



H.E.R.O.

HOUSING EDUCATION *and*
REHABILITATION *of* ORPHANS

www.haitihero.org

888-315-HERO

info@haitihero.org

WE ARE HALFWAY TO \$100,000 IN 100 DAYS

Thank you donors! Through the amazing generosity of hundreds of individuals and families we have successfully raised \$55,765.00 dollars! We are halfway to our goal of raising \$100,000 dollars in 100 days! We are thankful for the many donors that have taken our cause to heart and made H.E.R.O. their charity of choice. We have received donations ranging from \$25.00 to \$3,500.00 dollars. Every dollar received will be used to construct our permanent residence for street children and orphans in the province of Nippes. And when we say every dollar can make a difference, we mean it. \$7.00 dollars buys a bag of cement. \$6.00 dollars buys a 30-foot piece of rebar. \$12.00 dollars buys a sheet of drywall. Therefore, a donation of \$25.00 is able to buy a bag of cement, a 30-foot piece of rebar, and a sheet of drywall: all very important and necessary materials to build the H.E.R.O. Residence for Street Children and Orphans. Imagine what \$100.00 dollars can do! We hope that you will join us to provide housing, education, and rehabilitation for the orphans and street children of Haiti.

OFF THE STREET AND INTO THE CLASSROOM

Twenty street children aged 9 to 18 sit on wooden benches, carefully copying their lessons from the chalkboard. This is a typical afternoon in the H.E.R.O. Education Program for Street Children. In a country where 90% of schools are private and even the "free" public schools charge fees for books, supplies, and uniforms, education is inaccessible to over half the children of Haiti. In the H.E.R.O. Education Program for Street Children, it is our commitment to educate all students regardless of their situation. In our program, the children pay nothing—even for school supplies. In addition to providing schooling free of charge, we provide a welcoming, alternative setting where students are free to learn without the stigma of being a teenager in a first grade classroom.

The students enrolled in the program must spend their mornings and evenings on the streets working. Many make and sell charcoal; others sell phone cards and some shine shoes. Many of the children have never attended school and are thrilled with this opportunity for an education. In spite of the difficulties in their lives, they faithfully come to school each day, some walking over a mile each way. The students commit to attend classes regularly and H.E.R.O. commits to provide the funds for the teachers' salaries, school supplies, and English classes taught by members of the H.E.R.O. team. For the other classes we have hired teachers from our partner organization, SOPUDEP School, and classes are held on their campus. By working together, we can make the future a little brighter for the street children of Port-au-Prince.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings! It is my pleasure and privilege to provide an update with regard to H.E.R.O.'s progress in our efforts to serve the street children and orphans in Haiti. The months of October and November have been filled with leaps and bounds towards accomplishing our goals. As Haiti recovers from Hurricane Tomas and urgently tries to find the means to stop the first cholera outbreak in 50 years, there is still much to be done. We hope that you will continue to support our work through donations, material contributions, and encouragement to help us truly make a difference in the lives of the children and people of Haiti.

We are nearing the completion of the H.E.R.O. Transition Home in Port-au-Prince that will immediately begin housing 12 orphans and street children by the end of December. Our first two children are scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, November 16th after they have completed the necessary paperwork and medical checks prior to entry. Wiseley and Melissa, aged 3 and 6 respectfully, lost their mother a few years ago and their father just recently as a result of the earthquake. We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to provide housing, education, and rehabilitation for Wiseley and Melissa. I look forward to the day 15 years from now when they both will graduate from secondary school, prepared academically, socially, and emotionally to enter college or the work force. They are the future of Haiti.

Additionally, H.E.R.O. has partnered with SOPUDEP, a local nonprofit to provide a free and comprehensive education for street children. The program will be located at the SOPUDEP facility and funded by H.E.R.O. The children will participate in formal educational activities five days a week from 1:30-4:30 in the afternoon. The enrollment is currently 20 students but we are expecting an increase as the word spreads into the community that a free education is available for street children and those that cannot afford to attend school during the regular school day. In addition to the 5 teachers hired for the program, Dan Kasnick (Country Director) and Michele Deardorff (Secretary) will provide English lessons twice a week. At H.E.R.O. we believe it is of extreme importance that our Board of Directors and Staff engage directly with the community, orphans, and street children we serve.



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Finally, and of great importance, I want to thank all of the donors that have helped us raise \$55,765.00 dollars towards our goal of \$100,000 dollars in 100 days! We are very close to reaching our goal, and I hope that you will continue to support our efforts to aid the orphans and street children of Haiti. Together we can truly make a difference and impact the lives of youth in Haiti, one child at a time!

Sincerely,

Steven Kirby
President



DONATE A VEHICLE, CHANGE A LIFE

Do you have a vehicle that you cannot seem to get rid of? This is your opportunity to finally clear that space, and most importantly, help H.E.R.O. to provide housing, education, and rehabilitation for orphans and street children in Haiti. H.E.R.O. has partnered with Vehicles For Charity, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to collect your donated vehicles. We accept cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles, campers, and more! There is no charge to you for towing, and your vehicle will be picked up in 2-4 business days. Additionally, your donated vehicle is tax-deductible! To donate your vehicle please call 1-866-628-CARS (2277) or go online: www.vehiclesforcharity.org. Together we can make a difference, one child at a time.

ORCHARD VILLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPORTS H.E.R.O.

H.E.R.O. President Steven Kirby is an educator by profession. He spent the first part of his career teaching 3rd grade for three years at Orchard Villa Elementary School in Liberty City, a community within Miami, Florida. When the teachers and students at Orchard Villa Elementary heard about the earthquake they decided to hold a fundraiser to raise money for the victims. The students organized a coin collection fundraiser while Nancy Yates, a teaching veteran of over 35 years, had her students collect cans and recycled them for cash. The students were able to raise a total of \$225.00 dollars! After the fundraising ended they were still unsure which organization should receive the donation. Realizing that Steven had started H.E.R.O. to aid the orphans and street children of Haiti, it was determined that H.E.R.O. would be the thankful recipient of the contribution. We thank Orchard Villa Elementary for their donation and are grateful to have the support of the students, teachers, and administrators in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of youth in Haiti.



H.E.R.O.'S RESIDENCE FOR STREET CHILDREN AND ORPHANS

Phase One of H.E.R.O.'s plan to provide housing, education, and rehabilitation for the children of Haiti begins with a transition home in Port-au-Prince. As we continue to move forward with our building project in Nippes we are also beginning the transition process for our first group of orphans. This residence will house twelve children, as well as our staff. Here the children will be able to adjust to the pace of life at our residence and receive individualized instruction to prepare them for integration into school.



We are in the process of enrolling the first children, and we have been working hard to get everything prepared for them to move in! The house required a number of maintenance projects in order to be ready. Much of the electrical wiring needed repair, and the inverter and battery system had to be purchased and installed. We also bought a generator—a necessity in Haiti where one can be without city power for days at a time. We have outfitted the kitchen with a stove, refrigerator, and freezer. We have also purchased seven sets of bunk beds for the bedrooms and two tables for the dining room.

In addition to preparing the house, we have also been collecting various educational supplies and tools. Our Director of Children is an experienced educator, and she is developing a school-readiness program so our children will be able to integrate into a regular classroom in spite of the years of schooling they have missed. It has taken much effort and collaboration from everyone on the team, and now we are finally able to provide housing, education, and rehabilitation for the children of Port-au-Prince.

GIVING TO H.E.R.O. VIA A SWEET PARTNERSHIP

H.E.R.O. has partnered with an online bakery, Baking for Good, which donates 15% of every purchase to a nonprofit organization of the customer's choice. Baking for Good offers a variety of products to fit different tastes and occasions; the health-conscious will be happy to know that their baker uses all-natural ingredients. Allergen-free and gluten-free sweets are available to satisfy those of us with certain needs. Customized cookies are hits with many of their customers and make memorable gifts for anyone at sensible prices (from \$14 to \$35 a dozen). They also cater corporate events and provide nationwide shipping.



At H.E.R.O. we rave about their cookies, but we especially applaud their founder's (Emily Dubner) willingness to drop a successful consulting career in favor of such an endeavor to bring about change. The recipe for the foreseen success of our partnership lies in her social entrepreneurship and commitment to H.E.R.O.'s cause. The next time you feel a craving for sweets, log on to www.bakingforgood.com. Choose H.E.R.O. at checkout, and get in the habit of giving while consuming.

PUT A FILTER ON THAT!

We are excited to announce that our residence for street children and orphans is now supplied with clean drinking water! Through the help and donations of International Action (www.haitiwater.org) we can now supply clean water to the home. Chlorinators were installed on our water tanks that will supply clean water to our residence. H.E.R.O. will no longer have to purchase drinking water in plastic bottles but will be able to use rainwater collection methods to provide clean drinking water. This is a huge blessing considering that the majority of Haitians do not have access to running water, let alone clean drinking water.



The chlorinator is a simple and effective filter that neutralizes the harmful waterborne microbes found in the water. These microbes are the leading killers of Haitian children and unclean water claims a life of a child every twenty seconds worldwide. The work of organizations like International Action is crucial in today's world and we are so grateful to be on the receiving end of their mission.

DAN HILDEBRAND VISITS HAITI

For five days H.E.R.O. hosted Dan Hildebrand, the owner and operator of Hildebrand Construction, the organization that will build EcoShells, the primary method of construction chosen for the development of the H.E.R.O. Residence for Street Children and Orphans. Dan's primary purpose for visiting was to ensure the local availability of all necessary materials for the construction of the EcoShells to limit the need for importing goods from the United States. We were pleased to find that the only item required for importation is the airform, a product necessary for constructing the EcoShell and currently only available from an organization in Texas. All other materials will be purchased locally, an investment we feel is important to help the Haitian economy. Dan was also able to visit the donated land in Petite-Riviere-De-Nippes and also took part in a school supply distribution in the local elementary and secondary schools. Dan was grateful for the opportunity to visit Haiti and is eager to return to begin the construction of the H.E.R.O. Residence for Street Children and Orphans. You can learn more about EcoShells by visiting www.monolithic.com or www.hildebrandinc.com.

For more information visit us on the web: www.haitihero.org

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@haitihero.org or call 888-315-HERO