

Eritaj Foundation Inc.

Eritaj Foundation was established in the United States in 1999 to support projects in Haiti at the grass-root levels. It offers promotional, technical, in kind and financial assistance to help strengthen Haiti's precarious non-profit organizations. Our partners provide services in the areas of education and literacy, health care and disease prevention, relief, agriculture and development. Eritaj is entirely run by volunteers.

Programs

Femmes en Luttres

(Women's Struggles) A microloan project for poor mothers. Eritaj makes small grants (\$500) to existing projects to implement the project. The women receive a small loan, average \$US 65 to carry craft-like activities like retailing, micro farming of hens and selling of their eggs. The loan incurred no interest but must be repaid in a 5 month-period. The women participate weekly in a support group activity for mutual sharing and support.

Gift of Education

- The Adopt A Child program exists with the specific support of donors.
- The James & Diana Thomson Education Fund provides scholarships to disadvantaged children in Haiti.

Eritaj Foundation
P.O. Box 894
Framingham, MA 01701

Poverty Reduction Series

Eritaj provides organizational structure, help in seeking funding while artists oversee all aspects of the recording, production and promotion of the CD produced. First project with American Jazz musician, Willie Sordillo, *Echoing*, is available with a donation to Eritaj.

Helping Hands

We carry annual drives of medical supplies, electronic equipments, non-perishable food and other goods for our partners. The Framingham *Tab* featured "The Joys of Giving (12/18/01)" among other articles about Eritaj's work in the Metrowest community.

Volunteer Program

Eritaj recruits volunteers to provide hands-on services in community organizations in Haiti. We have a database of organizations to place volunteers into. Volunteers from Switzerland and Ireland helped run Summer programs last year in Haiti..

Publications

Eritaj Chronicle, a newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti, is published 6 times a year. In addition to serving as a communication tool, it features the work of non-profit organizations in Haiti.

Grassroots Fund (\$250 to start)

Eritaj Foundation provides permanent, professional management of charitable funds without the expense and struggle of establishing a private foundation.

Grassroots Coalition to Support Haiti

Eritaj partners with service organizations that provide assistance in the areas of health care education, relief and development in Haiti.

Support Eritaj Programs

Adopt a Child

\$120 full adoption; \$60 school tuition;
\$30 books & supplies

Femmes en luttres

Helping Hands

Eritaj Chronicle

Method of payment:

1. Check or money order (to Eritaj Foundation, Inc.)
2. Credit card: Visa
MasterCard

Name _____

Address _____

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Non-Profit
Organization
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ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

July/August 2003

Eritaj Foundation
P.O. Box 894
Framingham, MA 01701
508-881-8159
www.eritajfoundation.org
e-mail:
eritajfoundation@msn.com

Partial list of grassroots groups working to support Haiti

AGOD: La Gonave
ANREM: Saint Louis du Nord
Archelois Reunis: Archahaie
ASEBODDEC: Bonnette
ATE: Trou du Nord
Project Bas de Sainte Anne
Centre Communautaire:
Gonaives
Centre Familial de l'Enfant:
Kay Jacmel
CHAPO P-au-P
CHEB: Guichard
Centre d'Education
Informatique P-au-P
CORENORD: Cap Haitien
CRABE Foundation:
Roche a Bateau
Cris d'Enfants: Jacmel
EDEM: Hinche
Foyer Bon Samaritain: PauP
Friends of Fort Liberte
GawouGinou Foundation Inc.:
Mirebalais
Horizon De L'Espoir: PauP
Institute of Human & Community
Development PauP
J.C. Hispaniola: Jacmel
Mission de la Grande Anse
ODCG- Ganthier

FOCAS Rally Posts Making a Difference in Haiti

FOCAS is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization founded in 1986. The initial objective of FOCAS was to help the poor in the rural areas of Haiti with basic needs, including elementary education, food, and medical attention. Starting with the sponsorship of 100 children in three local schools in 1986, FOCAS now serves a population of approximately 99,000 in the districts of Bellevue la Montagne and Etang du Jonc. FOCAS currently provides public healthcare services and community development assistance, including nutritional assistance and education, maternal and neonatal care, diarrhea and pneumonia management, immunization coverage, family planning, microenterprise initiatives, and primary education support. This is accomplished in partnership

with two Haitian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), Mission Evangelique Internationale (MEI) and Oeuvres de Bienfaisance et Developpement Communautaire (OBDC).

In 1997, FOCAS started a Child Survival Program with assistance from the US Agency for International Development and a partnership with Curamericas. Through the Child Survival Program, FOCAS continues to address the two leading causes of death – diarrhea and pneumonia – for our service area. The mortality rate for children under five years of age in 2002 was 47 per 1,000 for Etang du Jonc and 66 per 1,000 for Bellevue la Montagne. Respectively, these rates represent decreases of 31% and 65% over the past four years. In

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FOCAS Rally Post in Jalousie in Haiti.

FOCAS

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addition, a third party review indicated that there was a 46% drop in moderate and severe malnutrition from October 1998 to April 2002 in Bellevue la Montagne and a 64% decrease in Etang du Jonc.

As part of these ongoing initiatives, the NGOs provide health education and basic health care services through home visitation and by meeting with women and children at community sites called 'Rally Posts.' Rally Posts provide life-saving education and medical resources. Community health agents dispense vitamin A, iron, deworming medications, and immunizations for the prevention of measles, polio, and other diseases at the Rally Posts. They also weigh the children to check on their growth progress and



(at left) A child receives an immunization at one of our Rally Posts. Above: A child is weighed to monitor ongoing growth progress

provide education to the mothers on the recognition of danger signs for pneumonia, diarrhea, birthing and neonatal emergencies. This past January, Scott Bowers, a FOCAS team member, visited two such Rally Posts in Petion-Ville and Jalousie. His compelling report on these visits can be accessed at FOCAS' Web site.

Comments from the participating mothers are similar at all Rally Posts. The Rally Post provides life-saving education and medical resources. One mother told Mr.

Bowers that prior to coming to this Rally Post she did not understand the importance of nutrition, cleanliness, proper food preparation, and immunizations. Newly informed mothers are now sharing this life-saving information with family, friends, and neighbors.

The mothers also said that if the Rally Posts were no longer available, they would be afraid that children would die. Prior to the Rally Posts and home visitations many babies were dying from preventable illnesses. Some still do, as medical resources continue to be scarce in rural Haiti. The Rally Posts offer some means of help and hope.

FOCAS is making a difference in Haiti. However, this difference can only be sustained through the generosity and commitment of individual supporters. Please help us continue to make advances in the lives of Haitian families. For further information, please contact Judy Gillens, Director of Haitian Development Programs, at FOCAS: P.O. Box 428760 Cincinnati, OH 45242-8760; Phone: 513-621-5300; E-mail: jgillens@focas-us.org; or visit our Web site at www.focas-us.org. As a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA), FOCAS is an institution of financial integrity.

Eritaj talks with Haiti's UNDP office

On a recent trip to Haiti, Eritaj's Co-founder and Director, Mirlande Butler met with Deputy UNDP Resident, Diene Keita and some of her staff to discuss Eritaj's HAPEP project with grassroots providers: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Program in Haiti. UN Ambassador Jonathan Moore, also an Advisory Board Member of Eritaj Foundation, helped to arrange the meeting.

Mrs. Keita has demonstrated a commitment to sustainability of programs and concern for the most disenfranchised and deprived communities of Haiti. The meeting is hailed a success based on the expressed interest for the Haiti UNDP to work with Eritaj. The UNDP Resident strongly recommended further meetings with key players for the Global Fund in Haiti, Dr. Joelle Deas and Mrs. Mildred Aristide.

The HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education in Haiti proposes to offer a bottom-up approach to curtail the prevalence of this pandemic in Haiti. Existing service providers throughout the country that have never received funding for their operations, will be at the forefront of this model. We currently partner with over 65 of these groups and boldly advocate the necessity for them to be included in the fight against AIDS in Haiti.

Canada, Haiti, Etats Unis, Belgique (CHEB) for Guichard is holding a fundraising to support the community of Guichard. If you are from Guichard or the neighboring towns of Saint Louis du Nord or if you just have a big heart and love for kids, please support their effort. Send your contribution to Jean Magloire Saintil at 34 Brown Ave. Rosendale, MA 02131: Call at (617) 323-5793 for more information. "Celui qui sait faire le bien et qui ne le fait pas commet un peche"

May-June Supporters:

Partial contributors for May-June (Thank you for your support. Please let us know if we forgot to acknowledge your donation and we will remedy in the next publication)

Arsene Bien Aime	Jean E. Magloire	Jacqueline Theodat
Rose Marie Adoph	Jude Saint Gerard	Wilda Kernisant
Nicole Cesar	Marie Joseph	Yaminah Armand
Guy & Olivia	Herve Romain	Rev. Saint Clou
Apollon	Joseph Maxi Rouzard	Maude Kebreau
Eloq Chery	Body Homicile	Victor Vaval
Claudy Paul	Rislaine Rossignol	Lunine Pierre Jerome
Etienne Nixon	Shirley Jacques	Carole Lapointe Prosper

MetroWest & Beyond

❖ Pote Mak Sonje is an award-winning documentary about the 2000 Raboteau trial, the best criminal prosecution ever in Haiti, and one of the most significant human rights trials in the hemisphere in the last 20 years. It tells a compelling story from the victims' perspective, including footage of the trial and extensive interviews with both the victims and those who helped them (including the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux). Recommended for anyone interested in Haiti, human rights or justice. The film will be shown at the Boston International Film Festival on Friday, July 4, at 2 PM. Announcement attached.

❖ The upcoming Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly (June 8-11, Santiago Chile) will debate the OAS' role in Haiti's current political crisis. Although the OAS can play a positive role in mediating between Haiti's opposition and its elected government, OAS leadership too often favors the U.S.- supported opposition, which refuses to participate in elections. The result is a political stalemate that threatens to become severe when the terms of most legislators expire in January 2004.

❖ HBO premiere of Rory Kennedy's documentary "PAN-DEMIC: FACING AIDS," narrated by Sir Elton John. Rory's documentary puts a human face on the AIDS pandemic as it rages out of control in Africa, Latin American, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe. It also paints a picture of the devastation wrought by HIV/AIDS on everyday people around the world. Today, there are 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS across the globe. Disturbingly, less than one percent of that population has access to life saving and life extending AIDS medications. www.pandemicfacingaids.com

❖ 30th Anniversary Convention of (AMHE) Haitian Physicians Abroad: In Ottawa, Gatineau (Quebec) July 27 to August 3, 2003. Deadline for registration at the Lac Leamy Hilton Hotel for the convention is nearing.

❖ Great Summer Camps and Women programs at IHCD in Port au Prince. Founder and Executive Director Nicole Mueller Cesar will travel to Haiti to monitor these programs. All contributions for IHCD can be sent to Nicole Cesar, 280 Humboldt Ave. #5 Boston, MA 02121. Call (617) 442-0358 for information

Echo Conference at Les Cayes, Haiti



Haiti Representant of Eritaj, Carine Savain at ECHO's Konferans Agrikol in Les Cayes, Haiti.

Mirlande Butler, left, talking with Haitian agronomist