

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Update #22: Relief

Building On Our Strength:

As we channel more of our efforts to direct relief in Haiti, we have great news from within the walls of the school as well. We currently have over half of our student body on campus, around 187 students. This is a jump of 50 students in just one weekend. The students, who have been timid about returning indoors –like everyone else in Haiti affected by the earthquake—are all living inside the dorms. I do not believe we could be on a better trend for officially reopening formal school classes when the government allows Port au Prince schools to reopen.

Direct Relief In Haiti:

Our students, staff and volunteers continue to intensify their service to the community. Our neighborhood *Timoun Program* is going in full force. This program started up earlier this year to serve small children ages three and up in the neighborhood, providing them with a hot lunch, structured games, etiquette classes, art, reading and writing classes as well as movies for fun. Additionally, we have removed the rubble and the trash from our neighborhood in Santo 5 and 7 and we are ready to go back to the National Road 3. The National Road remains uncommonly clean and stands as encouraging evidence of the success of our past work in keeping this public area free from trash.

Beyond our immediate neighborhood, we are working with three medical groups each day. Through the *Memphis Medical Missions*, located on Santo 19, we provide have been providing their doctors a vehicle and driver for transportation, as well as 5 of our students who are able to serve as Kreyol to English translators. The Scripps Medical Group has been providing medical care at the St. Francis De Sales Hospital, and we have been able to provide alumni students as translators and medical students transportation and some meal assistance for the group where they are staying at the Papal Nuncio's residence. Additionally, our students continue their work at the Missionaries of Charity where they translate and provide other service activities.

Because of our vantage point, along with our involvement with Catholic Relief Services, the Arch Diocese of Port au Prince and these three medical activities, we have been able to pull these groups together to discuss the creation of a step down hospital at Santo 19, attached to where the Memphis Medical Group is working. Here, patients who have already received immediate intensive treatment will continue with their needed care. Now, of course, it is in their hands to make this vision of a step down hospital a reality. Should this work out, we will send our students and volunteers to help as translators, compassionate care givers, and physical therapy assistants.

Finally, downtown we are also participating in the excavation process for the Arch Diocese, whose building has fallen into rubble. Patrick Brun and I are working with the groups involved in the demolition to sort materials and recover important archived documents.

I'll continue to keep you posted as work with our neighborhood and these medical teams progress. The next update will be coming to you on Wednesday.

Peace,

Patrick