

About Hero

HERO Mission Statement

HERO will provide real hope and real results for the children of Haiti by improving healthcare, education and basic infrastructure at the local level.

Our Purpose

HERO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Haiti's children. We work to improve lives in Haiti by delivering facilities across the country for health, education, water supply and waste management. We partner with other nonprofits so they can achieve their construction and expansion goals, while maximizing their resources.

HERO manages projects for these non-profits from beginning to end including requirements, design, bids, contracts, delivery and monitoring. We use Haiti-based construction companies and engineers who deliver a quality product. This is done primarily in partnership with supporting organizations such as churches and other nonprofits. The goal is to maximize efficiency, eliminating historic 30 – 100% cost overruns experienced by others. We take a holistic approach to insure requirements meet current and future needs without major upgrades or retrofitting. We also work with reputable contractors who use quality materials, avoiding faulty construction. Since many requests we receive have no funding, HERO has begun efforts to find project funding sources.

Contact Us

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Projects in Need of Funding

Hero has been very busy gathering information from various sources on project needs throughout Haiti. We have completed several and there is and will continue to be a need for help in funding additional projects.

The following projects are the ones in most need of funding:

1. Sewage disposal, irrigation project, vocational training center and security fencing, for an orphanage in Les Cayes.
2. Corail Lamorthe. Need to determine the most feasible solution to their water requirements. People currently walk several hours each way to get water. A potential solution is a 250,000 gallon cistern.
3. Los Palis. They are in need of a ¾ mile collection system from a local river or a deep well to provide water for the community.
4. Seven-room school expansion, in Belle Anse. The current 10-room school has more than 350 students. The addition would provide classroom space for the anticipated additional students as well as a food preparation area.
5. Well installations for Bassin Zim, Hinche, Massaide, Belle Riviere and Belle Anse. The current water sources are all contaminated.
6. Rehab a primary and secondary school in Massaide. These are in the worst condition of any school we have seen in Haiti.
7. Build a primary school in Hinche. This church is currently teaching all the classes under a metal roof resulting in no privacy for the separate classes or protection from bad weather.
8. Build a secondary school in Hinche. Four shifts are currently running to allow primary and secondary students to use the same facility. Those attending in the afternoon have to endure extreme heat.
9. A community center to include vocational training in Belle Riviere.
10. Community center and well in St. Pierre, Grand Bois.
11. Provide a clean water well and a bathroom facility for 600 students at a school in the mountains of Haiti.

These projects range in size from \$10,000 – \$300,000. If you would like more information regarding these projects or how you or your organization can help please contact Ted Waldbart at 678-494-5595.

Any financial help you can provide would be appreciated. Only through your generous support can we make a change in Haiti.

Written By: Bruce Goddard

Lights, Camera, Action!... for a Great Cause

On March 18, 2007 the next Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard or Martin Scorsese screened their first film in front of an enthusiastic audience at the Tri-County Film Festival held at Walton High School in Marietta, GA, to benefit HERO and the National Endowment for the Arts.

As one of the judges, I was impressed by the quality of the production, acting and overall creativity of each of the entries. It was obvious these future filmmakers brought their A game. With over 150 people in attendance, everyone laughed and reacted to the over 15 short films produced by high school filmmakers from the Atlanta area.

Before the event, the audience took time to find out more about HERO's role in Haiti and asked a lot of questions. "It was wonderful to see young people show interest in the work being done in Haiti. They were generous and supportive," said Ted Waldbart, president of HERO. Also representing the group was Alice Waldbart and fellow board member Chris Crommett, whose son Michael helped

organize the festival and was involved in some of the winning productions. The event was positive in creating an understanding of the challenges facing young people in the small Caribbean nation just a few hundred miles off our own coast. HERO received a portion of the ticket sales. Attendees also made donations and expressed interest in the gift of their time for their less fortunate neighbors to the south.

The films were diverse in genre and exhibited adept understanding of the technical, creative and dramatic requirements I would expect at the college and professional level. The young actors, camera operators, directors and writers should all be as proud of themselves as we are of them.

Written By: Mark Warner

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Herculean Project Accomplished with Ease

Editor's Note: Dr. Toth is medical director for the Haiti ministry at St. Monica Catholic Church in Duluth, Georgia, which works with Sacre Coeur Parish in Hinche. Dr. Toth writes about the renovation and expansion of Sacre Coeur's health clinic.

HINCHE, HAITI – Our medical building, the Whitney Clinic, was insufficient to meet our needs.

We had a concrete floor, four walls and a metal roof. There were gaps, allowing dust and insects access to the interior of the clinic. The interior walls were cracked and the conditions unsanitary. The one toilet in the facility didn't work and there were no sinks for our doctor to wash his hands.

Our electrical system drew power from the parish generator, which was often insufficient. There were no exam rooms for patient privacy, and we wanted to create a separate full-time dental facility. Combine that with all the obstacles of a major construction project in Haiti, and the challenge would seem insurmountable.

Written By: Dr. Jim Toth

This is where HERO comes in.

Ted Waldbart and his project manager in Haiti, Abdou Fall, helped us conceptualize and draw out our clinic, pointing out details we never even considered.

Ted helped with cost projections and even gave ideas for fundraising. Once we had sufficient funds to go ahead, within four months we had a beautiful state-of-the-art dental and medical clinic.

We have new wiring and plumbing, a generator just for the clinic, counter tops, cabinet space for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, sinks, well-defined exam rooms, and a beautiful air-conditioned dental area. It is clean, sanitary, and something that would rival any clinic in the U.S.

I am amazed at how beautiful the Whitney Clinic is, and the ease with which this Herculean project was accomplished.

HERO's professionalism and efficiency are truly heroic.



Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Editor's Note: Mr. Whitley is a volunteer at Pwoje Espwa's Hope Village orphanage in Les Cayes.

LES CAYES, HAITI – The tropical sun is lighting up the lives of nearly 600 impoverished children in a new way. In a wonderfully innovative answer to the Lord's Prayer, the young residents of the Hope Village orphanage are now getting their daily bread – literally – thanks to a brand-new Villager Solar Oven provided by HERO.

Early in the morning, a local baker and his helpers ready the oven and prepare the

dough. Opening its solar panels into what looks like a big, shiny satellite dish, they aim the array of reflectors at the horizon.

As the sun comes up, the temperature rises inside the oven. Little children crowd around – amazed by a machine that looks like something straight out of Star Trek. They know that fresh, hot bread will be coming along shortly, and they look forward to watching this show day after day.

By the time the children return from school to eat lunch later in the day, the oven is going at full blast. On a clear, sunny day, it can reach 500 degrees in there! And hundreds of rolls and loaves of "sun bread," as the kids call it, steadily pour out of the oven as the children wait eagerly for that incomparable first bite. (continued on next page)



Written By: Dan Whitley

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread (continued from cover page)

"I like the bread because it fills me up and I'm not hungry any more," says little Mark. A girl named Tamar say, "The fresh bread smells good." The rambunctious Angelo, his face beaming, says, "It's sweet and tastes so good!"

For these kids, deprived of even basic necessities, having the gift of fresh bread every day is very special, truly an answer to the children's simple prayers.

The solar oven at the orphanage in Les Cayes was made possible by a generous donation from CNN.

A Different Kind of Freebie



Stamps, address labels, note pads, calendars. These are the typical "freebies" that charitable organizations include with their

donation request letters. But how about a free music CD? That's what HERO has mailed out to hundreds of potential donors and the effort has paid off, netting more than \$10,000 in donations to date. And HERO has raised another \$12,000 through direct CD sales.

The CD consists of music composed by the late Dr. Gerónimo Lluberas ("Dr. Gerry") whose humanitarian vision inspired the foundation of HERO. Dr. Gerry's friends and family covered the production costs for the CD so all proceeds could go to HERO.

The CD features 14 beautiful selections from *Butterflies in the Rain Forest*, *A Christian Musical* – plus eight selections of Music for Meditation & Celebration.

To hear free samples go to www.butterfliesintherainforest.org or www.cdbaby.com/herorecords.

You may purchase the CD on line, by contacting HERO or at Mary's Garden Religious Gifts & Books. Since the CD sales are to benefit HERO, we call Dr. Gerry's compositions, "music with a mission."

Written By: HERO

Water in Haiti

A lack of clean water in Haiti causes many problems, among them a high mortality rate for children under five.

Water borne bacteria cause diarrhea and parasitic diseases, impacting the growth of those under five. Children as old as 20 appear to be only 13 or 14 in size. The lack of clean water also allows for skin diseases and the organisms in water can cause blindness.

The U.N. Human Development report ranks Haiti at 154 out of the 177 countries that provide data. Some of the countries that lag behind Haiti are Gambia, Senegal, Nigeria and Angola. Clean and accessible water can make a huge difference in health, child development, and economic opportunities for communities whose members have to travel long distances to gather water.

Every place I travel I receive a request to install a well, or a cistern or to pump water from up to a mile away. I took

a well driller to the village of Corail Lamorthe, an hour and forty minute truck ride off the main road, on one of the worst roads in Haiti. The villagers have to walk so far to carry water that they many times have to spend the night, before returning home. Our goal was to determine if we could drill a well. The road is so bad it is not possible to get a drilling rig to that location.

Our next step is to bring in engineers to determine the best solution. If we can provide clean water for this village, we would save and improve lives, thus strengthening the economy because people could be working to earn a living instead of traveling for water.

If this is the only project we ever accomplish in Haiti, we could feel good about what we have done, but the need continues.

Written By: Ted Waldbart



Crisis in Education

I have visited multiple schools in Haiti, many in serious disrepair and many that are overcrowded. One high school had over 80 students in one room.

I stood on the outside looking in through the window. The heat coming from the classroom was so intense that I had to step back. These students and their families understand that the only chance they have for a future is through education. Sometimes even that is not enough and the educated students have to move away from the rural towns to better their prospects.

There are currently over 500,000 children not in school either because they cannot afford to go or there is not enough capacity to accommodate them. The population of Haiti is projected to grow by 50% in the next 20 years. If there are 500,000 not attending school now, there will be between 1 and 2 million unenrolled children in the future.

Haitians must build schools as fast as they can. It will take all the faith-based organizations and nonprofits plus the Haitian government with international funding to even come close.

We can build a school for about \$300,000 that can educate 500 students a year. If we calculate ten years of students that will be 5,000. That works out to just \$60 a student. This doesn't include the cost of operations but if there are no structures, there can be no school.

Unless there are more schools available, particularly secondary schools (high schools) then many will not have a chance to advance, making their future very bleak.



Written By: Ted Waldbart

Medical Story

Imagine... you develop a fever with shaking chills. Your family has no medicine and there is no pharmacy within a three-hour truck ride over dangerous terrain.

There is no medical facility in the town in which you live and no nurse or doctor. Everyone with such a skill has been trained in the city eight hours away. They usually stay there because there are more jobs or because of friendships they have made. You, on the other hand, have been trained by your father to be a fisherman, and you know how to do this well. You support your elderly parents and have children in this town. As you wonder if this illness is just another attack of malaria or the mysterious illness that killed your neighbor a few weeks ago, you wonder who would take care of your family if you died tonight.

You remember how beautiful the sunrise was this morning as you began gathering the nets into your boat from the night's catch. You feel a sense of peace as you wonder if you'll soon see your two young sons who have preceded you in death. You are pleased that your other children are learning more than just fishing at the church school since the number and size of the fish being caught these days are much less than when you were a boy. Maybe one of your children will become a doctor and return

Written By: Dr. James M. Elsbree



to your town so people might have hope of recovery from these many illnesses. You wonder if you'll be able to fish in the morning...

We are familiar with the one-week forays into underdeveloped countries to render physical and spiritual encouragement. These trips are great and are much needed. During my trips to Haiti I have seen how the efforts of a few can indeed help many, generally by enabling Haitians to help their fellow countrymen. In most successful cases, this involves the introduction of sustainable technology. That technology may be as obvious as building a school or as subtle as developing clean water sources.

Although it is possible to have "open air" schools and medical clinics, it is difficult to maintain supplies and medicines without a permanent building. HERO provides the know-how to develop building projects efficiently in the developing world setting. This is key if we are to truly be our brother's keeper.

Project in Port Margot

In 2005, HERO was approached by members of a church in Nashville. They had a school in Port Margot that had been under construction for over 2 years.

The project was being managed by the pastor of the church where the school was being built. The contractor had come back to them asking for an additional \$35,000 to complete the project. Ted Waldbart, president of HERO, and a construction company working with HERO, set up a meeting in Port au Prince to review the project with the contractor and the pastor from the parish in Port Margot.

During the review the contractor decided he didn't want his work to be reviewed and withdrew from the project.

HERO and its contractor, working with the pastor, defined the steps needed to finish the project and began drawing up plans for completion. The bids were developed for the completion and the contracts were created and signed.

Written By: Ted Waldbart

During the project the pastor of the church in Port Margot became ill and was hospitalized. The project was put on hold. During this time, over 100 bags of concrete were stolen and the wiring was pulled from the conduits and also taken. Once the pastor returned from the hospital the project was reevaluated and began again, leading to a successful completion.



How Can I Help?

You may have asked yourself how can I make a difference in the world. There are so many needs and I am but one individual. Well you can eat an elephant one bite at a time. We all have our own unique gifts and talents that we could utilize. HERO is always in need of volunteers to help in the following areas:

- **Writing Skills:** We need people to write or edit articles for the newsletter and provide help with promotional materials.
- **Communication Skills:** Help is needed for phone calls and mailings to prospective donors
- **Web Site:** Assist with web development and support
- **Computer Skills:** Maintain lists/databases of donors, projects, contractors, grants and foundations.
- **Grant Writing** – If you are a good/great writer we can use you to write grants
- **Research** – Are you willing to research potential grants for HERO and help to build an annual schedule for grant submission?
- Are you willing to help with fund raising events?

If any of these areas interest you, please contact Bruce Goddard at 678-523-3384 or Ted Waldbart at 770-241-8806.

Written By: Bruce Goddard

