

**The Haitian Project, Inc.**  
**Community Update: All Hands On Deck**  
**December 7, 2011**



*Top Row: The “Rockin’ Art” art auction that took place New Orleans over the Thanksgiving weekend where Haitian Art and Rag A Muffin items were featured. Bottom Row: A close up look at the handbags and craftwork coming out of the Rag a Muffin Program.*

I want to thank the many members of our support community that have helped us work to close the funding gap for 2011. It has been a challenging year; however, we are pushing past the 90% mark on annual funds. It has taken a combination of our donors digging deeper, giving twice and three times and local actions like the Portland Garage Sale and Rag-a-Muffin sales.

We appreciate the help! We called for All Hands on Deck to fight the stormy economy—and you have responded.

I want to take a moment to provide some details on our activities around the Rag-a-Muffin purses and bags.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Volunteer Rebecca Finney in collaboration with her family and community in New Orleans raised \$3,188.00 through their “Rockin’ Art” art auction and Rag-a-Muffin sales. The Rag-a-Muffin purses have also been making appearances at churches and art shows in Salem, SC, Portland, OR, Aurora, IL and Rockford, IL.

We continue working to develop meaningful work for the people of our Louverture Cleary School neighborhood. Many neighbors are engaged now in our building projects, and many more have already been employed at the school—especially cooks, security staff, and maintenance staff. This extra endeavor through Rag-a-Muffin is another way to offer jobs to our neighbors and reach out to our graduates who have the business management skills that we need.

Given it is the season, I can't help but point out that these bags would make a great present for a college student, a hip friend or just a person with good fashion sense and an appreciation for a sturdy bag made from up-cycled materials. You'd never know by looking at them that they are

made from clothing materials. Contact Elizabeth Cross or Tim Scordato at 815-484-8623 or [e.oconnell@haitianproject.org](mailto:e.oconnell@haitianproject.org) if you are interested. The shipping cost is more economic for two!

Peace, Patrick

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To make a donation or to read recently posted community updates go to [www.haitianproject.org](http://www.haitianproject.org)

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“What you receive as gift, you must give as gift.”  
“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”  
---Matthew 10:8