

ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

March/April 2003

Eritaj Foundation
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Institute of Human and Community Development, Inc. (IHCD)

A provider of educational and social services in Haiti

Created in November of 1999, the Institute of Human and Community Development, Inc. (IHCD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization engaged in the provision of an array of services critical to the provision of an array of services critical to many children, young adults and adults in Haiti. IHCD aims to enrich the quality of life of Haitians in the U.S. and in Haiti by providing educational seminars, social service assistance, specific academic classes and training to promote health, harmony, social change, economic and social justice, in a nurturing and caring environment without discrimination or prejudice.

IHCD was founded by four Haitian professionals who have more than 20 years of experience working in the greater Boston community and abroad

in several disciplines: education, research analysis, health promotion, education through the media, U.S. military background, entrepreneurship, social services, counseling psychology, motivational speaking, community and grassroots organizations development. Our philosophy: "former pour humaniser et pour mieux servir" is to help disadvantaged Haitians in Haiti overcome health, social and economic inequalities by creating sustainable solutions in their respective communities.

We currently provide services to people of all ages: children (from 7 years old), adolescents, young adults, adults, elderly males and females, residents of Boston through education via the media (we host a weekly segment, "Tiffany", every Sunday on Tele Diaspora and throughout the week on other radio programs in the greater Boston area). We have also implemented a cultural exchange program designed to facilitate academic and cultural interactions between students in the United States and those in Haiti. Our ultimate vision is to develop a teaching manual, which will allow other areas of the country to duplicate our model of education and services. The two locations currently being served in Haiti have the following estimated populations: Ruelle Vilgrain: 2000 residents; Rue Theodat, Impasse Jn-Baptiste: 1000 residents.



A class in session.

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IHCD

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With a dedicated staff of 20 employees and 31 volunteers we were able last year to provide social and educational services to over 300 area residents in the following categories: scholarship, school tuition payment, rental payment assistance, prescription filling assistance, medical payment assistance, medical care through our alliance with a medical clinic in Port-au-Prince, condoms distribution, nutrition, vitamins, hygiene (including monthly haircuts for the boys), funeral arrangement assistance, sports activities, quarterly training sessions on sexually transmitted diseases prevention and health maintenance at both locations, a library that contains many books, videos and cassettes suitable to our participants' needs, weekly seminars on civism, good manners, interpersonal skills and some academic classes, including History, Social Sciences, ESL, Computer and Math. Our goals for 2003 include: (1) identify individuals or institutions willing to invest in helping us with debts we have accumulated in the past implementing the different programs (those debts stand now at \$30,000), (2) identify individuals or institutions willing to financially support IHCD administration, educational and social programs, (3) maintain and structure our programs (4) maintain the number of participants, (5) evaluate our concepts and methods towards the creation of a teaching manual, (6) Obtain an NGO status in Haiti for customs fees exemption purposes.

To further our work and diversify the services we offer, we have established partnerships with the following institutions: Ecole Henry 1er (Haiti), Ecole Gentille

Newly formed Foundation to Support Haiti

Abner Louima is setting up a foundation to build a community center and hospital in Haiti. Five years ago, he was the victim of New York police brutality, which brought him a settlement of \$8.7 million. The Haitian native has already started to support poor children in the community of Thomassin where he grew up. The Abner Louima Foundation could follow the model of Eritaj, the only Haitian spearheaded organization to support operation of existing non-profit institutions in Haiti. ❖

Hirondelle (Haiti), Ecole Nationale de Tabarre (Haiti), CREDECT (Haiti), Klinik ak Famasi Madan Kolo (Haiti), Center for Community Health and Research (CCHER, Boston, MA), Barry University (Miami), Tele Diaspora, Inc., Eritaj Foundation, UMass Boston Haitian Studies Project, Boston University School of Social Work.

Currently, with many restrictions to the services we offer, we are still being faced with monthly expenses in the amount of U.S. \$5,000. We are grateful to all individuals and organizations who have assisted IHCD in making it possible for us to get to where we are today, whether they have

supported this noble cause with their financial assistance or with their expertise. We are hopeful that they will continue to do so in the future. As you are well aware, these much-needed services come with a price. We are facing tremendous financial roadblocks that will be very difficult to overcome without your generous help. In order for IHCD to move on with providing quality services to our program participants we rely on your participation as we continue to identify other reliable funding sources. Thank you in advance for helping us give a chance and bring hope to many children, young adults and adults in Haiti. ❖

IHCD

To find out how you can help and have a deeper understanding of IHCD's activities, please visit us online at: <http://www.ihcdinc.org> or contact:

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Friends of L'Athletique d'Haiti

Friends of L'Athletique d'Haiti is a not-for-profit organization established in the United States to provide substantial financial and moral support to Robert Duval and the children of L'Athletique d'Haiti. The work of this organization earned international recognition from HBO Real Sports, *The New York Times*, *The Miami Herald*, and *The Sun Sentinel*. L'Athletique D'Haiti serves 650 children, mainly because of financial affordability. Our programs include: soccer, basketball, track and field, and volleyball.

Robert Duval, affectionately known as Bobby, is a pillar behind the work of Athletique. The organization has been able to achieve so much thanks to the work of the United States organization extension Friends of L'Athletique d'Haiti, Inc.

L'Athletique D'Haiti is the only sports organization, in Haiti that provides meals for their participants, ensure their safe transport from home to the sports facilities, or even provide assistance on tuition and medical expenses. Watching 650 children grow positively in a country where opportunities are scarce is indeed incredible. Despite all of our success, we operate on very little resources to nurture our youth, with the faith and hope that life can indeed be promising and beautiful in Haiti. Maintaining this focus while contributing routinely in the daily activities is however a difficult challenge.

Quite an opportunity for the participating children to have recreation and exercise, food, and education! Founding Aide Jocelyne Lecorps explains how this vision of service is communicated across the sea and how well received the organization is here in the United States. Ms. Lecorps speaks in admiration and love for the children of whom she's only met a few. She explains that the US arm is merely an extension of Bobby Duval in

helping these children grow to realize their dreams. The US arm arranges and hosts fundraising events in addition to the main objective of spreading the word about the sports academy in Haiti and what it represents to the future. The US organization has helped refurbished the kitchen, purchased and donated buses to be used to transport participants to and from practice sessions, the hiring of new staff, and has provided financial assistance to begin fencing and closing in the fields and facilities used by the children.

While the organization in Haiti once enjoyed some help from local organizations, resources are running low to almost none. For the US arm, there was never any significant support, save a few individuals and similar organizations in the community and a smaller number of people giving their time and personal resources, none of which receive any stipend or salary for their hard work. Jacques Jourdan, another founding member of the US arm says, "we are grateful to the many individuals and other non-profit organizations who came together at our last

January-February Supporters:

Willie Sordillo & Jenny Allen	\$300
Michael G. Sordill	\$200
Anne Thomson & Julius Waller	\$200
Patrick M. Zurek & Charlotte M. Reed	\$50
Vladimir Telus	\$50
Jonathan & Katherine Moore	\$30
Bernard & Mary Ann Phillips	\$30
Kiki Wwinwright	\$30
Kerin M. Dumphrey	\$30
Stephen H. Morgan	\$25
Joel Piton	\$25

annual benefit fundraiser in support of the kids, including organizations such as System Video for taping and distributing a documentary on the sports academy last year. A research of donors and their geographic location shows not nearly enough support from the Haitian community here in the United States. This year event will occur on April 6, 2003 and we encourage the Haitian people to join our efforts to support sports in Haiti.

L'Athletique D'Haiti can be contacted at: 9 Norwich Street, Huntington Station, New York. ❖

Microloan Project "Women's Struggle" Supports Nonprofit Organizations in Haiti

Four NPOS in Haiti receive Eritaj's small grant awards for Women's Struggle, a project to disburse small loans to poor, unemployed women in Haiti. Women are particularly gifted to take small amount of money, engage in successful trade endeavors and turning a profit. The pilot project started in early November at the Centre d'Accueil in Gonaives. Some women have started retail activities selling fruit, eggs and other staples at the nearby market. Others prepare meals to sell in their neighborhood.

Eritaj replicates the model with CHEB, IHCD/FONDECOH and Eglise Evangelique Bethel de Jacquet. The loan incurs no interest and participating women meet weekly for mutual encouragement and sharing of their successes and struggles. Jean Magloire Saintil of CHEB, a recipient of the grant, says that projects like Women's Struggle are sorely needed in Haiti. Poor Haitians need capital to devise ways to fight poverty and create jobs in a country where unemployment is skyrocketing to a reported 80%. ❖

Haitians Living Abroad – Historical Context

Excerpt from: *Building on the Foundation of Democracy – An overview of the First Two-Years of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Presidency – February 7, 2001 - February 7, 2003*
Read the complete report at: www.eritajfoundation.org

The numbers of Haitians living abroad grew significantly during the 29 years of dictatorship under the Duvalier regime and was limited in its relationship with Haiti until the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986. At that time thousands of Haitians, living in political or self-exile, returned to visit, or in many cases, to live in Haiti.

Demonstrating increased solidarity and the will of the nation to move forward together, President Aristide fondly referred to those Haitians living abroad as the Tenth Department, acknowledging them as the other department in addition to the nine geographic departments within Haiti.

Responding to the demands of the Tenth Department, there has been a large focus since Aristide's inauguration in 1991, on enlarging their role and restoring their rights within Haiti, although they reside outside of Haiti.

Economic and political contributions

The Tenth Department contributes largely to the life and economy of Haiti, through remittances to their families (approximately \$800 million annually), business ventures and charity programs, investing in business, shipping in of materials, and in their endless efforts to advance democracy in Haiti. The experiences and skills, both in business, social services, and democratic practices, make the help, advice and participation of the Tenth Department Haitians a vital element in the development and advancement of Haiti.

Since President Aristide's inauguration in 1991, Haitians from abroad have held key positions in the Haitian government.

During the three years of the brutal coup d'etat in which President Aristide was forced into exile, the Tenth Department played a critical role in the mobilization for the return of constitutional rule.

In addition to individuals and Haitian organizations, town associations, made up of persons originating from the same towns in Haiti, sprouted up throughout the U.S. and other countries. The Haitian government works to strengthen inter-Haitian cooperation that plays an active role in providing material support, health and educational services to their hometowns. Hundreds of tons of aid shipped to Haiti, as well as installing electrical plants in small towns, are some of the major contributions of these town associations.

In turn the Haitian government is working hard to help facilitate the work of Haitians living abroad, making information more readily available, expediting customs, and strengthening its partnership with the Tenth Department. ❖

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