

# Haitian Research Project Report

Patricia R. Ashley / February 26, 2011

<b>Project Summary</b>	2
<b>Findings</b>	3
<b>Recommendations</b>	4
<b>Presbyterian Churches in South Florida</b>	
All Nations, North Miami Beach; First, Delray Beach	5
First, Ft. Lauderdale; First, Hollywood; First, North Palm	6
Indian River; Miami Shores	7
Ascension Peace, Lauderhill; Central, Miami; First Spanish, Miami;	8
Myrtle Grove, Miami Gardens; Palm City; Riviera	
<b>Agencies in South Florida</b>	
American Friends Service Committee, Archdiocese of Miami;	9
Catholic Charities	
Center for Haitian Studies, Church World Service,	10
Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations	11
Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida	
FANM	12
FLIC, Galata	13
Haitian-American Emergency Relief Committee,	14
Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition, His House	
Miami Baptist Association, Minority Development and Empowerment	15
Notre Dame de Haiti, Palm Beach County Disaster Recovery Coalition,	16
Project Impact	
Public Schools	17
Sant La	18
South Florida Urban Ministries, St. Thomas University,	19
(Treasure Coast Hospice) - Bretel Cherisol	20
<b>Agencies Beyond South Florida</b>	21
Habitat for Humanity International; Seventh Day Adventist Church	
Seventh Day Adventist Development and Relief Agency	
Solar Under the Sun	
<b>Joint CCLS/FIAC Report</b>	22
<b>Appendices</b>	28
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	
Center for Haitian Studies / Christian Action and Relief for Haiti	
FANM / Galata / Habitat for Humanity International / Haiti Partners	
His House / Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.	
Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center 2009-2010 Annual Report	
South Florida Urban Ministries / Mission Possible	
PDA update / St. Thomas University	
First, Hollywood story	
Miami Shores – newsletter articles and information on related organizations	

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**Action Summary re: the Presbytery of Tropical Florida's research project concerning response to Haitians affected by the January 12, 2010 earthquake, who are currently residing in South Florida; and concerning response to earthquake survivors initiated in South Florida.**

Since the summer of 2010, we have sought to connect the local and denominational resources of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with the need of Haitians affected by the January 12, 2010 earthquake, who are currently residing in South Florida. To this end our presbytery administrator, Amalie Ash, has been in conversation locally with the presbytery's Committee on Mission Outreach, Social Justice and Peacemaking, pastors of churches that have a mission connection with Haiti, and interested individuals. She has also consulted with staff of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Program, members of the Haitian Response Team (HRT) of our denomination, and other ecumenical officials. In addition, she contacted some of the local agencies involved with relief and social services for Haitians living in our area. Through these conversations it became clear that we needed to determine what response already exists and to develop concrete recommendations both for our presbytery and for HRT. Our presbytery, at our November 20, 2010 meeting, voted to support the development of a presbytery-wide response. The presbytery received funding for the necessary research and recommendation development.

Beginning on November 26, 2010, Pat Ashley has conducted interviews with thirty-four agency and church representatives, and she has researched pertinent organizations. As a result, we are growing in our understanding that addressing any need in the Haitian community is a complex matter involving multiple layers of relationship and history, and we invite denominational staff and funding sources to continue to work with us in establishing a definitive and effective Presbyterian response to the significant need remaining in the wake of the earthquake.

This report presents findings and recommendations, and it includes interview summaries and background information.

## FINDINGS

Some key factors in the lives of earthquake survivors living in South Florida in 2011 are as follows:

- Haitian earthquake survivors in this country will be facing tough decisions regarding where to live.
- These survivors are likely to need help with TPS extensions, deferred action applications, work permit authorizations, and other legal actions regarding their immigration status.
- There are enormous economic and psychological strains on families who are housing and supporting earthquake survivors.
- There are psychological implications of the earthquake trauma that have barely been addressed.
- The stabilization of survivor-families will require considerable intervention.
- A long-term need that is now becoming more urgent is the acculturation of earthquake survivors living here, including relational training, job placement training, educational opportunities, budgeting training, and language training.
- A long-term need in Haiti is for sustainable, locally initiated, economic development.

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There are five primary ways that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) might be involved in recovery efforts originating in South Florida:

- 1) The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program (PDA) might provide matching grants for the work that is being done through PC(USA) congregations in South Florida.
- 2) PDA might provide matching grants for Presbytery of Tropical Florida contributions to agencies serving earthquake survivors in South Florida, or to response efforts developed by the presbytery.
- 3) PDA might provide disaster-relief grants to agencies serving earthquake survivors in South Florida.
- 4) PDA might provide disaster-relief grants to agencies serving earthquake survivors in Haiti.
- 5) Our Presbytery might convene an ecumenical gathering of leaders to develop a more comprehensive and coordinated response to earthquake survivors in South Florida.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations arise from the information presented in this report; that:

- 1) The Mission Outreach, Social Justice, and Peace-making Committee (MOSJP) develop criteria for focusing the efforts of our presbytery in response to the earthquake in Haiti.
- 2) MOSJP of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida work with other appropriate committees of the presbytery to publicize and solicit support for the earthquake-recovery efforts already taking place in South Florida through congregations of the presbytery and other agencies.
- 3) MOSJP work with other appropriate committees of the presbytery to publicize and solicit support for mission in Haiti taking place through congregations of the presbytery, as noted in this report.
- 4) MOSJP work with each congregation leading earthquake-recovery efforts to submit matching grant applications to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program.
- 5) MOSJP identify local agencies involved in earthquake-recovery with survivors living in South Florida to receive presbytery contributions. Based on ability to document the ministry, the some strong candidates are Catholic Charities, Church World Service, and South Florida Urban Ministries, and FIAC. Based on close connection to the community and need for funds, the strong candidates are FANM and Galata.
- 6) MOSJP submit matching grant applications to PDA for each earthquake-recovery agency receiving presbytery contributions, as identified in #5 above
- 7) MOSJP advocate with the Haiti Response Team to provide PDA grants to selected agencies engaged in earthquake-recovery with survivors living in South Florida.
- 8) MOSJP advocate with the Haiti Response Team to provide PDA grants to selected agencies engaged in earthquake-recovery in Haiti. Habitat for Humanity International is a possibility, since individuals and congregations here might be able to participate in Habitat-sponsored work trips.
- 9) MOSJP convene a gathering of denominational leaders to share information about disaster response with Haitians and to invite coordination and collaboration.
- 10) The Presbytery adopt Haiti disaster response as a mission priority for the next three years.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

**There are several churches in the presbytery that are involved *relationally* with earthquake response, through particular individuals and programs in South Florida or in Haiti.**

### ***All Nations, North Miami Beach***

- Jonas Georges, pastor - o: 305-651-4802; c: 305-528-9333; [jgeorges1@yahoo.com](mailto:jgeorges1@yahoo.com), [georgesjonas1@gmail.com](mailto:georgesjonas1@gmail.com).

The church has been working with Haitian students, some of whom are earthquake survivors, to adapt to the school system, providing counseling and (with the help of presbytery funding) over 200 backpacks of school supplies for the opening of the school years. The church has received some funding from the presbytery, including some from PDA. The pastor has been involved with those who find their way to the church, referring them to help, and sometimes the church provides rental assistance. The church offered a tutoring program in which 36 earthquake survivors participated. It also sponsored a party during the holidays for contacts from the tutoring program and from those who came for help. The church is a center of activity for the community, open to receiving both people in need and those who want to partner in offering help. The community looks to the church and to the pastor to be able to respond, and the church is committed to accompanying the community in the name of the church. The pastor appears periodically in the local media, especially radio. Most recently he has been on a program aired on Island TV and another program on Channel 2.

The following statistics report the church's involvement:

ACTION	COUNTS	Pastors' TIME	COMBINED STAFF TIME
Counseling:	180	400	40
Group activities:	50	50	200
Visitation	12	36	0
Meetings attended	21	100	0
Meals provided	300		100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>340</b>

At the current rate of \$50.00 for the pastor and \$10.00 for staff, the total is: \$35,000.00

An interview with pastor Jonas Georges yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- The psychological trauma from the earthquake has gone largely untreated, but could become more accessible if presented in the right way;
- Housing will be a major factor for survivors in the coming year;
- Keeping children in school can be an important force for recovery;
- Job placement is a key need for the coming year.

### ***First, Delray Beach***

- Jeanne Heavilin, co-chair, mission committee, 561-901-8714, [jheavilin@bellsouth.net](mailto:jheavilin@bellsouth.net); Dr. Doug Goldsmith, co-chair, mission committee, [dmgdo@aol.com](mailto:dmgdo@aol.com).

The church raised \$14,837.50 for tents for Port-Au-Prince, distributed through the Caring House Foundation (at the cost of \$90/tent). They also sent \$24,904 to PDA for its relief efforts in Haiti. The church is interested in participating in mission trips.

### ***First, Ft. Lauderdale***

- Tim Dobbins, Director of Missions – [timd@firstpres.cc](mailto:timd@firstpres.cc); c: 954-253- 4674; o: 954-462-6200; Doug Brouwer, pastor

The church is in conversation with the Episcopalian-related Hopital St. Croix ([www.hopitalstecroix.com](http://www.hopitalstecroix.com)) and the FSIL nursing school in Leogane (<http://haitinursing.org/index.php/school-of-nursing-in-haiti/>) concerning possible partnership. People from the church also hope to meet with Pastor Moise, Director of the Global Orphan Project (<http://theglobalorphanproject.org>) in Port-au-Prince. Sharyn and Rodney Babe, Presbyterian missionaries who have worked with CODEP, (Comprehensive Development Project) in Haiti, are related to First Presbyterian Church.

### ***First, Hollywood***

- Kennedy McGowan, pastor; 1530 Hollywood Blvd., **Hollywood, FL** 33020; (954)923-8209 [firstpres@fpcoh.org](mailto:firstpres@fpcoh.org)

The church is a partner with Temple Beth El in Hollywood in **Hollywood CARES** (Caribbean AIDS Relief, Education and Support) - <http://hollywoodcares.net>. The Hollywood CARES home-orphanages in Haiti for HIV-positive children and youth were established in 2007, followed in 2008, by a school for these and the other children of Project Papillion, partners in Haiti. John Dieubon is the Haiti contact person with Project Papillon. The church has given \$10,000-\$12,000 per year to start one of the home orphanages, and to support the related school and dental care for the children. The area where the home-orphanages are located (a neighborhood of Port Au Prince) has been severely affected by the January 12 earthquake. Following the earthquake, the organization has rented a house in which a drop-in youth center has been formed where youth share music, learn computer skills, speak together of their experiences. Two of the four home orphanages have re-opened. Hollywood CARES works with a local foundation, Love Hope Prosper, which helps provide funds.

### ***First, North Palm***

- Ron Hilliard, Associate Pastor, is the staff contact person for the church's mission committee: 561-622-8818; [revron@fpcnpb.org](mailto:revron@fpcnpb.org).

The church supports two missions that pertain to Haitian earthquake victims:

- *Missionary Flights International*, 3170 Airmans Drive, Ft. Pierce, FL 34946; [www.missionaryflights.org](http://www.missionaryflights.org)

Ric Halquist, church member, is a pilot with the organization, 772-462-2395; [hallqui@bellsouth.net](mailto:hallqui@bellsouth.net)

Missionary Flights International is an aviation ministry that was originally housed at the Palm Beach Airport, but moved to a much larger facility in Ft. Pierce, Florida. They have three DC-3's that they load with people and supplies. MFI is a support ministry that helps Christian missions throughout the Caribbean, especially the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, to more effectively carry out their respective ministries by providing air transport. These ministries include evangelism/church planting, community development, educational, medical, and orphanages. At times they also provide disaster relief throughout the Northern Caribbean, Central America, and Mexico.

The organization was on the ground with supplies in Haiti one day after the earthquake, flew there frequently in the immediate aftermath, and continues several flights per month. The

church collects supplies and equipment that are included in these flights. World Vision re-designed medical kits for Haiti, the congregation packs them, Missionary Flights International flies them to Haiti, and YWAM (see below) has arranged for their distribution and has provided video of the operation in Haiti.

- *Youth with a Mission (YWAM) – Haiti*  
Freeman and Shelly Nettles P.O. Box 236, Akron, PA 17501; JEM, Rue Maurepa, St. Marc, Haiti. [www.ywam.org](http://www.ywam.org); e-mail: [snettlles\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:snettlles_5@hotmail.com).  
Youth With a Mission is an international movement of Christians from many denominations dedicated to serving Jesus throughout the world. They focus on youth, and also involve people of almost every age. Their ministries fit into three main categories: evangelism, training, and mercy ministry. They currently operate in more than 1000 locations in 149 countries, with a staff of nearly 16,000.  
After the earthquake, St. Marc became a key location for three tent cities sheltering earthquake victims. Freeman and Shelly's work has shifted to survival relief, and they have been able to receive and direct resources that the church has sent. *The current need* is to expand the existing work of building more permanent housing (duplex-like houses) and to provide clinics in the tent-city areas.

#### ***Indian River, Ft. Pierce***

- Bryan Wenger, Rev. Bryan L. Wenger, Associate Pastor, 772-464-4263 x105, [bryan@irpcfamilly.org](mailto:bryan@irpcfamilly.org)

In February the church hosted a community meeting to hear Tony Campolo, with proceeds of \$1940 going to Haiti Partners (see appendix). People of the congregation volunteer at Mission Flights International (MFI) (see information under First, North Palm) to help pack cartons and load the planes. The church contributed \$1000 to MFI. The church contributed \$1,000 to Christian Action and Relief for Haiti (CARHA) (see appendix). Bryan Wenger traveled to Haiti in April 2010 with Haiti Partners.

#### ***Miami Shores***

- Elder Bill Tenney, 305-308-4639; [wdenney@bellsouth.net](mailto:wdenney@bellsouth.net), is the chair of the mission committee. The church has made two mission trips to Haiti since 2003.
- Renel Noel, 305-323-0937 cell; [rnoel@bellsouth.net](mailto:rnoel@bellsouth.net), is the contact person most directly involved with the work of a hospital and orphanage that the church supports in Port-au-Paix, Haiti. He is a contractor in irrigation, plumbing, and electrical work.

Starting in 2003 the church has contributed pots and pans, trucks and tires, solar cookers, and an ambulance to work in Haiti. More recently the church has worked with Renel Noel to install water sanitation equipment for the House of Hope, an orphanage for handicapped children in Port-au-Paix. After the earthquake food, medical supplies, and funds to buy supplies that can't be shipped have been sent to the House of Hope. Renel Noel has family members in Haiti who can receive and direct shipments. Plans are to develop a more regular way to get food shipped to Haiti, to maintain and expand the water sanitation equipment, to build a wall around the property in order to protect it from vandalism and contamination, and to provide medical mission teams. Renel believes that it is effective to do small projects without direct government involvement. He has worked through Change This World, [www.changethisworld.com](http://www.changethisworld.com), and through IsleGo Missions, Dusty Cooper, 407-687-8543, [www.IsleGO.com](http://www.IsleGO.com), to get pallets of food to Haiti.

**There are churches that have contributed materials and or funds.**

***Ascension Peace, Lauderhill***

The church has worked through Mission Possible (see appendix), making contributions to ministry with schools and churches in Haiti. With Korean Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, the church has sent crates of water and other supplies. The deacons are now supporting a home in Haiti. The churches has also made contributions for Haiti through PDA.

***Central, Miami***

The church contributes funds through Miami Shores to House of Hope, and the church intends to sponsor a core house in Haiti through Habitat for Humanity.

***First Spanish, Miami***

The church took a special offering shortly after the earthquake and sent contributions, about \$700-800, to PDA. The church and the school sent 45 boxes of clothes and food to the Salvation Army.

***Myrtle Grove***

In March 2010 the church sent a special offering of \$947 to the presbytery office to be sent to Haiti. The church has made contact with His House Children's Home (see appendix) and will provide them with a special "Souper Bowl" offering to be taken up on February 6, 2011. The offering is intended to be used to provide assistance for the Haitian children who were displaced by the earthquake and are housed at the facility.

***Palm City***

The church contributed \$6500 to Freeman and Shelley Nettles of YWAM (see info on YWAM under First, North Palm) in January 2010.

***Riviera, South Miami***

In early 2010, the church took special offerings and did a benefit concert. Youth did a bake sale. All monies have been sent via PDA. The church ahs worked with Jonas Georges, providing funds to help defray cost of shipping supplies.

## AGENCIES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

***American Friends Service Committee.*** Paul Mondesir, 111 N.E. 1st Street, 3rd Floor Miami, FL 33132; 305-600-5441; [PMondesir@afsc.org](mailto:PMondesir@afsc.org).

Paul Mondesir has worked in outreach through a radio show and through meetings to provide accurate information about TPS, about immigrant rights, and about federal resources for people in need.

***Archdiocese of Miami.*** Deacon Richard Turcotte, Ph.D., [RTurcotte@ccadm.org](mailto:RTurcotte@ccadm.org), 1505 N.E. 26th Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33305; 305 762-1332, Fax: 305 754-6649.

Catholic charities sent approximately \$75,000 of food and survival supplies to Caritas of Port-de-Paix to provide emergency assistance to people moving from Port-au-Prince to Port-au-Paix. The archdiocese has organized teams of doctors, social workers, nurses, and psychologists from the University of Miami to provide caravan teams in various locations in Haiti. There are still a few caravans taking place. Orthopedic follow-up is one of the key activities now. The archdiocese also contributes through the Diocese of Port-de-Paix to a religious order in the northeastern area of the country that is engaged in self-sustaining agricultural projects. In 2011 the archdiocese will primarily be contributing to Haiti partners Caritas and Food for the Poor, through them contributing funds into the local economy to help develop jobs and foster local economic development.

***Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.,*** [www.ccadm.org](http://www.ccadm.org); 3620 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Miami, FL 33127; 305-573-3333, x. 19; [tpainson@ccadm.org](mailto:tpainson@ccadm.org). Program Director for New Life, Providence Place, and Pierre Toussaint Center: Tessa Painson.

Catholic Charities provides a variety of social services in South Florida, including Adult Day Care, Behavioral Health Care, Child Development, Elderly Services, Housing & Shelter Services, Prevention Services, Refugee Resettlement Services, and Volunteer Friendship Ministry (HIV/AIDS Services). The agency also works to address the systemic causes of poverty and to establish just communities.

After the earthquake, the organization made the decision to focus its relief efforts with earthquake survivors on families willing to be engaged in multi-faceted, longer-term recovery. To this end Catholic Charities has seen about 600 families (averaging 5-6 members per family) from early March into December, and has provided extensive services for 116 of those families. These services include a psycho-social evaluation; help with immediate needs such as food, housing, and utilities; help with child care; job placement; and parenting, acculturation, and domestic violence prevention classes. In addition, the agency has worked with doctors and clinics to make medical care accessible to these families at discounted rates. The purpose of this response is to empower these families to take active responsibility for their own recovery and to become able to assist their extended families in Haiti.

An interview with program director Tessa Painson yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- The needs in Haiti remain at the level of basic survival necessities, especially food;
- \$300,000 provided through United Way to area agencies will be used up in June, 2011, with no automatic renewal of funds;

- In 2011, it will be important to continue to serve families with adequate and multi-faceted resources sufficient (estimated at \$4,000 - \$5,000 per family) truly to empower them to make a new life and to be able to help others;
- Basic education in such matters as the necessity to be personally engaged in establishing a new life, the needs of young children and the requirements of healthy adult relationships will continue to be key in making a difference in people's lives;
- A next step will be leadership development for displaced youth, including after school programs that will sustain their cultural identity and their investment in the well-being of their homeland;
- Many grant-providers do not fund staff, yet staffing is needed in order to provide comprehensive services;
- Families need to be encouraged to secure their basic livelihood so that their desire and efforts to help those in Haiti can actually be effective, rather than draining their own resources without being able to make an impact there;
- A comprehensive approach to helping families is proving successful and is likely to be an effective means of positively impacting both families and the general possibility of stabilization and healing.

**Center for Haitian Studies**, [www.centerforhaitianstudies.org](http://www.centerforhaitianstudies.org) , 305-757-9555, 8260 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33138 Fax: 305 756-8023; Romuald Branchard, suggested contact, c: 305 401-1802; [rom@centerforhaitianstudies.org](mailto:rom@centerforhaitianstudies.org). See appendix.

This organization holds a free oby-gyn clinic for Haitian women and, with the University of Miami, has a pediatric mobile clinic two to three times per month. This pediatric clinic has been an important resources for about 300 children-evacuees from the Haiti earthquake who do not have adults accompanying them or paperwork. The center has conducted post-traumatic training sessions for medical staff in order to help them understand the impact of trauma and of Haitian cultural pre-dispositions on earthquake survivors. The center also serves has the local office for Medi-Share, a hospital in Haiti. Through this connection supplies, money, equipment, and information have been sent to Haiti. The center has a display of the art of Frantz Charlemagne depicting Haiti both before and after the earthquake. It has an in-house radio studio to record public service announcements for people who want to go to Haiti and for Haitians in South Florida. Due to language issues, 70-80% of Haitians gets their community and world news and information from the radio. The center has submitted a grant request of \$650,000 to HRSA in order to expand its medical services. In conjunction with the University of Miami, it has conducted Health Fairs. In the future the center would like to develop a full family practice.

**Church World Service (CWS) Immigration and Refugee Program**, [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org); 1924 NW 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Doral, FL 33126; 305-774-6770. Director, Miami Office: Oscar D. Rivera; Mabel Hernandez, Deputy Director; Frank Figuero, Cuban-Haitian Program.

CWS works with partners in the U.S. and around the world to build interfaith and intercultural coalitions to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice. The agency works primarily in the areas of sustainable grassroots development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance.

After the earthquake, CWS helped to resettle Haitians who arrived in this country through medical evacuation or humanitarian parole: 41 people in Miami, 54 in Atlanta, and 5 in North Carolina. The Miami Office has continued to work with families here to follow-up with needed medical care and to help with housing needs. In addition, Church World Service also assisted Haitian Medevacs with B2 Visas who were not capture in the above statistics. These clients were not eligible for any Federal or State benefits. We assisted these clients with private funds, donations such as the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, and our fund raisers.

An interview with Oscar Rivera, Mabel Hernandez, and Frank Figuero yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- One of the factors that response efforts will face starting now is that those who came with tourist visas or who have received deferred action or TPS will need to take action in order to renew their work authorizations and to extend their stays;
- Funds for emergency relief have been largely depleted;
- Even parolees, whose status made them eligible for certain benefits, will need legal help and financial assistance to renew work authorizations;
- The fact that the future is still unknown for most earthquake survivors taking an increasingly visible toll;
- Given critical medical needs, the difficulties of obtaining employment, and how long healing and restoration take; the ability of those who have come to this country to move forward with their lives is taking longer than the time allotted by their visas;
- Often the needs of earthquake survivors do not fit easily into the parameters of governmental or relief agencies, yet the needs are real and significant.

***Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations (COFFO)***; 21 South Krome Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33030; (305)247-4779; Fax:(305)242-0701; Email: [coffoimmigration@coffo.org](mailto:coffoimmigration@coffo.org).

COFFO worked with 115-120 people on TPS application and other assistance with immigration matters such as extending visa. The organization also has vouchers for food assistance.

***Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida***, Fritz Bazin, Archdeacon for Immigration and Social Justice - 305-373-0881, x 32; 305-761-9437; [jfritzbazin@gmail.com](mailto:jfritzbazin@gmail.com); 525 SE 15 St., Miami, FL 33132.

The diocese has dealt with some individual cases through its office. It is in a partner relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and has contributed about \$300,000 to re-building efforts there. Two churches in the diocese, St Paul and St. Gregory, have been especially active in supporting a health center at St. Mary Magdalene center in Haiti. Fritz Basin intends to do an assessment of the need and share it with us.

An interview with Archdeacon Fritz Bain yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- There is great strain on families trying to support earthquake survivors;
- There is a need for increased language skills and job-search skills;
- There is a need for jobs and job-placement;
- There is a need for radio broadcasts for those traveling to Haiti giving information about how to deal with the cholera outbreak;

- It could be valuable to gather survivors to tell their stories;
- It could be valuable to gather concerned pastors.

**FANM – Fanm Ayisyen nan Miyami, Inc. – Haitian Women of Miami, [www.fanm.org](http://www.fanm.org); 181 NE 82 St., Suite 101, Miami, FL 33138; 305-756-8050; fax: 305-756-8150. Executive Director: Marleine Bastien, [mbastien@fanm.org](mailto:mbastien@fanm.org); Director of Human Services: Aline B. Francois, [afrancois@fanm.org](mailto:afrancois@fanm.org).**

For 20 years FANM has been involved in services and advocacy for immigrant families in the Haitian/Haitian American Community of South Florida. Programs include family intervention and empowerment; health promotion and prevention; youth development and leadership; immigration services, advocacy, and public policy; community economic development; and adult education, computer training, and literacy.

After the earthquake, Marleine Bastien co-chaired the Haiti Relief Task Force, which had been created following Hurricane Wilma and was revived to respond to earthquake disaster. FANM was a first-responder after the earthquake and has been a major force in coordinating the work of service agencies. FANM helped to raise approximately \$85,000 through organizations in Haiti, helped to establish a way to meet and clothe evacuees and others in transit at the airports, and provided translators at the Homestead base. FANM gave oversight to the warehouse provided through the city of Miami and took over the operation when the city was no longer running it. When a group of Haitian Americans offered warehouse space at the docks, FANM coordinated volunteers to help pack supply kits and coordinated delegations going to Haiti to deliver supplies and to buy food within Haiti. One crucial post-earthquake effort was to help relatives here to connect with family in Haiti. FANM provides counseling services and also links people in need to emergency services. FANM has helped with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) applications and has helped to get accurate information about this provision to people who may be eligible for it. FANM is currently working to seek an extension of the TPS option and to help people apply for Deferred Action. FANM estimates that there are about 300,000 Haitians in South Florida, although data is difficult to obtain because the census lumps Haitians with all African Americans.

An interview with executive director Marleine Bastien and director of human services Aline Francois yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Looking toward 2011, employment will be an ever-more crucial issue, as the length of time earthquake victims are supported by family members here grows long, and the strain on local family increases;
- The need for education and training will continue to grow;
- Victims will increasingly seek to find their own housing, but with limited resources, this will be very difficult;
- The need for health prevention and care will increase;
- The need for help with immigration procedures and for advocacy for Haitians in this country to be able to work will increase;
- Given that families here who are able to send financial help to relatives in Haiti are a key resource in the country's recovery from the earthquake, addressing employment issues is not only a matter of providing for individual here, but also of fostering systemic changes that can help to stabilize Haiti's economy;
- As pressures on families increase, violence is also likely to increase;

- There may be post-traumatic stress which continues to weigh on the community;
- There will be an increased need for after-school care, from Miami to West Palm Beach;
- The option of starting small businesses in the community could be a strong factor in fostering long-term recovery;
- There is a great need for updated computers in the computer training program – a necessity for even the most basic of jobs;
- Given that 55,000 in Haiti have been approved for visas and have been waiting – often, for years, to be able actually to travel, there is a need to expedited procedures and to prepare for people arriving in this country.
- The need for immigration advocacy continues, especially concerning the passage of the DREAM Act, extensions and expansions of TPS and Deferred Action, and Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

**Florida Immigration Coalition (FLIC)**, Francesca Menes, Community Organizer; c: 786-340-1646; 8325 NE 2 Avenue, Suite 206, 33138; [www.floridaimmigrant.org](http://www.floridaimmigrant.org).

FLIC has been working with FIAC to provide outreach via radio for TPS and Deferred Action clinics. It is also working on immigration policy issues. One focus at this time is the Florida legislature, where SB-16, with similar provisions to the recent Arizona law, will be introduced in March. FLIC will also be conducting a “Know Your Rights” campaign in the immigrant community regarding the impact of the proposed legislation. They are working with the ACLU in an attempt to stop deportations that have started again as of 12/9/10, and they are also publicizing concerns re: the way in which United States funds for elections in Haiti are being used.

An interview with community organizer Francesca Menes yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Those not qualified for TPS or Deferred Action remain in great need;
- Due to the strain on families trying to support earthquake survivors, there is likely to be increased homelessness in the Haitian community in 2011;
- As the time for renewing TPS and as some are turned down for Deferred Action, the need for advocacy in immigration policy and application processes will increase.

**Galata**, 916 N. Flagler Ave., Homestead; 305-242-7060; [galatainc@hotmail.com](mailto:galatainc@hotmail.com). Deputy Director: Lakeesha Morris; lakeesha221@yahoo.com.

Galata is a community resource center in Homestead, Florida. It was founded in 2000 with the primary purpose of starting a multicultural senior center. It now provides assistance, referral services, and an after school program for 11-18 year-old youth. It offers all services in English, Spanish, and Creole. Galata also has an office in Haiti and works with the Interior Minister there, as well as with an international organization of mayors. There is a significant Haitian community in this southernmost section of Miami-Dade County, made up primarily of farmworkers, packing plant workers, and hospitality workers.

After the earthquake Galata provided assistance with rent, food, and utilities. It sent people with supplies to Haiti in order to insure appropriate distribution of the supplies. It also helped Haitians here to connect with family members in Haiti. Counseling is also available, but the Haitian community does not make use of it. The organization offers translation services. It works in partnership with Sant La, FANM, Catholic Charities, INS, and South Florida Urgan Ministries.

An interview with deputy director Lakeesha Morris yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Many earthquake survivors are helped within the Haitian community in South Florida without making use of agency services;
- The arrival of earthquake survivor causes increasing strain on families who have taken them in, especially in light of major job losses in the Haitian community;
- Education needs to be done to inform newly arrived Haitians that their status as an earthquake survivor does not necessarily make them eligible for services here;
- In 2011 many Haitians who came here following the earthquake will face a major decision: whether to try to stay in this country or return home. The issues are 1) those who came on tourist visas are not eligible for services or work authorization (and many are hesitant to apply for deferred action), 2) there is little for them to go home to in Haiti by way of employment, housing, or even basic necessities;
- Because Haitians are lumped with African Americans in census reporting, it is difficult to document their special needs;
- Some Haitians will be returning home in order to work for recovery and receive wages through relief contracts and organizations;
- A number of Haitians in the Homestead/Florida City area send “garage sale” objects to Haiti for re-sale there. This provides funds to family members there, thereby helping individuals in Haiti as well as fostering recovery, and a portion of the proceeds are returned to continue the process;
- Mental health care is needed, but the issue here is how to encourage earthquake survivors to make use of it;
- The Children’s Trust, working through Sant La as the lead organization, has initiated a process of gathering the Haitian community in order to create a master plan for earthquake response.

***Haitian-American Emergency Relief Committee (HAERC)***, [www.haerc.org](http://www.haerc.org), [info@haerc.com](mailto:info@haerc.com); Yvens Morrisseau, 305-896-1364.

HAERC was one of the first responders following the earthquake, escorting volunteers and bringing supplies for emergency relief. It is not currently involved with earthquake response.

***Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition (HAGC)***, [www.hagcoalition.freehosting.net](http://www.hagcoalition.freehosting.net), [hagc2020@yahoo.com](mailto:hagc2020@yahoo.com); Jean Robert LaFortune, chair, 305-785-4248.

HAGC is primarily an advocacy agency for immigration reform, especially as it pertains to Haitians. HAGC works at the local, state, and national level.

An interview with chair Jean Robert LaFortune yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- All earthquake survivors are facing challenges concerning day-to-day survival resources;
- Homelessness for earthquake survivors is a major issue.

***His House Children’s Home***, [www.hhch.org](http://www.hhch.org), 20000 NW 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hector Building 2, Miami, FL 33055, 305-430-0085. Executive Director: Jean Caceres-Gonzales; Church Liaison: Hugo Carballosa, [hcarballosa@hhch.org](mailto:hcarballosa@hhch.org).

His House offers residential care, education, case management, foster care, and adoption and counseling services to abused, neglected or drug-exposed children and to UnAccompanied Alien Children.

It was the only agency in the country to receive evacuee children from Haiti following the earthquake. Over 500 Haitian children have received services there, and there are currently 9 Haitian children in residence.

An interview with executive director Jean Caceres-Gonzales and church liaison Hugo Carballosa yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- There is a need for foster and adoptive families.
- There is a need for adult companionship and sponsorship.
- With the change in regime in Haiti, or at any time as events unfold, there may be an influx of children from Haiti allowed to come to country through humanitarian parole;
- There have already been 15 or 16 disruptions of adoptions that were in process at the time of the earthquake, and there may be more.

***Miami Baptist Association***, located at Haitian Emmanuel Baptist Church, 7321 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33138-5309 (305) 756-8434; 305-757-7515; Scott Nelson, Director, Haitian Ministries, 305-271-5600; Michael Daily, [michaeldaily@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldaily@gmail.com).

There are more than 80 Haitian Baptist Churches in the Miami Baptist Association. Most have received families, hosting them and providing food and medical assistance. The association also collaborates with Church World Services and other organizations to provide social services. The Florida and National Baptist Conventions have also contributed to efforts in Haiti.

***Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc (MDEI)***, [www.mdeinc.org](http://www.mdeinc.org), 5225 NW 33rd Avenue, Bldg. 5, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309; (954) 315-4530 • Fax: (954) 763-8567 – Francois Leconte, President - 754-422-1719.

MDEI was founded 14 years ago, originally to serve the Haitian community in Broward County. Since that time, it has added offices in Palm Beach County, and it has added clients from other Caribbean islands. It offers an after school program for middle school youth, with a special emphasis on drop-out prevention; a family reunification program, offering parenting skills training; HIV/AIDS case management, outreach, testing, and counseling; a program to prevent birth defects through pre- and post-natal care and education; free income tax services; a housing program for people with AIDS; help applying for access programs such as food stamps and medicaid; help with TPS applications.

After the earthquake, it joined with the Children's Services Council to form the Broward County Haiti Relief Taskforce, with participation from government entities, hospitals, and service providers. Since January 2010, MDEI has served 300-400 earthquake-related clients per month. Calls were put out through radio shows seeking host families for earthquake survivors, and the community responded. The agency has been engaged in fund-raising for municipal grants to help subsidize those families. MDEI, with resources from the United Way, has provided bus passes and gift cards for groceries and other necessities. Francois Leconte reported that from January 13, 2010 until the resumption of commercial flights from Haiti in February, approximately 35,000 people came to South Florida from Haiti. Many of these were US citizens who were visiting Haiti at the time, and they have since returned to their home states. Others, still remaining in South Florida, arrived in need of medical care. He noted that there are

approximately 800 new Haitian students in Palm Beach County schools; 1100 in Broward County; and 900 in Miami-Dade County.

An interview with chief executive officer Francois Leconte yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Housing is a major issue for earthquake survivors in Broward and Palm Beach Counties;
- Financial pressures have placed increased strain on host families as time has passed since the earthquake;
- With the advent of TPS and Deferred Action, it will be important to offer job training and placement programs, with the most likely place of employment being in the hotel industry;
- The need for mental health counseling is likely to increase as post-traumatic stress remains unaddressed. We discussed the possibility of using the media to call the community to share experiences of the earthquake and to make use of counseling services;
- A Children's Trust-initiated planning process could be helpful in developing a more sustainable long-term response.

***Notre Dame de Haiti.*** Father Reginald Jean-Marie, administrator; 130 N. E. 62nd St., 110 NE 62<sup>nd</sup> St., Miami, FL 33138; Phone: (305) 751-6289 Fax: (305)756-6470;  
[www.notredamedhaiti.org](http://www.notredamedhaiti.org); [admin@notredamedhaiti.org](mailto:admin@notredamedhaiti.org).

Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church is a place of worship for the Haitian community, as well as a community center providing social services and a school.

***Palm Beach County Disaster Recovery Coalition*** – Director, Jennifer Beckman, 561-375-6682;  
[beckmanj@unitedwaypbcc.org](mailto:beckmanj@unitedwaypbcc.org).

The coalition works with faith-based and non-profit organizations and with long-term recovery committees. Ten days after the earthquake, over 90 agency representatives attended a meeting to develop response plans. The coalition created a matrix of all responding organizations and conducted follow up meetings. Federal funding became available through the state for crisis counseling, mental health counseling, and case management. The team for this work is in place, awaiting the release of funds. The coalition partnered with the Department of Human Services, who hired a case manager, and with the Co-ordinated Assistance Network. The coalition worked with about 135 earthquake survivors. In partnership with United Way, the coalition has provided shoes and socks and other materials to the local schools.

In 2011, the focus will be on providing vocational training and language classes.

***Project Impact; Guylene Berry, Community Outreach Advisor, City of North Miami Community Development Agency and Director of Project Impact*** - 786-662-9500;  
[radio@kozefanm.com](mailto:radio@kozefanm.com).

Guylene Berry works for the city of North Miami, informing the Haitian community of services and programs provided by the city; and she founded Project Impact, a 501(c)(3) corporation seeking to empower families and youth. Project Impact sponsors monthly family nights at the Gwen Margolis Community Center, where guest speakers present information of interest to the Haitian/Haitian American Community. Ms. Berry also has a daily radio show on 1580 AM at 10:00 am. Topics include women's issues, health issues, and youth issues, and family relations. On Saturdays at 11 am there is a radio show hosted by youth, for youth.

An interview with her yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Many people are still displaced;
- As it becomes increasingly difficult for families here to support earthquake victims who have come to this country, some are moving elsewhere;
- Key issues for earthquake victims in South Florida are work, housing, after school care, and financial assistance;
- Many family members who are willing to help victim-relatives are limited in their ability to do so due to job-loss and foreclosures related to the current economic conditions in this country.

**Public Schools:** Miami-Dade County, Rolando Martin, Director, Community Development and Public Outreach, Public Information 305-995-1245; 305-995-1128; Broward County, Nadine Drew, Community Relations, 754-321-0000; Palm Beach County, 561-434-8000 or 866-930-8402; Palm Beach County, Connie Berry, Project Specialist, Department of Multicultural Education, 561-434-7348.

Miami-Dade County reports the following:

**2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

Total students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools relocated due to the earthquake in Haiti during the 2009-10 school year is 1,274. Total students enrolled that have withdrawn: 534. Total students enrolled during 2009-2010 is 740.

**2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

Total students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools relocated due to the earthquake in Haiti during the 2010-11 school year is 269. Total that have withdrawn during 2010-11 is 3. Total enrolled during the 2010-11 school year is 266.

**2009-2010 AND 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEARS**

Total students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools relocated due to the earthquake in Haiti currently in membership from 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years as of 12/14/2010 is 1006.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Stores and Mail Distribution Department with the assistance from Food and Nutrition, schools, ITS, and various community organizations listed below, collected and shipped the following items:

**1. Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church/Catholic Charities**

- a. 23 pallets containing
  - i. 90 boxes of medical supplies
  - ii. 137 boxes of nonperishable food
  - iii. 1891 boxes of water
  - iv. 61 boxes of camping supplies

**2. Federal Express/World Vision Intl**

- a. 10 pallets containing 340 cases of water – (19,000 lbs or 8.5 tons)

**3. Local American Red Cross office**

- a. 80 car seats for incoming Haitian families

**4. Sante Ocean Shipping Line/Food for the Poor**

- a. 11 Ocean Containers containing a total of: (estimated total weight shipped 605,000 lbs or 270 tons)
  - i. 950 boxes of medical supplies (crutches/Wheel chairs/bandages)
  - ii. 2512 boxes of non perishable foods
  - iii. 6486 boxes of water

iv. 909 boxes of camping equipment (tents/sleeping bags/etc)

**5. G&G Shipping/Clinton Foundation**

- a. 40 pallets of surplus school furniture
- b. 10 school buses/mobile classrooms

Monetary donations totaling \$268,343.81 were collected, and The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc. transmitted the funds for relief efforts and supplemental services to new students arrivals through three organizations: Food for the Poor, World Vision and Haitian Students of M-DCPS.

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Palm Beach County reports that there were about 650 Haitian earthquake survivors enrolled in the school system in the 2009-2010 school year, and of those approximately 600-610 remain in the system during the current school year. Each household with such a student was personally called by a professional such as psychologists or school counselors to assess need and to make referrals as appropriate. The schools have worked with the Department of Human Services.

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Broward County reports that, as of May, 2010, 1,081 Haitian earthquake survivors have been enrolled in the school system. It was unknown how many remained by the end of the year.

***Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center***, 5000 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 110, Miami, FL 33137; 305-573-4871; [info@santla.org](mailto:info@santla.org); Fax: 305-573-4875. Executive Director: Gepsie Metellus, [gepsiem@santla.org](mailto:gepsiem@santla.org).

Sant La provides information and referral services in the areas of financial literacy, health and safety net benefits, job training and placement, unemployment claims, and strengthening families. It also present a weekly television show, *Teleskopi*, and works collaboratively with local media and agencies.

After the earthquake, Sant La provided services to victims, distributed food and other necessities, referred 75 people to the Red Cross to serve as translators, organized trauma training for provider partners, and served as a primary media contact for the Haitian/Haitian American community. They also assisted many in applying for two new immigration statuses that became available to eligible Haitians after the earthquake: temporary protected status (TPS) and Deferred Action. Those receiving these designations are able to receive work permits.

An interview with executive director Gepsie Metellus yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Haitian American citizens and Haitian permanent residents are basically doing okay, except for the need for healing from trauma, because they are eligible for safety net benefits such as food stamps, help with housing, and help with child care;
- Those who have entered on tourist visas or by other means have no access to benefits;
- Sant La, through several foundations (Florida Foundation, Knight Foundation, United Way, Kennedy Foundation, and Casey Foundation) that contributed specifically for earthquake relief, has been able to provide approximately \$25,000 in temporary immediate relief to about 600 households;
- Those who have entered this country legally, when their visas expire, will face especially tough decisions (in light of conditions in Haiti following the earthquake) concerning whether to overstay their visas or return to Haiti;

- Many Haitians who are able to work here send money back to Haiti, thereby providing a resources for survival and recovery there;
- One special need is for Haitian students completing the public school education to be able to continue their studies. The passage of the Dream Act could be helpful here;
- Haitians tend not to seek counseling due to a culturally-based assumption that counseling is for those who are insane (without distinguishing between mental illness and trauma).

**South Florida Urban Ministries (SFLUM) (Methodist)** - 2850 SW 27th Ave., Miami, FL 33133  
 Phone: 305-442-8306 / Fax: 305-442-9726 Email: [info@sflum.org](mailto:info@sflum.org); [www.sflum.org](http://www.sflum.org); Project Heal, director, Janet Horman, [jhorman@flum.org](mailto:jhorman@flum.org).

Project Heal received grants from the United Methodist Committee on Relief and United Way to operate full-time starting September 1,2010, with the director, an administrative assistance, and clinic staff. They offer emergency assistance, legal assistance, and mobile clinics. They have served about 60 clients.

An interview with project director Janet Horman yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- Deadlines for re-registering for TPS are approaching, and the work with Deferred Action applicants is increasing;
- More families are becoming able to petition immigration authorities for their relatives to obtain some legal status;
- Family members have been split up in order to be able to care for them;
- Housing will be a key issue in family re-unification.

**St. Thomas University** - 16401 NW 37th Avenue - Miami Gardens, Florida 33054; Anthony Vinciguerra, Director, Center for Justice and Peace; 305.628.6717; Fax: 305.628.6698; email: [avinciguerra@stu.edu](mailto:avinciguerra@stu.edu).

St. Thomas University's Center for Justice and Peace works with three cooperative projects in Haiti: The Women's Artisan Project ([www.haitiartisancrafts.com](http://www.haitiartisancrafts.com)), providing skill development and meaningful income to some of Haiti's most marginalized workers; The Solar Energy Project, protecting trees from being cut down for charcoal while also creating a revenue stream through the sale of baked goods; and Cafe Cocano ([www.carecocano.com](http://www.carecocano.com)), a fair-trade coffee project providing income to farmers and encouraging reforestation in the northwestern section of Haiti. In addition, STU supports Haiti Tech, a trade school built in alliance with South Florida businesses and six Haitian business associations. Also, STU participates in board governance and financial donations for microloans with Fonkoze ([www.fonkoze.org](http://www.fonkoze.org)), a microfinance organization in Haiti. This work takes place in the area of Port-de-Paix, in the poorest section of the poorest country in the western hemisphere. STU's work in the area adheres to the criteria stated by the diocese of Port-de-Paix, including collaborative work that supports local initiatives, long-term sustainable developmental, and relationship of mutuality.

An interview with center director Anthony Vinciguerra yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians in 2011:

- The fact that over half a million people have relocated from Port-au-Prince to the countryside indicates a need for economic development nationwide in order to foster recovery;
- There is a tendency among recovery partners to support decentralization in order not to repeat the unplanned and over-populated burgeoning of Port-au-Prince;

- A combination of issues need to be addressed together in order to sustain recovery, including grassroots development, reforestation, empowerment of the marginalized, building on traditions (such as small-plot coffee growing) that have a natural place in Haiti's life; caring for the water supply, and fostering education.

*Individual interview: Burnet Cherisol, 772-672-1309*

Mr. Cherisol, a native of Haiti, is a chaplain with Treasure Coast Hospice. He has made several trips to Haiti since the earthquake. Our interview yielded the following impressions:

- Teachers in Haiti with whom he worked found it difficult to help children due to their own reactions to the earthquake;
- One important need is to help children in school continue their education;
- The cholera epidemic has affected the entire country; there are few supplies, and water purification systems are needed;
- Distribution of medical or survival supplies is erratic and inadequate;
- The disruption of the country due to the earthquake is so extensive that the needs are everywhere, not only geographically near the epicenter;
- The primary issue is extreme poverty;
- The most fruitful response is likely to occur when helping individuals or organizations identify a place to be involved and address that place fully, at every level of need.

## AGENCIES BEYOND SOUTH FLORIDA

**Habitat for Humanity, International**, [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org), 1-229-924-6935; 1-800-422-4828; 121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA 31709.

See appendix.

**Seventh Day Adventist; Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)**, John Torres, Assistant Director of Public Relations; 301.680.6357 (office); 301.680.6370 (fax);

[John.Torres@adra.org](mailto:John.Torres@adra.org).

See appendix.

**Solar under the Sun**, Chris Ray, Project Director, 479-650-4409; [www.solarunderthesun.org](http://www.solarunderthesun.org). In Haiti, this project, sponsored by the Synod of the Sun, has installed seven water purification systems, and it has conducted two training sessions with 18 teachers and students. With the Haiti Education Foundation Buildings, it is doing assessments for energy needs for reconstituted schools. It has applied for a matching grant through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and, if the grant is given, will need funds to match it. It works in partnership with the Synod of Living Waters-sponsored “Living Waters for the World” project ([www.livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org)). In February it will begin energizing schools and clinics.

**Joint Report to the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
On Services to and on Behalf of Haitians  
Provided in 2010  
Jointly Prepared by  
Catholic Charities Legal Services  
and the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center  
November 2010**

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Following the massive earthquake that ravaged Port-au-Prince and its environs on January 12, 2010, Catholic Charities Legal Services (CCLS) and Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) redoubled their efforts to provide legal relief to Haitians in the US; each received a \$100,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to support that work. This interim report provides an update on what has been done and the tasks that remain. It is divided into three sections: (1) direct services provided through October 2010. These include legal representation, outreach, and educational and technical support for Haitians in South Florida, as well as training and technical support to volunteer attorneys and law students; (2) advocacy; and (3) future work and challenges. Both FIAC and CCLS provide the full spectrum of services, though with different priorities. CCLS is the primary direct services provider while FIAC is the lead advocacy organization. By collaboratively addressing the tasks at hand, each has been able to make maximal use of its strengths, improving overall efficiency and effectiveness.

Addressing the needs of Haitians in the United States is a national concern with a local focus. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2008 American Communities Survey, of the 522,681 Haitians in the U.S. before the earthquake, almost half (240,795) resided in Florida. Of these, 135,676 lived in South Florida (72,515 in Miami-Dade and 63,161 in Broward). Thus local Haitians constitute 26% of the national and 56% of the Florida totals.

### **I. Direct Services**

CCLS and FIAC have collectively served more than 3,000 Haitians between January and October 2010, providing legal representation, education, and technical assistance. In most cases (2,796) the agencies assisted applicants in obtaining temporary protected status (TPS); they also represented Haitians in obtaining deferred action (162 cases) became an important task in late June when USCIS agreed to consider granting this relief to Haitians who arrived post-earthquake. Both types of relief were authorized by the Department of Homeland Security as responses to the crisis in Haiti. Each TPS application is accompanied by the necessary documentation, a separate application for employment authorization (important for children, as well as adults, since it enables them to apply for state identity cards), and applications for federal fee waivers for those who qualify. Applicants for deferred action must await its approval before applying for employment authorization.

The agencies have also represented 80 Haitians in detention in release cases and assisted another 4 in obtaining *pro bono* counsel (whom they provided with assistance and technical support). In addition, they served 74 Haitian detainees through the agencies' legal orientation programs

(LOP), funded through an ongoing grant from the Vera Institute of Justice. Legal orientation provides information on the types of legal relief open to the detainees and technical assistance in completing applications but does not include legal counseling or representation. Detainees in LOP participate in both group workshops and in individual sessions. A special LOP workshop for Haitians in detention at Krome was conducted on TPS.

We represent Haitians in seeking asylum, parole, permanent residency, naturalization, and family reunification. Below is more detailed information on temporary protected status and deferred action.

### **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**

TPS enables most Haitians who can document their nationality and their presence in the US on January 12, 2010 to legally live and work here until July 21, 2011. Haitians with TPS may be able to apply for TPS renewals for another 18 months if the program is reauthorized by the Secretary of the Dept. of Homeland Security. We anticipate such authorization will occur in late spring. Once TPS is reauthorized, its holders will likely need to file renewal applications before July 21<sup>st</sup>. Subsequent renewal periods appear likely.

Currently, the government is accepting TPS applications until January 18, 2011, and we are continuing to operate our Haitian Emergency Services units until that time, using the remainder of the \$293,300 that we received in grants and contributions for the project from all sources, of which \$200,000 was provided by the Knight Foundation. We also received \$90,680 in in-kind contributions, mainly the *pro bono* work of attorneys and law students, and the agencies have allocated \$80,732 of their resources to the project, for a total of \$464,732. Here are some highlights of what has been achieved to date:

- During the first 9 months of TPS, the federal government received 60,264 TPS applications nationally. Of these, 12.9% were rejected for technical reasons prior to full review. CCLS and FIAC assisted 2,796 applicants with TPS. Of these, only 1.4% were rejected, often by governmental error, e.g., because child applicants included the child fees rather than the federal fee for adults, and all such rejections were resolved by staff. Many clients come to our agencies after they had filed with the assistance of others and been rejected;
- Staff advised 37 persons not to apply for TPS because they were unqualified, thereby saving each such client \$470 in federal fees. Some such clients might have been deported had they applied;
- CCLS and FIAC-filed TPS applications represent 4.3% of all such applications nationally reviewed and 6.8% of reviewed applications filed in Florida;
- Based on USCIS determinations to date, 98.3% of TPS applications filed by CCLS and FIAC are approved upon federal review; only 1.7% are denied. The national denial rate is 8.0%;
- Using projection methods developed by Dilip Ratha, lead economist of the World Bank, we estimate that the Haitians whom CCLS and FIAC have helped file are contributing an *additional* \$4.8 million this year -- or \$7.2 million during the initial 18 month TPS period -- to the relief and rebuilding of their homeland through their remittances. This

represents a 20% increase over the \$36 million they would have contributed during the 18 month initial TPS period were the program not operative;

- Put in other terms, if our Ratha-based estimates are correct, every dollar in cash or in-kind our agencies received for special Haitian relief efforts enables Haitians we assisted to remit an additional \$15.59 to Haiti during the current 18 month TPS period.

We have already noted that in some cases, TPS applications were inappropriately rejected (found technically inadequate) by USCIS. It was also very frequent for CIS officials to issue inappropriate Requests For Evidence (RFEs) and sometimes deny applicants' TPS requests for such reasons. For example, officials often refused to accept Haitian birth certificates as proof of Haitian nationality, demanding instead that applicants provide photocopies of valid Haitian passports. However, birth certificates constitute legal proof of Haitian nationality.

This burden is difficult for clients to overcome. To obtain a valid Haitian passport in Miami, Haitian nationals must go to the consulate not only with proper documentation but accompanied by three Haitian nationals with valid passports; they must certify the correctness of the request. Meanwhile, the applicant's time without status is extended; staff time, already strained, is strained further. Needless to say, the destruction of government archives and offices in Haiti, the disruption of transportation and communications there, and the personal tragedies of Haitian officials only multiplied confusion and delays.

### **Deferred Action for Earthquake Victims**

At the end of June, the federal government began a policy of permitting Haitian earthquake victims transported to the US to apply for "deferred action". Like TPS, deferred action enables people to live and work here for a period to be determined by Homeland Security. As of October 18<sup>th</sup>, our Haitian Emergency Service units have helped 162 earthquake victims in South Florida apply for deferred action. Virtually all these people lost their homes, jobs and relatives in the earthquake; in about 10% of the cases, that loss included a parent, sibling, or child. All have been traumatized and some physically injured.

Deferred action services are particularly hard to provide. In deferred action, there are no pre-established forms to complete, and USCIS has not clearly defined its own evaluation criteria.

This means that only attorneys or accredited representatives have the knowledge and skills to assist victims in preparing their statements and documenting their requests. Few deferred action clients know English; many are surviving in unstable circumstances. Outreach to them is especially difficult.

We have also identified, represented, and obtained the release of over 30 Haitian earthquake survivors who arrived post-earthquake and were placed in immigration detention; our advocacy work has resulted in a change in national policy and the release of dozens more. Most were brought to the US on military planes.

## Outreach

To facilitate Haitian participation in the TPS and deferred action application processes, CCLS and FIAC **conducted 63 client workshops in or near the Haitian community:** in churches, nonprofits, and schools. At these workshops, the agencies clarified the law and regulations governing TPS and/or deferred action, provided legal counsel, and assisted people in their applications. We also conducted outreach through radio and television. With a grant from Miami-Dade County, FIAC co-hosted the community forum “The Impact of the Haiti Earthquake on South Florida” in September. The agencies have also trained legal providers in Miami and around the state in TPS, and developed forms and materials for their use.

## **II. Advocacy**

Both FIAC and CCLS meet with members of Congress and their staffs on a regular basis, briefing them on aspects of the Haitian crisis and on the issues faced by Haitians in the United States. Due to the agencies’ advocacy on behalf of earthquake survivors detained upon arrival in the U.S., there is no longer a policy to detain arriving Haitians for a minimum of 90 days.

Working with partners in Miami and around the country, FIAC and CCLS wrote policy letters advocating for an extension of the deadline to file for TPS, and the deadline was extended for another 6 months – the longest the deadline for TPS has ever been extended.

In the direct service section, we noted instances of the problems and delays frequently encountered by TPS (and by deferred action) applicants because of inappropriate Requests For Evidence or the rejection or denial of their applications. As such instances began to accumulate, CCLS and FIAC brought them to the attention of the USCIS leadership, requesting that the agency instruct its staff to avoid such errors and to streamline application processing. For example, when CIS officials refused to accept Haitian birth certificates as proof of Haitian nationality, CCLS:

- First approached the Haitian Consulate to facilitate the issuance of Haitian identity cards to assure CIS acceptance of such cards as proof of nationality. Identity cards are both easier to obtain and require lower fees than do Haitian passports;
- Prepared documentation of the Haitian Constitution and law for USCIS demonstrating that Haitian birth certificates constitute proof of Haitian citizenship. This served the basis for the government’s instruction to CIS officials to accept Haitian birth certificates as proof of nationality.

We led efforts to convince Administration officials of the need to permit Haitians who were given B1/B2 visas (tourist visas for pleasure or business) to come to the U.S. following the earthquake to apply for deferred action and obtain work permits. Similarly, we are helping lead the effort to get humanitarian parole for 55,000 Haitians who are the beneficiaries of approved I-130 relative visa petitions but unable to join their loved ones in the U.S. until visas are available. A bill with bipartisan support is currently pending in Congress; NBC and MSNBC interviewed FIAC for this story.

### **III. Prospects for the Future: Problems and Opportunities**

The situation in Haiti remains critical. Little rebuilding of Port-au-Prince has been undertaken. *The Miami Herald* reported (Nov. 6): “Medical experts fear the flood [caused by Hurricane Tomas] also could be vector for cholera, which has killed nearly 450 people and hospitalized nearly 7,000 with fever, diarrhea and vomiting in the last month. ... Small coastal villages were swept away, roofs ripped off, tent cities turned to quagmires, roads washed out, and crops ruined.” On Nov. 14, the Haitian Health Ministry reported that cholera had spread to 6 of the 10 provinces, 917 had died and more than 14,600 been hospitalized; the United Nations “forecasts that up to 200,000 Haitians” could contract the disease and has initiated a \$163.9 million dollar international appeal to combat it.# Anthony Vinciguerra of St. Thomas University reports that in areas of NW Haiti, the storm washed away “the harvest that communities were to rely on throughout the winter.” While much governmental aid has been pledged both by the US and other nations, little has been delivered. Senate members continue to obstruct the release of federal funds.

We believe it to be almost certain that Secretary Napolitano will reauthorize TPS for another 18 months, in part because of its increasing necessity and in part reflecting prior governmental decisions.

- Over the past two decades, no initial TPS period has failed to have subsequent re-registration periods. TPS extensions for nationals from Nicaragua (originally designated for TPS in 1999), Honduras (1999), El Salvador (2001), Somalia (2001), and the Sudan (2004) remain in effect;
- Homeland Security has already shown its recognition of the severity of the crisis in Haiti through its extension of the initial filing period by six months and its authorization of deferred action.

The reality of TPS renewal and its costs, the ongoing need to provide deferred action services, and the forthcoming need to reach out and serve parolees, all place stresses upon our agencies largely unforeseen at the time of our Knight funding. Yet at the same time, resources are declining.

- Many of the 25,000 people evacuated from Haiti were paroled with the right to live and work in the US for one year. We doubt that they came here understanding that they need to renew their paroles. This population will be the hardest to identify that we may serve them;
- It will be very difficult to mount TPS renewal efforts: It is highly unlikely that a TPS extension will be authorized before April and it is more likely to take place in May. This means that there will be little time for CCLS and FIAC to seek funding, reassemble staff, and provide reauthorization services before the projected July closure date;
- Miami-Dade is reported to have an unemployment rate of 12.7% (September 2010), and few TPS holders or evacuees have advanced skills;
- Combined federal fees for TPS renewal applicants (including TPS, itself, employment authorization, and fingerprinting) will be \$465 for adults and children aged 14 or above.

Newly employed Haitians earning minimum wage will have to pay those fees even as they undertake the burden of helping their families in Haiti to sustain themselves and rebuild. (Children under 14 will pay nothing if they forgo employment authorization, but in that case they will be ineligible for a social security number or state identification; the fee for employment authorization is \$380);

- This means it is likely that a high proportion of Haitians with temporary protected status will be unable to pay even modest legal fees for service, and those who do pay such fees will have less money for remittances;
- In September 2010, the US Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) reduced its payments to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) by 23%. Cuban/Haitian Refugees and Entrants are among the persons eligible for services paid for through these funds;
- ORR funds provide cash and medical assistance benefits. They pay for adult education (e.g., ESOL, basic education, vocational and GED education); child care; employment services; Haitian Family Services; integration assistance; and interpreter services. The reduction in funding for such services further restricts the resources available to qualifying Haitians. It also places additional burdens upon CCLS and FIAC, who will find it harder to refer qualifying Haitians for important care;
- Both CCLS and FIAC have major contracts with DCF to provide ORR funded legal services, which means diminishment of their own resources. Those contracts expire next September.

## **Advocacy**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, over 60 new representatives were elected to Congress after campaigns focused on domestic jobs, tax, and spending issues, radically altering the balance of power in that house. Few if any of these representatives have a systematic understanding of the crisis in Haiti, the needs of Haitians in the US, or the connection between the two. Those who are members of the Tea Party movement are by espoused conviction less apt to acknowledge the leadership of the more established representatives of their own political party. Neither the new representatives nor the staff members they designate will assume office before January. That means that FIAC and CCLS must organize new advocacy efforts, and in the new political climate, progress is likely to be slow.

## APPENDICES

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Center for Haitian Studies

Christian Action and Relief for Haiti

FANM

Galata

Habitat for Humanity International

His House

Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center 2009-2010 Annual Report

South Florida Urban Ministries

Mission Possible

St. Thomas University

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First, Hollywood story

Miami Shores – newsletter articles and information on related organizations