Introduction

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the world’s least developed countries. About 80% of the population lives in poverty. Tropical storms and the massive earthquake in January 2010 further impoverished this developing nation with profound losses to agricultural productivity.

In 2011, Random Acts launched our largest campaign to date, Hope 2 Haiti. Our goal was to aid Haitian organizations serving Haitian children. We focused our efforts primarily on the Jacmel Children’s Center in Jacmel, Haiti before expanding our organizations such as the Art Creation Foundation for Children. $160,742.85 was raised in 2011 with 33% of the funds we launched a second wave of fundraising this time with the goal of 100% of funds raised benefitting our projects in Haiti.

In 2012, Random Acts and the Jacmel Children’s Center continued our financial efforts. We set a goal of $229,000, which has since been raised and construction of the main building is set to begin in 2013.

Jacmel Children’s Center (JCC)

The Jacmel Children’s Center served as the inspiration for the Hope 2 Haiti vision. It was conceived by Bonite Affriany, a Haitian nurse that spent time in New York before returning to her home to help the people of Haiti. Bonite serves lunch to 300 children a day. For many this is the only meal they will receive.

After feeding the children, Bonite and her staff provide educational lessons and medical care to them. Bonite is unable to provide a home for these children, however, and many return to the streets or to tents after each day ends.

Bonite’s story came to our attention through Philip Schneider, a member of The Art Department Inc.’s board of directors, and his wife, Lisa Rusef. Philip and Lisa were instrumental in the development of the JCC’s website and Random Acts co-founder, Misha Collins, volunteered along with others to support it.

Among those are Gerard Clodomir, a Haitian, good friend of Bonite’s, and the former Chief Engineer of New York City’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Ed Weinstein of Weinstein A|U, a specialist in eco-design; and a partner in his firm, Jason Oliveira.

Together, they spearheaded the funding, design, development, and construction of the JCC, a place Bonite hoped could be a place for “dozens of children to sleep.”

Construction on the JCC was divided into two phases. Phase I included construction of the security wall, kitchen, dining room, showers, and bedrooms. We raised 85% of this money in 2011 along with partner, Collective Hearts Yoga, totaling $196,000 of the $226,903 needed for this phase of construction. Phase II includes the second story and adds satellite utility buildings construction of which will continue into early 2013. The remaining funds for Phase I and the additional funds for Phase II were the primary goals for Hope 2 Haiti 2. Additionally, our funds also helped to purchase a cement mixer. This purchase not only sped up construction time for the JCC, but will be an asset to the center. Once construction is finished, the JCC will be able to rent the cement mixer out to other building projects creating a steady stream of income to the center.

The Jacmel Children’s Center, when completed, will serve as an orphanage and school for up to 100 children. It will be seismically stable, eco-efficient, and self-sufficient providing for a low cost of operation. It will produce electricity from solar panels and have gardens, its own water well, and a fish farm. Bonite will take in children aged under a year to around eight years old, and she will have “House Moms” who will live there to raise the children.

The Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC)

The Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC) is committed to helping children in Jacmel, Haiti obtain self-sufficiency through educating them in traditional Haitian arts and crafts. Knowledge obtained at the ACFFC helps to keep these children off the streets and offers obtainable goals to raise them out of poverty through education and consistent food and medical care. Currently, 95 children are enrolled in the program and the foundation supports a local staff of fourteen, all hired from the Jacmel community and paid a fair, equitable wage. Operating for nearly ten years, the ACFFC is a non-governmental organization and a registered 501(c)(3) charity.

Our team of volunteers first met the children of the ACFFC during the 2011 trip.

In June 2012, the ACFFC was informed by their landlord that the space they were renting would no longer be available and that they would need to find a new home by December 1st, 2012.

As of the end of 2012, $52,000 has been given to the ACFFC toward their continued programming.
Hope 2 Haiti 2 Fundraising Efforts

The Hope 2 Haiti 2 campaign launched on February 10, 2012 utilizing Crowdrise as the main fundraising platform. We also accepted donations via check and PayPal. Within the first 12 hours of the campaign launch, 29 volunteers had joined the cause raising over $1,000. Over the course of the campaign a total of 623 fundraisers joined us on Crowdrise to help raise funds with a goal of raising $5,000 each in order to qualify for the H2H Haiti trip. Additional incentives were offered at major fundraising milestones to encourage participation including a raffled spot on the trip. Our second and third place Semi-Annual Awards for Random Acts (SAARA) winners also donated half of each of their prizes to H2H raising total $1,500. Fundraising continued through July 31, 2012.

In total, $203,643.00 was raised. $14,943.34 covered processing fees leaving a net fund of $188,699.66. 100% of the funds will go toward Haiti projects and Haiti-related expenses starting with our projects at the JCC and extending to the ACFFC and other organizations as available.

financial summary of Hope 2 Haiti Funds 2011-2012

REVENUE
Gross Funds Raised (2011): $172,819.00
Net Funds Raised After Fees (2011): $160,742.85
Allocated to Haiti: $48,334.51
Gross Funds Raised (2012): $203,643.00
Total Donation Service Fees (Crowdrise/Paypal): $14,943.34
Net Funds Raised: $188,699.66
Total Campaign Funds Spent to Date - $281,011

EXPENSES
Jacmel Children’s Center (JCC):
2011 - $47,000
2012 - $182,000
Total - $229,000
Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC):
2012 - $52,000
Total - $52,000
Faith and Love Orphanage and Dental Clinic
2013 - $5,000
2012 - $6,000
Total - $11,000

Director’s Trip Fall 2012

Cinde Monsam made a return trip to Haiti in late October to see further progress made on the JCC and other Haiti projects. At the time of her trip, the JCC was just about finishing construction of the second story and Cinde got to witness the roof going on. In addition to time spent at the JCC, Cinde got to spend some more time with the children at both the JCC and the ACFFC learning about the progress in both locations.

In total, 22 of our fundraising campaign participants qualified for the trip to Haiti raising a minimum of $5000 each. An additional spot on the trip was raffled off among our remaining fundraisers. These volunteers met in Miami on June 14, 2012 for a seven day trip to Haiti from June 15 – June 22. The volunteer corps was joined by our staff members: Cinde Monsam, Director; Nicole Edson, Development Officer, and Tracy Liu, Treasurer. Lisa Ruef and Philip Schneider of Yoga Ventures provided additional support and leadership to our team, and we’d like to thank them for their continued support and commitment to the children of Haiti. Random Acts co-founder, Misha Collins, Colin Ferguson, and Kate Benz joined the team on June 18th. The 23 volunteers paid for their own travel expenses and accommodations. We paid for the expenses of staff and guests only, totaling $57,766.51. As part of our trip planning, every effort was made to keep expense costs as low as possible while ensuring the safety of our volunteers, staff and guests while traveling.

Our team volunteered with four organizations while in Haiti including the JCC and the ACFFC. At the JCC, Gerard Clodomir, the general contractor, gave our team a tour highlighting the progress made on the building. Returning volunteers from the 2011 trip were moved by the progress made in the past year including the progress made in clearing the land, pouring foundations and walls going up. While at the JCC, our team helped by cleaning concrete off of the perimeter walls. We made a $40,000 donation to the>JCC on June 20, 2012.

Our volunteers got to spend time with the children at the ACFFC making papier-mâché bracelets, and they spent time downtown with the children creating a mosaic bench. Our team also got a chance to see the new building the ACFFC would later move into. Some of the older ACFFC students were also building homes. Our volunteers got to help by painting two of these homes and installing a water catchment system in one. Prior to our arrival, we had funded one of these homes for $2,000.

Another highlight of the trip was a Sunday church service at the Faith and Love Orphanage, and our team got a chance to play with some of the kids from the orphanage. We had previously made a donation to them in the amount of $5,000 for a dental clinic. Our volunteers painted the inside of the orphanage and helped on construction of the girls’ dormitory by hauling buckets and wheelbarrows of sand for concrete. We made a $6,000 donation on June 11, 2012 toward the construction.

Our team also helped a third orphanage, Espoir des Enfants Orphanage, move into a new home. They helped the director, Jacques Africot, move items and assemble furniture. They also removed trash from the yard and helped decorate the new place.

The trip was a huge success and of volunteers who completed our survey indicated they would consider taking part again next year.
looking toward 2013

Plans are currently in motion for a third trip to Haiti in 2013. **Hope 2 Haiti 3** will coincide with the completion of the JCC. Information regarding the launch of the campaign will be available sometime in early 2013.

In late November 2012, the ACFFC moved into their new home. We contributed $50,000 toward this $125,000 project and have helped the ACFFC to maintain a Crowdwise page to help raise the additional funds. We continue to pool our resources with the ACFFC to ensure that they can meet their goals in keeping and maintaining their new home in the coming year. We will also assess where and how we can be of the most help to the people of Haiti.

As an additional project, we will sponsor a Haitian cyclist in **MTB Ayiti**, the first international cycling event in Haiti. The goal of this event is to increase interest in the Haitian terrain as well as to bolster tourism in the region. Our $2,000 contribution will enable a Haitian cyclist to compete with major cyclists in the event and will include a mountain bike which will then be the cyclist’s to keep.

**We look forward to continuing our work in Haiti and helping to bring relief to this region!**