



Newsletter of the Haiti Fund, Inc.

June 2010

Homes for Haitians

One of the pressing needs in Haiti is homes for all the displaced people. We have exciting news to report!

The Haiti Fund, Building Goodness Foundation and the Lutheran World Fund are teaming up to rebuild up to 1,000 homes and repair up to 1,000 homes in the area of Léogâne over the next eighteen months! This includes the CODEP mountain area.

Each organization brings particular skills. Building Goodness Foundation (BGF) from Charlottesville, VA has built many homes in the mountains for CODEP people and all stood strong through the earthquake. Today, most Haitians want BGF style homes rather than traditional concrete construction. Below are post-earthquake pictures of a BGF built home utilizing structural wood and metal roofs versus traditional concrete construction.



Lutheran World Fund (LWF) from Geneva, Switzerland has the vision and resources to make this project a reality. They envision BGF designing strong, readily built homes and providing access to the requisite materials. LWF will deliver these materials to a facility they are building in Léogâne where Haitians will prepare individual home kits for distribution.

CODEP will distribute and oversee the construction of these kits in the mountains. Basic to the plan is the provision of training in carpentry and construction skills for the Haitians so that these skills are shared for the immediate and longer term benefit of Haiti. Actual construction will be done by Haitians, providing both valuable work experience and employment opportunities.

This is a bold and imaginative response to the needs in Haiti. We are honored to contribute our skills and work together with The Building Goodness Foundation and The Lutheran World Fund to meet both the immediate housing relief needs and longer term development needs of Haiti.

Damage Assessment and Response



Located within 10 miles of the January 12th earthquake epicenter, the CODEP mountain area and the headquarters at L'Acul experienced major shaking and aftershocks. Traditional multistory concrete structures, be they homes, schools or churches collapsed. Two adults lost their lives, including a CODEP member, as well as ten children at school.

Two thousand homes were significantly damaged or destroyed. The immediate action was to provide available food and water to those in need



and medical supplies to Haitian area health workers. Then CODEP obtained additional relief supplies from the UN and US military for distribution in the mountains. Medicines sans Frontiers and Community Health Ministries brought medical supplies and doctors to Leogane, the coastal city below the mountains. We extend our thanks for their speed and strong response.

Besides providing immediate assistance to family and neighbors, the members of CODEP insisted on continuing the work of land reclamation and restoration for spring planting. This included members whose homes had been damaged or destroyed. Their positive attitude and commitment to building a better future throughout a period of personal and national trial serves as a powerful example for all of us.

The Haiti Fund has supplied new capital to APKF, the very successful Haitian micro bank, to help restart the local economy. APKF also gave supplies

in their farm store to those in need in the first days. Haiti Fund has replaced those supplies. Thanks to APKF for their community leadership and service.

Market days are back in full operations as the picture from the Tombe Gateau market shows.



The fish ponds on the mountains survived intact. The fish hatchery at L'Acul has been restored to operation



thanks to Bill Mebane of the Woods Hole Institute. The buildings at L'Acul survived the quake but the water treatment system has had to be replaced. The

new system features equipment obtained in Haiti and that can be serviced by Haitians. The ground at L'Acul was lifted 42 cm and moved the formerly underwater coral reefs above sea level!

The road through the mountains to Jacmel is generally passable. Periodic rainy season mud slides reinforce the need for more reforestation. The mountains have seen a +20% increase in population since the earthquake, reinforcing the notion that life is getting better in the mountains, in spite of natural events.



Thanks for your help in making it so!

Did You Know?

CODEP is distributing 5 tons of bean and corn seeds and 500 tool kits in the mountains provided by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization.

In spite of the earthquake and a delayed spring rainy season, the Haitians of CODEP have continued the land restoration work and are in the process of planting another 450,000 trees. Total trees planted to date exceed 8 million and the mountains are coming back to life. Michelle Wahila, a director of HFI and pastor of Third Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, writes of the joy of a walk to La Ferrier; "There simply is no substitute for gazing upward at mature trees, feeling the ferns brush against you and seeing true soil".



Demonstration
Forest
at La Ferrier



Recently planted
hillside
with ramp for
water collection



Selective harvesting of mature trees is being done to provide timber to rebuild homes. This is the goal and objective of sustainable development, local resources and local people meeting local needs.

Rebuilding home
with CODEP grown
timbers



One of the animators, Gito, is an excellent teacher/trainer. He has conducted a series of training sessions teaching people how to use donated water treatment kits utilizing two plastic five gallon pails.



Team Work

The block house of the lead animator* Edvy collapsed from two stories to one. Edvy, with help from others, has shored up the structure and he and his family have moved back in. Prior to becoming Edvy's home, Clark Scalera (currently Pastoral Resident for Congregational Ministry at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC) and other interns lived there.

***Animator is the term used for the team leaders of workers who do the actual labor needed to manage nurseries, create soil stabilizing ditches and ramps, and plant the trees. Each animator has a crew of people for whom he is responsible.**



Many Thanks

Many thanks to our supporters, old and new, who are enabling us to respond to the many needs in the mountains of Haiti. Haiti Fund Inc. is the fund raising and administrative arm for the work of CODEP in Haiti. We are supported by individuals, churches and foundations from around the world. To help continue this important work please mail your check to The Haiti Fund Inc. P.O. Box 1075 New Bern, NC 28563-1075. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Haiti, thank you very much.

Want to Learn More?

For updates between newsletters, go to www.haitifundinc.org to learn much more about the issues faced in the rural mountains of Haiti and the work being done to meet them. Pictures, stories and articles await you.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic form, (and save The Haiti Fund the cost of printing and mailing) please send an email to mjpacash@nc.rr.com

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