

## **Haiti Partners Earthquake Response Project: Building Learning Centers & Temporary Shelters in Haiti**

*Beginning February 1, 2010*

### **Purpose:**

By building learning centers immediately we can address three **urgent** community needs, while also investing in long-term issues:

- (a) Shelter
- (b) Jobs
- (c) Education

1. **SHELTER:** Pavilions will be built to high engineering standards, providing both earthquake and hurricane resistance. They can be constructed in 4-6 weeks (and building must begin NOW before the looming rainy season). The pavilion facilities will serve two immediate purposes:
  - A. Shelter for approximately 50 people. We will need many pavilions to shelter the thousands of homeless people in the areas we serve.
  - B. Transitional education for up to 150 students, 75 each in morning and afternoon sessions.

*Long-term:* These pavilions will become part of a school complex, providing long term education facilities, community centers and meeting places.

2. **JOBS:** Effective aid during this transitional phase is providing cash-for-work jobs to rebuild the community.
  - A. Construction jobs: The pavilion project would immediately create 15 construction jobs for each pavilion.
  - B. Teacher jobs: Initially, this project would provide 8 teaching jobs per school.

*Long-term:* These schools will transition into Haiti Partners' Students Program. This program provides educational infrastructure, teacher training, and seed-capital and instruction for schools to start their own businesses. These businesses will enable community-based schools to be supported by their communities, thereby reducing then eliminating long-term dependency on teacher salaries from outside sources.

### 3. EDUCATION

- A. In emergency response situations, simply getting children back into school is considered a “best practice,” so that a sense of community normalcy is returned. The Haitian government has declared that wherever possible, school should re-start February 1.
- B. Experts will be brought in to ensure our Haitian teachers can help children through the stages of trauma, based on programs from similar emergency situations around the world.
- C. Haiti Partners specializes in participatory education that fosters critical thinking, group learning, and self-confidence. We will emphasize these areas as part of our general curriculum.
- D. Providing Learning Centers with internet access (satellite) and electricity via generator, inverter and batteries is being explored.

*Long-term:* Haiti Partners already had schools in place in these areas, so we are committed to education as part of a long-term strategy for Haiti, not just a temporary fix in this emergency.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDS ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO ADDRESS THE **URGENT** NEEDS OF SHELTER, JOBS, AND EDUCATION. PLEASE SEE THE DONATE PAGE OF THE HAITI PARTNERS WEBSITE ([WWW.HAITIPARTNERS.ORG](http://WWW.HAITIPARTNERS.ORG)) AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IMMEDIATELY. HAITI NEEDS YOU NOW!