



**H E L P**

## HAITIAN EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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From Poverty To Prosperity Through Education

### Winter 2008 The Gift of Opportunity

#### In This Issue

- ❖ Student Profile: Daphne Charles Spreads the Word—Haiti's Environment Needs HELP
- ❖ Election Night, Creole style: HELP's First Fundraiser in Haiti
- ❖ Local Wisdom: A New Advisory Board for HELP
- ❖ Gifts of Technology, Talent, Time & Travel
- ❖ Clinton Global Initiative Part II: A Permanent Home for HELP in Haiti

Dear Friends,

2008 has been a dramatic year for almost all of us. We have weathered economic, ecological, political, and social storms and nowhere have these shocks been felt more keenly than in Haiti: four devastating hurricanes, skyrocketing food and energy prices, civil unrest and the heartbreaking school collapse kept Haiti in the headlines and underscored the country's desperate need for human capital at every level.

As a HELP supporter, you create the next generation of Haiti's leaders. Every doctor we train, every engineer, accountant, lawyer and teacher we graduate works to create a new future for Haiti--a future in which the headlines speak of hope and possibility instead of devastation and pain. This hope and possibility is already taking shape. Last year more than 30% of HELP students made the Dean's List and at least five were Number One in their class. Also, as we reported in the Fall Newsletter, all of our graduating students found employment.

While many of us have seen our giving capacity reduced over the past year, I hope that we can count on your continued support this year. As a young organization, HELP has neither endowments nor significant reserves, so a decrease in our funding necessarily means a decrease in the number of students we support. Please consider making the gift of a priceless opportunity today.

Donations are fully tax-deductible and make wonderful holiday gifts--a gift to HELP is a gift of hope and an investment in the future.

**Please Donate Now**

## Student Profile: Daphne Charles Spreads the Word--Haiti's Environment Needs HELP



Daphne Charles is a third year agronomy student at Quisqueya University. The \$5 a day Daphne's mother earns selling fish in the Petionville market supports a family of six. Despite the lack of resources at home, Daphne has excelled in school, finishing first in her class in both her first and second year.

In November, HELP chose Daphne to participate in a weekend environmental study tour sponsored by the Voila cell phone company and the Seguin Foundation in Haiti's "La Visite National Forest". Following her trip, Daphne gave a presentation to her university classmates. Daphne writes:

*My trip to Seguin put me face to face with the importance of my chosen profession, especially with the environmental problems that Haiti confronts. And when I gave my presentation, I finally felt that I was putting my education to good use - I was proud to start making an impact. Already I've organized another study tour in June for my many fellow students who told me they want to go. As the students will pay their own way it will bring revenue to the foundation so they can continue their activities. I plan to be involved with the foundation for a long time to come.*

## Gifts of Technology, Talent, Time & Travel

HELP's donors are generous in so many ways-and in this last month, four of our donors have shown that ingenuity, passion and hard work can be invaluable for a non-profit whose needs sometimes extend beyond dollar signs.

In November, HELP supporter and professional photographer Matthew Millman ([www.matthewmillman.com](http://www.matthewmillman.com)) spent a week with HELP, photographing staff and students at home, at school and at the HELP center. Matthew's photos will be used to update our website and marketing materials and chronicle the good work that is happening in Haiti. Matthew generously covered all expenses for his trip, for which we are truly grateful.

Three other generous volunteers teamed up to make another dream possible for HELP.



Johny Jacques recently donated 20 laptop computers from the New York marketing firm GroupM, where he serves as IT manager. Florida-based Cross International is providing shipping and customs clearance, and long-time HELP volunteer Alan Li is traveling to Haiti in January to set up the new network with open source software. We thank Johny, Cross International and Alan for their gifts and expertise, which together will completely modernize HELP's aging computer lab.

## Election Night, Creole style: HELP's First Fundraiser in Haiti

While most of us in the United States and elsewhere were glued to our television sets on the evening of Nov. 4, Dawn Anderson and Alexis Curtis were hard at work hosting HELP's first Haiti fundraiser at Petionville's La Reserve restaurant, an election night viewing party and raffle to benefit HELP.



The event raised \$1,600 and introduced HELP to an enthusiastic crowd. Several Petionville businesses, including La Souvenance and Quartier Latin restaurants, Servimat hardware and Men Nou gift store donated raffle prizes. Thank you to all of the businesses who participated, and a special thank you to Dawn and Alexis for putting together such a fun event.

## Clinton Global Initiative Part II: A Permanent Home for HELP in Haiti

In November, I attended a Clinton Foundation meeting in Haiti, which brought together organizations with an interest in Haiti as a follow-up to the 2008 Clinton Global Initiative's fall meeting in New York. Also attending was London-based architect John McAslan, who visited the historic gingerbread-style house in Port-au-Prince that HELP would like to purchase and convert to HELP's new student center.



McAslan was excited about the project and pledged his firm's pro-bono architectural services for a "green" remodeling and renovation. We plan to create a model space where students, visitors and the community at large will be able to experience firsthand the value of cultural preservation, the advantages of green technology, and the fruits of academic achievement.

### Donor Challenge:

HELP donors Kathy Lynn and her husband Josh Skov have already pledged up to \$50,000 for the purchase and renovation of the new HELP center, which represents 10% of the total estimated cost. Kathy and Josh are passionate about resource conservation (Kathy works at the University of Oregon's Institute for a Sustainable Environment and Josh is a partner in the green business consulting firm [goodcompany.com](http://goodcompany.com)), and wanted their gift to make a substantial long-term impact for HELP. If you or anyone you know might be interested in helping us achieve our goal by matching the Lynn-Skov grant in whole or in part, please let us know.

### **Local Wisdom: A New Advisory Board for HELP**

In an effort to strengthen ties with the local business community, HELP has created an advisory board in Haiti. By integrating HELP's students with the local community and recruiting Haitian businesses to support them with scholarships, expertise, and internships, HELP can strengthen both its infrastructure and the infrastructure of Haiti as a whole.

In November, the Haiti Advisory Board held its first meeting to promote this vision and create a framework for outreach to the local business community. The advisory board will also offer its assistance and expertise to HELP's staff on administrative issues, strategy, and PR.

The 2008 local advisory board is: Nathalie BRUNET (Tafia), Jean-Maurice BUTEAU (JMB SA), Frantz LOUIS-CHARLES (Ericsson), Louis Henri MARS (Partners for Christian Development), and Kesner PHAREL (Groupe Croissance). We look forward to a fruitful collaboration with our new board in 2008!

**As we approach the end of 2008 and reflect on the gifts we all have, I hope you will consider supporting a HELP student. Only you can provide scores of talented young Haitians the resources they need to complete their education and create a new future for themselves, their families, and their country. Are there any better gifts to give than hope and opportunity?**

**Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season,**

**Conor Bohan**  
***Haitian Education & Leadership Program***