



# HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

*A Charitable Outreach to Neighbors in Need*

April 22, 2010

*Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years*

## Honoring HHF's Volunteers



Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, DDS, MPH  
— Founder and President, HHF

[Click here](#) to view the latest video message from Dr. Lowney.

## Container News

As you may have observed from [our Web site](#), HHF has already sent two containers to Haiti since the earthquake. We are grateful for the cooperation of the U.S. military and the U.N. security forces with moving materials and providing security. HHF is hopeful that our containers will continue to get through to Jérémie! Thanks to all who have donated their time and their goods—food, Save-

## Dear HHF Supporter,

It's been three months since the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince, and the story is no longer front page news. But, as a friend of the poor of Haiti, I don't need to tell you that the struggle to help our Haitian neighbors continues, as we've outlined in [HHF's Strategic Plan for Earthquake Recovery](#), detailed below.



We have already relayed the news that 120,000 have fled Port-au-Prince to come to the Grand'Anse, HHF's area of care. Let me tell you a little about these displaced people.

Many were natives of the Jérémie area who had moved to Port-au-Prince to try to eke out a living for themselves—for example, selling vegetables and fruit on the streets. They struggled to make enough money to live, and to send some money home to their families in the mountains.

## Dual Impact

Not only have the rural families lost their breadwinners, now they must support the additional people who have come back traumatized, injured, and owning little else but the clothes on their backs.

The average household size in our area has increased from 6 to

a-Family material, and in-kind donations—and rest assured that we're doing what we can to ensure that it all gets to the people of Haiti safely. [Check our Web site](#) for upcoming containers—the next one should be in just a few weeks.

[back to top](#)

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## Save the Date

The date for the ***Seventh Annual Jerry Lowney–Haitian Health Foundation Golf Tournament*** has been set for **Thursday, August 19th**. More details will be coming, but we anticipate heightened interest in this fundraiser due to this year's events, so mark your calendars and watch for sign-up details!

[back to top](#)

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## For More Information

We continue to update our Web site with information relating to earthquake relief. Please [click here](#) to access HHF's home page. Be sure to check out the [News & Events](#) page to see all of the recent updates and information.

[back to top](#)

12 people, and several of our employees have taken in 20 or more relatives and friends. Imagine receiving 5, 10, or 15 more people into your home. For most of us, this would be difficult—even impossible.

### Spirit of Community

But the poor of rural Haiti—already struggling to survive—have welcomed their displaced relatives with open arms. The compassion of the poor is a virtue that we could all emulate.



Indeed, there are no “tent cities” in our area. Instead, the meager homes are stretched further, with even more people crammed in, sleeping on the dirt floors. In many of the villages HHF serves, up to 80% of children coming for care are malnourished. And, as bowls of rice must be stretched to feed more people, the hunger will likely become more severe.

There are very few jobs in rural Jérémie, and little opportunity. Who knows when and if Port-au-Prince will be ready for people to return?

These new challenges will remain with us for many years.

### Responding to the Need

The Haitian Health Foundation has been working in Jérémie, Haiti for nearly 25 years. We have built a network covering over 100 rural villages, and we are able to identify those families with the greatest need, including those who have taken in the most displaced people. Our umbrella of care—serving over 200,000 people *before* the earthquake—must now cover another 100,000 people, a 50% increase.

And indeed, we are already feeling the strain. A few examples follow:

#### January

45% of women coming to HHF for their first prenatal visits were from Port-au-Prince.

#### February

30% of new pregnancies registered at the Center of Hope were those of women displaced from the immediate earthquake area.

## March

60% of the women transported by HHF ambulance were earthquake survivors.

70% of women who experienced severe labor complications were from Port-au-Prince.

One HHF health post, in the village of Jourdan, experienced unusually high need:

- 70% of post-natal consultations were displaced women.
- 89% of all prenatal visits were made to women who had fled Port-au-Prince.



HHF began planning to assist earthquake-displaced families the day of the earthquake, but now that the immediate crisis is abating we are able to assess and address long-term needs.

HHF's 5-fold plan is designed to meet the needs of our neighbors in the Grand'Anse.

### Strategic Plan for Earthquake Recovery

1. **Health Care Programs:** HHF must provide continued medical care to the poor and increase its services due to large numbers from Port-au-Prince, with special emphasis on pregnant women and malnourished children. In the month of March alone, consultations at HHF's clinic (*Klinik Pep Bondye-a*) increased by 50%.
2. **Food Distribution:** HHF must continue to purchase and distribute food to displaced persons and their host families. HHF's network of village health workers makes it possible to identify those with the most need and those who have taken in the greatest number of people.
3. **Housing Security:** At least 500 houses—hovels of thatch and banana leaf with mud floors—have been damaged or destroyed by the earthquake. HHF plans to help repair and rebuild these homes.
4. **Educational Support:** Several years ago, HHF constructed St. Pierre School, providing tuition, uniforms, shoes, and a daily meal to over 700 of the poorest children in Jérémie. In addition to our continuing support,

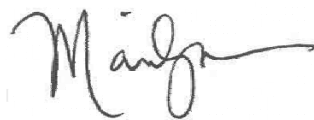
we have started afternoon classes for displaced children from Port-au-Prince—we already serve about 400 additional children in this second session. These youngsters also need books, uniforms, and a daily meal—all to be funded by HHF.

5. **Economic Security:**

- **Microbusinesses:** HHF has already begun working with local volunteer groups, such as village mothers' groups, to establish small businesses in the rural villages. Recently, HHF purchased 150 bales of clothing to help displaced women establish independent enterprises. We have purchased additional saleable items such as bathing and laundry soap, backpacks, shoes, flour, sugar, and other items, which the new residents can sell in the many rural markets dotting Jérémie and the villages.
- **Cash for Work Program:** HHF is working with other NGOs to develop this program, which will provide jobs for displaced people in the areas of road repair, water supply, and other public works-type projects.

We thank you for your outpouring of concern and compassion for the Haitian people. Please continue to keep them in your hearts.

We need continued funding and continued awareness of the plight of the rural poor in the Grand'Anse. On behalf of the people of Haiti, *mesi anpil* for your love, your generosity, and your continued compassion.



E. Marilyn Lowney

Executive Director  
Haitian Health Foundation

*P.S.*

Our staff in the U.S. is small to keep our overhead low, so we welcome your help! We have a PowerPoint presentation, photos, and other fundraising materials—and plenty of ideas! Don't hesitate to ask.

[back to top](#)



**National Volunteer Week**  
From our humble beginnings as a small outpatient clinic to our current outreach to over 200,000 people—volunteers have been essential at every step of the way. In the weeks following the earthquake, we were not surprised that our volunteers

stepped up to the plate immediately: calling, e-mailing, and stopping by to ask, “How can I help?”

And help they did—answering phones, e-mails, arranging transportation of needed food and supplies, developing fundraising posters and presentations, sending thank-you notes—and the list goes on.

Over the years our volunteers have collected hundreds of tons of food, medicine, new shoes, new toys, and other supplies, and they then helped to load our quarterly land-sea containers to Haiti. Think about it: *Nearly every piece of medical equipment and furniture at our facilities in Haiti was once packed in Connecticut!*

We are inspired by the efforts of our volunteers. There is really no way to adequately express our appreciation, but be confident in knowing that your efforts are truly changing lives in Haiti—one person at a time.

For Dr. Lowney’s comments on HHF volunteer corps, [click here](#).

[back to top](#)



[back to top](#)

**Health.**  
*It's more than medicine.*

**Sante.**  
*Se plis ke swen.*

HHF Phone: (860) 886-4357 | [www.HaitianHealthFoundation.org](http://www.HaitianHealthFoundation.org)

[back to top](#)