



## Reunion Sportive d'Haiti Summer Soccer Camps Newsletter, Vol.I, Issue I, December 2012

*Reunion Sportive d'Haiti*  
501(c)(3) organization

RSH's Mission is to build skills, character, and communities through sports and education, and to promote the well-being of children in rural Haiti to reach their full potential in society.



**July 2012**

Kids Matching at Reunion Sportive  
Grand Opening Ceremony

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### *Giving Haiti's At Risk-Youths a Better Future: by Jean-Michel Voltaire, Esq.*

Generally, the youths are the most vulnerable members of our society. In Haiti, in the slums and rural areas where we work, these youths are more vulnerable due to their social and economic conditions, or lack of employment and opportunity. They are living in object poverty, without access to clean water, electricity, adequate sanitation, or proper education. Their lives are even more challenging because of the trauma suffered from the 2010 earthquake and recent hurricanes that have killed their parents or friends, destroyed their homes, shattered their hopes and dreams, and rendered many of them homeless. As a result, these young people, who represent more than 60% of the Haitian population, are exposed to violence, drugs, alcoholism, delinquency and a life of idleness. One has to wonder what Haiti will become if we fail to invest in these young people who supposedly represent the future of the country.

We believe for Haiti to rise from its knees, we must invest in its youths.

Thus, every summer, for the past three years, Reunion Sportive d'Haiti ("RSH") organizes youth soccer camps and leadership projects for at risk-youth from impoverished rural communities in Haiti. The purpose of this youth development program is to educate and empower the youths by giving them an opportunity to play sports during the summer, learn life skills through a variety of workshops, seminars, and mentorship by different professionals.

This program also provides them with much needed psychological relief, while simultaneously developing their leadership and inter-personal skills by encouraging positive competition and creating an opportunity for social interaction with families, friends, and neighbors.

# *Giving Haiti's Youth a Better Future*

## **792 Youths Received Soccer Equipment and Food**

Each year, our youth development program grows in size, as many communities are requesting that we extend it to their villages. This year, almost eight hundred young people participated, from 40 villages and towns. We had 36 teams, boys and girls, from ages 10 through 30. We distributed 300 soccer balls, 630 pair of soccer shoes, 550 pair of socks, uniforms, donated by US Soccer Foundation through the Passback Program with Eurosport, Regent Sports, and Alan Polo Company.

All teams received uncooked foods, so that they could have a meal at

home after practices and on days they are not at the camp. We also provided daily meals, drinks, water, and transportation. These foods were provided by USAID, CRS, and Food for the Poor. Without the food, these kids would not have had a daily meal, and most would have gone to bed hungry.



### *Youths Playing the Sport They Love, Interact, and Learn From Each Other*

The camp was opened every day for two months. Each day, six teams played, starting at 2pm until 8pm. Before each game, the participants sang the National Anthem, prayed, and shake each other's hands to show sportsmanship and discipline. Thousands of people attended the games to support their villages.

The girls were very appreciative, as formal soccer camp for girls is new in the area. RSH is the first to organize formal camps

for girls in Port-Salut. The girls' determination was unquestioned. They would get up every day at 5:30 a.m. to practice and exercise, so that they could stay in physical shape. One participant wrote in his essay that the "program helped discover the hidden talents of the young ladies."

Additionally, we had an essay competition. The participants learned to express themselves in writing. They attended various workshops on leadership, conflicts resolution, civic responsibilities, and proper hygiene.

### *Positive Economic Aspect of Our Program*

This program serves as an economic stimulus for the rural communities. We hired 30 local citizens to manage the program. These people would otherwise be unemployed. Hundreds of local merchants attended the games to sell their merchandises to support

their families. Motorcycle taxi drivers earned a living by transporting people to and from the games. As a result, many parents have been able to send their children to school and feed their families.



People attending the games and buying from small merchants



Small merchants selling their products



The people we serve



People watching the kids playing



Warming up before game

## *A Special Thanks to Hansenard Piou*



Board Member Prof. Guida organizing poetry reading to benefit RSH.



Fundraising event at Mr. Chema's Home



Board Member Richard Chema representing RSH At HRA Business Expo, GW University

Hansenard Piou is our Youth Outreach Director, and we are grateful for his leadership and support. He alone has collected more than half of the funds for this year's program. Though he is young, not yet 18 years old himself, he understands the enormous difficulties the youth of Haiti are confronting every day. He has made their cause his own, and invested his time and energy to make a difference in their lives. He has the heart of an angel and the strength of a lion with unmatched leadership.



Hansenard Piou

## *A Special Thanks to Our Supporters and Members of our Board*

We could not have achieved this enormous success this year without our supporters and members of our board. We thank USAID, CRS, and Food for the Poor for donating the food, so that we could feed the children every day; US Soccer Foundation which has donated gently used soccer equipment through the Passback Program with Eurosport and Regent Sport and Alan Polo Company for donating soccer equipment. We send a big and special thanks to Pat N To's Ice Cream, CEEPCO, Aimer Haiti, Haiti Renewal Alliance and all the individuals listed below for their contributions. We thank Prof. Guida for organizing the poetry reading in NYC and Mr. Chema for opening his home for our first fundraising event. Without you, we would not have the funds to buy uniforms, drinks, and cups for the children and their transportation.



Kids having a good time at the camp



*Please continue to support us. You can make a tax-deductible contribution online at :  
Website: [www.RSHaiti.org](http://www.RSHaiti.org),  
or mail a check to: Reunion Sportive d'Haiti  
903 Kennebec Avenue, Takoma Park, MD  
20912 Tel: 301-326-5863*

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