

Good News in Haiti!

March 2011



Empowering Communities in Haiti
Through Education

Happy Birthday THEA!!

The Haiti Education Alliance (THEA) is approaching the 1st anniversary of its 1st meeting— March 26, 2010. WOW! So much has happened since then! Here's a quick summary; then on to more exciting news... Within this 1st year, THEA:

- completed basic start-up milestones such as chose a name and logo, built a website and blog, began a regular newsletter and e-newsletter, became incorporated, received our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, and more;
- formed a diverse Board of Directors spanning several states;
- held 6 fundraising events,
- made 2 trips to Haiti,
- enabled 27 children to go to school and have uniforms and school supplies;
- began 3 on-going community vocational training programs: sewing training, agriculture training, and medical professional training;
- conducted community health education sessions on identifying and preventing infectious diseases, nutrition, and personal and oral hygiene;
- provided over 600 meals;
- enabled 43 individuals to have medical care and receive needed medication;
- addressed several individuals with rehabilitative and mental health needs;
- provided salaries for 7 teachers;
- received our 1st grant;
- partnered with supporting organizations;
- and honestly enjoy a supportive, hard-working, and loving community of people with whom to serve together.

Thank you all for your encouragement, support, and prayers which enabled THEA to get off to a strong start! We couldn't have done it without you!

January Trip News

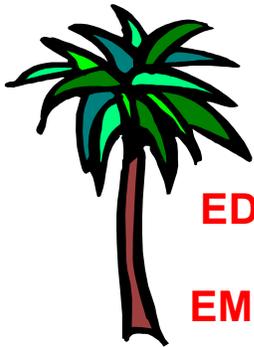
We had a very successful trip with our amazing team of 12 people! THEA's Community Education Programs are now up and running! Thirty young men and women are enrolled in either THEA's Sewing Training, Agriculture Training, or Medical Volunteer Education Programs! With the skills these individuals learn from THEA's education programs, they will be able to support their families and communities for generations. (See page 2 for program details).

It was great to see the children again! After school, the children came to have a meal and participate in our children's programs. They learned songs (and taught us songs), listened to Bible stories, and made crafts. We all had a great time. Four children were added to our Tuition Assistance Program.

Some of the younger children had unexpected health needs, including a severe case of scabies. Thankfully they were able to be treated. Nancy, THEA's treasurer who is also a pediatric nurse practitioner, provided education for prevention of further outbreak.

The nurses on the team also conducted community health education sessions at a local church and school, provided health screens at the village clinic, and taught classes on CPR, IV medication, and identification and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and other infectious diseases to nurses and medical students at the local hospital.

More trip news... →



EDUCATE

EMPOWER

LOVE

THEA was awarded the Muhammad Ali Center Peace Grant for our Community Agriculture Training Program!



Your tax-deductible donation can be made payable to "THEA" and sent in the enclosed envelope to:

48 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10075
or
through the THEA website:
theahaiti.org



Save the date!

THEA Proudly Presents:

**The 2nd Annual
Caribbean Night and
THEA's Birthday Celebration!**

Saturday, June 25, 2011
4pm-8pm

48 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10075

See you there!

*Join us on a trip
to Haiti this
summer!*

Contact Cynthia for
more details.



Flower Power!

Purchase your flowers and bulbs through THEA! Great for Spring and Fall planting seasons, Mother's Day, housewarming gifts, etc. Visit theahaiti.org for more details

50% of sales goes to THEA

Stay informed!

Sign-up for THEA's e-news, e-Bon Nouvé.
**Visit theahaiti.org and
sign-up today!**

The young men and women from the village who indicated wanting to be healthcare professionals shadowed our nurses, clinical social worker, and occupational therapist as well as participated in our community health education sessions during the week.

A wonderful surprise... Also while on the trip, we realized that our Medical Education Program did not lend itself to being a certificate program as did the Sewing and Gardening Education Programs. The students on the medical track felt left out. So we scheduled meetings with the administration of the local hospital for their recommendations... They suggested we begin a volunteer program for the students at the hospital! Even better... knowing THEA provides education opportunities, they further suggested the program also provide on-the-job training for the students in each hospital department!

Preliminary plans for the MVEP have been created in partnership with Promise for Haiti, Inc., the umbrella organization responsible for the hospital founded by Dr. Guy Theodore. We look forward to telling you more about this program as it unfolds. Please also keep these efforts in your prayers.

Sewing Training Program

Lynne, an avid sewer from NJ, partnered with a local tailor on the trip and started the Sewing Training Program classes for 9 students. The students learned simple stitches, how to use the sewing machines, how to repair clothes, and were able to sew a simple bag and make a baby blanket. The students were so proud of what they made! The classes have been continuing 3 days per week; and the students already learned to make skirts! The clothes the students make during the classes will be given to their families and other families in need.



Do you have a treadle machine to donate? If so, please contact Cynthia or Lynne. We'd love to use it for THEA's sewing Education Program!

Gardening Training Program

The Gardening Training Program also got off to a great start! THEA's Agriculture Training Coordinator further partnered with a local university-trained agronomist to help teach ongoing classes in backyard gardening. They had already made great strides in clearing the land. Then during this recent trip, the 12 young men wanting to be a part of the Gardening Training Program also learned important 1st steps for preparing their own gardens- creating a compost and organic fertilizer to further prepare the land and increase the nutrition value of the vegetables.

GREAT News! We are very proud to have been awarded the Muhammad Ali Center Peace Grant! The grant includes gardening tools for all the students as well as a raised bed which will help those with disabilities participate in the agriculture program.

We'll keep you updated on the progress made by the classes with the training garden.

What's Next?

We have several items that need follow-up work from our recent trip. Consider joining us on our next trip to Haiti this summer to check on the health of the children, further implement the MVEP, begin satellite sewing classes where we can use donated electric sewing machines, and complete several small building projects for the Gardening Training Program and for some rehabilitation needs in the community.

Also join us June 25th at Caribbean Night— our biggest fundraiser of the year where together we can celebrate THEA's 1st year and enjoy authentic Caribbean cuisine, live music, cultural displays, a silent auction, children's activities, and more. **Thank you!!**