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HUMANITY *matters*

RESTORING COMMUNITIES • BUILDING A FUTURE



SPRING ISSUE | 2010

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Humanity First Disaster Response Team in Action

Nearly four months ago, on January 12th, a disastrous earthquake struck the island of Haiti. Amidst the chaos of thousands of collapsed buildings, broken roads, collapsed infrastructure and carnage, dead bodies littered the streets of the capital city, along with many smaller towns in the southwest of Haiti. The official death toll of bodies buried by the Government is now over 230,000, and a further 300,000 were injured. Millions of people were left homeless.

Humanity First urgently responded to this disaster by mobilizing teams from Canada, USA and UK in the first two weeks. They set up logistics hubs in Santo Domingo and Santiago in neighboring Dominican Republic in an effort to get staff and supplies in with minimal delay. The team has now treated over 22,000 medical cases, and tons of medical supplies have been delivered to Haiti.

The challenge will be over the next 2 years to try to rebuild the schools, hospitals, offices, water infrastructure and homes and to recreate some semblance of normality. Humanity First remains dedicated to long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Haiti.



DONORS DINE TO LET HUMANITY SHINE IN HAITI



In support of Haiti Earthquake Relief Efforts, Humanity First held four successful fundraising events across Canada: in the cities of Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, and Regina. Close to 1500 people attended the events and a grand total of \$216,500 was collected.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were Honorable Jean Augustine, Ontario Fairness Commissioner, Honorable Jim Karygiannis MP, Dr. Eric Pierre, Honorary Consul General of Haiti, and Justin Trudeau.

Volunteers who had recently returned from Haiti provided first-hand accounts of the situation on the ground and how Humanity First was contributing to the relief efforts.

All proceeds from these events will go towards relief and rehabilitation work in Haiti.



UNITING HUMANITY

Editorial | Munaza Khan

The new year was only a couple of weeks old when the 7.2 magnitude earthquake turned the entire world of Haiti upside down. Millions of lives were lost and hundreds of thousands affected.

In the immediate aftermath, the horrors of this traumatic event dominated the news media worldwide. As we witnessed images of the tragedies and chaos from afar, it was impossible to escape the feelings of overwhelming sympathy for the victims.

Great humanitarian efforts have been launched by nations and people who want to help alleviate the human suffering.

Four months later, the island of Haiti still struggles to gain a sense of normalcy. Unimaginable hardships and losses have flooded the lives of the victims since the devastating catastrophe.

Natural calamities, such as this one, provide an opportunity to unite humanity. The Haitian disaster has done exactly that, but it has also shown our ability to put aside the differences that divide us and unite in our commitment to provide help and support to the victims.



Give a Day, Get a Disney Day!

Earlier this year, Walt Disney Co. launched a program called, 'Give a Day, Get a Disney Day'. This promotion was designed to promote the spirit of volunteerism. The premise was if you gave a day of volunteer service to a registered charity, volunteers would receive a free one-day ticket to Disneyland or Walt Disney World theme park. Humanity First Canada partnered with Disney through the Hands On Network as a participating organization in this promotion.

The Humanity First Food Bank was a popular charity of choice for many volunteers, who provides food support to up to 400 families each month. Over 400 people, including individuals, families, friends and co-workers registered to volunteer. Volunteers were assigned tasks and shifts at the Food Bank, as they prepared food hampers, sorted food, conducted food drives and assisted with data entry. Volunteers also helped organize donations for Haiti relief operations.

Volunteers left with a true feeling of self-fulfillment and accomplishment, and were delighted to volunteer for an organization which strives to help those in need. Many of the volunteers returned to volunteer again, even after having achieved the prerequisite for the Disney promotion. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work, dedication and efforts in putting humanity first! In the words of one of the volunteers:

“Thank you for allowing Jessica and myself the opportunity to assist at your food bank. I think that your organization is a wonderful one. I wish you all the success and funding for many years to come!”



FOCUS HAITI | Looking Ahead: The Future of Haiti

On March 1, 2010 Humanity First commenced Phase II of its relief operation in Haiti, having completed Phase I (Disaster Response) successfully. The next step is to help provide a secure and sustainable future for the Haitians. Humanity First has adopted the town of Gressier as the main focus of launching its rehab projects, which includes establishing orphanages, schools and water filtration and purification systems.



Humanity First Canada's Chairman, Dr. Aslam Daud visited Haiti in March. "With over 1 million Haitians homeless and displaced, we need to turn our attention towards more permanent solutions in terms of shelter, food and water, as well as stable foundations such as schools and orphanages," said Dr. Daud. "This way the lives of the Haitian citizens are not on hold until their cities and towns are rebuilt."

Dr. Daud met with various local and national NGO's to consider collaborative options in order to continue providing the utmost needed care to the Haitian community. Humanity First Disaster Response Teams continue to provide ongoing medical aid, and has deployed a water filtration system to provide clean water to 7,000 people, and is in the process of installing 2 additional filtration units.

MY DAYS IN HAITI: Journal of Frank Rooyakkers

Frank Rooyakker, a firefighter from Dorchester, London, was among the team of Humanity First volunteers who selflessly dedicated their time and skills towards the relief operations after the Haiti earthquake. The following excerpts are from his journal about his first hand experiences on the ground in Haiti.



When I signed up as a Humanity First volunteer to assist with relief operations in Haiti, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. After following the media, one would think there was death, looting and killing in the streets, when actually it's a country that is trying to move forward from a catastrophe. The first few days were admittedly overwhelming.



Frank Rooyakkers (left) aboard a UN Airplane, on his way to Haiti.

Our first day, I woke up at 6 a.m, had breakfast and went to the camp in the mountains. It was a drive through more devastation, building after building, concrete in the streets. It was awful. Vendors in the streets selling everything you could think of. The trek was uphill;

en route we stopped at a collapsed hospital, 2 men were standing on the rubble cutting Rebar with a hacksaw for money. We finally reached the camp. It literally was a tent city with 500 inhabitants. We set the clinic under a small hydro tower, along with a table, and a blanket for shade.

Brian (another fire fighter), myself, and 3 doctors, along with 3 interpreters started tending to the victims lined up around the camp. The first thing I saw was a 4 year old boy whose left leg was amputated below the knee; the dressing had to be changed. I saw untreated gangrenous wounds, rashes and lots of people suffering from diarrhea, vomiting and stomach pains.



It was a long hot day; we cleaned up camp at 2 p.m. The drive back was okay except for the smell of rotting human flesh in the air. A leg was hanging out of the rubble. The smell was too much for me so I went back to the truck. The amount of helicopters flying overhead was incredible. We got back to camp, had some soup and bread.



Later the team decided to go to St. Louis camp, 5 blocks away. They were more organized than the other camps. We started the clinic, lots of P.T.S. (Post traumatic syndrome), some fractures. We dealt with a lady who had an abscess on her head, it was huge, so Clayton



Frank treating a patient at the Humanity First medical camp in Haiti.

was time to relax, discuss the day and have a laugh. You need that to help cope with the destruction.

The next day, we built a tent for a family of 20+, and handed out Aquaboxes to give to the locals. It took about an hour to construct the tent. It felt good to do that. We were ready for a new adventure tomorrow!

Everywhere you look, there were buildings appearing to have been squashed by a giant thumb. Others looked like someone has pulled out the front legs on a chair and have simply fallen forward on an angle. Broken concrete spewing onto the streets, hydro and cable wires down. It's all very surreal.

I see people lining the sidewalks trying to sell goods, everything from 'Digicell' phones and cards, to oranges, deep fried bananas, everything you could think of just so they can try and gain

something, whether its food, water, or a sleeping bag.

The Haitians live in a world of constant need, despair and insecurity. I cant help but think, if one of us was placed into this type of environment, would we survive? It's a tough question, as Canadians we are spoiled beyond our means, but the Haitians will prevail.

This is a window into a different world, a life changing event that I have witnessed, and it was because of Humanity First I was able to experience this opportunity. I now know that I am able to react, respond to an emergency (in an efficient and professional manner), and I know that I am respected for my abilities and decision making under the gun. That is a wonderful feeling to achieve. To all the people involved, Thank-you! This has been an incredible journey.

Frank Rooyakkers

The Food Bank is running low on the following items: Canned Meat, Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Oil, Peanut Butter, Mr. Noodles & Kraft Dinner. PLEASE DONATE TODAY!



Pledge Form

☐ Yes! I/we would like to donate to Humanity First. Proceeds will go to _____ write name of project or program.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

APT# _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE () _____

FAX () _____

EMAIL _____

PAYMENT METHOD *Please make cheques payable to Humanity First

☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Credit Card ☐ Debit Card

☐ Please debit my bank account (I have enclosed a Void cheque)

☐ I would prefer to pay by credit card (I have provided my information)

CREDIT CARD TYPE:

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Please accept my gift of:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

This is a: ☐ Monthly Donation ☐ One-time Donation

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT # _____

CREDIT CARD EXPIRY DATE (MM/YYYY) _____ CVD# _____

NAME (as it appears on Credit Card) _____

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please fax, email or mail the completed form to: 416.440.0346 or info@humanityfirst.ca or 245 Bowes Road, Unit 1 Concord, Ontario L4K 1H8

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HumanityFirst CANADA
Restoring Communities, Building a Future
Charity Registration No: 87254 1040 RR0001

245 Bowes Rd., Concord, ON L4K 1H8
Tel/Fax: 416.440.0346
Email: info@humanityfirst.ca
Web: www.humanityfirst.ca



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Humanity First is a registered international non-profit charitable and humanitarian relief organization that aims to mitigate hunger, poverty and disease among the less privileged human beings around the world and strives to reduce peoples sufferings caused by natural disasters or human conflicts.