Peterson Exil, PA  
William Gibbs, MD  
Myrtelle Joseph, RN  
Peter Perou, PA  
Michelle Saintilien, RN  
Mildred Trenard, RN



"HHBS is a wonderful charity that **really** helps people in need. You know this because you see exactly where all of your donations are going. Run by one of the most energetic and positive people I know, you can't help but be a part of HHBS"

- Kate Casper

## In the News...

Charles P Melone, MD., Richard Garvey, MD., Ernest Benjamin, MD., verbally agreed to endorse HHBS projects.

- HHBS President Fran Juste was interviewed by HaitiX-change to share her first hand experience on the ground, while on her medical mission from January 16- 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010. Please check out the interview by visiting [www.helpinghandsbringsunshine.org](http://www.helpinghandsbringsunshine.org). She was also a special guest speaker at Montefiore Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, Courtyard Group and the Bronx Church to share her experience and her vision with HHBS.
- Penn State University wrote an article about HHBS' school project in their August Alumni Insider issue that was distributed to 90,000 alumni to help assist us in raising awareness and funds.

- HHBS was selected by the Association of Critical Care Nurses to be the Keynote Speaker at one of their events held at the Mount Sinai Hospital. Fran Juste was the key note speaker and shared with the attendees the mission, vision and what is HHBS planning in the near future. HHBS received an honorarium as a token of appreciation at the event.
- The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) requested for HHBS to submit a letter of inquiry for the project in Haiti. The letter was completed and sent out describing the project and requested for 1.2 million in funding. HHBS is waiting for approval. SNF is a foundation that funds medical and educational needs around the world.
- After meeting with Architect for Humanity project leader in Haiti on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2010, they agreed to assist HHBS in evaluating potential land(s) donated to HHBS to determine viability.

- Sharleen Morris, Superintendent of Harlem Children Zone (HCZ) Promise Charter Schools, accepted a position on the Board of Directors to assist in planning the operations of the school. HCZ was recognized by President Obama for having the ideal educational model for at risk youth.

## What's Coming...

We are excited to announce that the community leaders in Cabaret have donated a clinic to HHBS which will serve as a community health Center for the people of the community. The 2 story building is standing, how-

ever there are some repairs to be done to make it fully operational. An engineer has inspected the building and has provided HHBS with an estimate of \$45,000 USD. We need you help to make it happen!



HHBS NEWS UPDATE

## How Can you Help...

We have collected over 20 barrels of clothes for men, women and children, non perishable food items, toiletries and more which we planned on shipping to Haiti in time for our March distribution. In the wake of the January earthquake with most of the country's infrastructure destroyed, we have had to postpone our shipment. Because of the lack of infrastructure, the

the cost to ship these much needed goods has skyrocketed. We are currently seeking individuals and organizations to help us ship these barrels to Haiti. We can't wait to get on the ground and distribute the goods to people who are in desperate need. Once again, we ask for your help! We can't do it alone

We are currently looking for volunteers to donate their time and services in helping our cause. Please visit our website [www.helpinghandsbringsunshine.org](http://www.helpinghandsbringsunshine.org) click the 'donate' button and make your donation by credit card. Or if you prefer to mail a check, send it to PO BOX 1267 NY, NY 10150. Make the check payable to **HHBS**.

Once Again Thank You for your Support

## Issue Spotlight...

Each issue, we would like to share with you a feature story that has touched our hearts and make what we do here at HHBS so worthwhile. In this issue, we would like to share with you the incredible story of Ferial MonPlaisir

The 20 yr old student was in school when the January 12, earthquake struck Haiti. In the wake of the quake, Ferial's school in Delmas began to collapse. In an effort to save himself Ferial jumped from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the school to the roof of another building. When that building collapsed

Ferial became trapped in the rubble for 2 days. When he was finally found by family and friends, he had already sustained



Antoine searching for his brother Ferial (Jan 2010)

major trauma to his leg, and was severely dehydrated and malnourished. In the weeks following the earthquake, Ferial and his family were transported to Santo Domingo for care. While at El Dario Contreras Trauma Center, Ferial encountered the missionary group from New York headed up by Dr. Richard Garvey and Dr. Charles Melone. Seeing the extent of Ferial's injury, Dr. Garvey a

reconstructive plastic surgeon realized that the only way to definitively treat him and save his leg, was to transfer him to the United States, otherwise 20 yr old Ferial would face the prospect of having his



Medical Team who saved Ferial's leg

limb amputated. With the help of Jacobi Hospital, Help to Haiti, Theophile Church, and private donors Drs

Garvey and Melone were

able to transfer Ferial and his brother Antoine to the United States, where he received limb saving care at Jacobi Medical Center. Today, Ferial is not only walking on both legs but is actively playing soccer and leading a normal life. This story is so miraculous due to the extent of his injury and how many like Ferial lost limbs simply because it was too late



Ferial playing Soccer in NYC (July 2010)

to save them along with the limitations of care that could be provided.