



Harlem School of the Arts

The Vassar Haiti Project was generously invited by Patricia Neely, Vassar class of '75, to do a presentation on the Project at the Harlem School of the Arts in October. Coordinated by the project manager of outreach, Katie Hoople '11, a group of ten Vassar students and community members went to Harlem and presented our program to HSA clientele. We premiered the documentary on VHP by Maggie Spilman '08, sold handcrafts, and kept our art on the wall for a month, selling \$1500 of art and crafts and raising awareness about Haiti and the Project.

New Initiatives: Trees for Chermaitre Water Purification, & Medical Care

Inspired by conversations with village leaders, VHP is currently undertaking exciting new initiatives. Headed up by Maria Jose '10 and Raluca Besliu '11, Trees for Chermaitre has raised the money to plant 200 fruit and coffee trees on the heavily deforested hillsides around the mountainous village. Five dollars covers the cost to buy and plant a tree. An agronomist will oversee the actual planting of the trees. Other projects that are in the initial planning stages include: 1) efforts to establish water collection and purification systems being coordinated by Rebecca Valencia '11 with the cooperation of local groups of Rotary International; 2) arranging weekly doctor visits to the village through the diligent efforts of Dr. Ted Kaplan and Cap Hatien Health Network in Florida; and 3) a coordinating of new initiatives with the UN.

4X4 Vehicle WANTED



Our contact in Haiti, Pere Jean Lenord Quatorze needs a 4 x 4 vehicle to help him visit the six villages he oversees. Currently, he must walk up to seven hours to reach each village over mountainous unpaved roads. The Vassar Haiti Project will partner with you to cover the delivery of the vehicle

Hurricane Relief

Due to the ongoing food crisis in Haiti, and the more recent tragedy of the devastating damages caused by the four hurricanes that hit the island in the fall, the Project decided to expand its efforts to be able to contribute to relief in dire times such as these. A letter sent out to supporters elicited generous responses and raised sorely needed funds to contribute to the hurricane relief efforts in Gros Morne. Vassar students did their part as well-- Sophie Chambers '10 organized a benefit dinner on the campus, and Yasmina Raiani '12, with the assistance of the Reforestation Committee, organized an open-mic night. Both events were well-attended, and raised awareness and funds for the situation in Haiti. The combined efforts of letter-writing and on-campus benefits raised over \$13,000 for hurricane relief efforts! Pere Quatorze of Gros Morne pledged to use these contributions to buy much needed food, shelter, and medical supplies for victims of the hurricanes.

Roof Blown Off...

In the wake of many successes, we received some unfortunate news recently that the roof of the new school in Chermaitre had been blown off. It had survived the four hurricanes intact, but was lost during a recent severe windstorm. To date, funds from Hurricane Relief efforts have gone toward its repair, and additional funds from upcoming sales will make up the rest, assuring the children of a safe place to study and learn.

