

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: A Million Dollars [Happily] In the Hole
October 19, 2011



The Haitian Project Volunteers and Staff working hard to care for the school's trash by covering the full "metal pit" and digging a new one so that non-recyclable, non-burnable, and non-compostable waste has a place to go.

You may remember from last year a picture of the Volunteers standing in a hole that they just dug. The update's subject title was "[A Million Dollars in the Hole](#)". Well, these holes, which we use to bury the trash that cannot be recycled or re-used, fill up. So, we had to cover last year's hole and dig another one--as you can see from the above pictures.

The million dollars in the hole (referring to the sum cost of college education for our Volunteers) may have increased to two million since we have a 4th year medical student in the group!

Digging and filling holes can seem simple, and it is in terms of the work involved--simple, yet physically hard. The lessons learned from simple work, however, are often far more complex. The physical labor at THP/LCS builds our community in three ways: spiritually, practically and intellectually.

That may sound like a nice thing for the boss to say when he knows that he will need a lot of help for a tough task on a Saturday morning, so let's hear what the team has to say:

"There is an instant learning curve with physical labor. While straightening 20-foot rebar with your bare hands, I learned that you can't do it by yourself. It takes a team to accomplish a job like that." --Andrew Roznowski, THP Volunteer

"Working with people that I care about creates a sense that the work is for a higher purpose. The labor I put in becomes an act of love and a demonstration of my commitment to building the community, rebuilding Haiti, and to God." -- Emily Marquet, THP Volunteer

"When we are given a physical task here, there is no machine that can do it for us. We are the machine, and this challenges us to problem solve at every level. We are forced to find a solution to the problem using only a shovel and a pile of sand, and that is the most practical way to use your mind and body." --Amanda Gaal, THP Volunteer

This is what I like about the physical work of THP/LCS: it is as educational as it is practical. It changes the environment for the better and us, too.

Peace, Patrick

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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