

PAWÒL KONBIT

Office Hours

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 Main: 786.358.0565
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 Open Mon-Fri
 9:00AM-5:00PM
 Sat 12PM-5:00PM

Community Offers

Computer/WIFI use

FREE

Mon-Saturday
 9:30AM-5:00PM

One FREE 10min Phone call to Haiti

Tues, Wed, Sat

Intro to Computer Class

Saturdays
 Noon-2:30
 3month class



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Maggie D. Austin Executive Director

In addition to providing relief to the people of Haiti, our mission guides us to build capacity for the South Florida Haitian community. In the aftermath of the earthquake the outpouring of support from across the world was extremely generous and the response of Haitians living abroad and local organizations has been astounding. The Haitian Diaspora represents a critical force for the country's reconstruction. With an estimated 87% of Haitian professionals living in the United States, the pool of Haitian Diaspora offers diverse expertise. Prior to the earthquake, Haitians sent over \$1.2 billion per year to Haiti in remittances, more than double the value of Haiti's export economy.

Networks of Haitian Americans have existed for many years in the U.S., but the earthquake has brought the significance of these networks to the forefront. It's clear that there's enormous potential for mobilizing this interest among the Haitian Diaspora and wider solidarity movement to take part in Haiti's reconstruction process and in supporting the people of Haiti. Konbit offers considerable capacity to the efforts to continue the meaningful engagement of the Haitian Diaspora and the wider range of diverse organizations in the relief and rebuild process as well as policy issues pertaining to Haiti. Last month, Konbit launched its Diaspora engagement program with a presentation from Retired U.S. Army Major Joseph Bernadel, the representative of the Diaspora on the

Interim Haiti Reconstruction Com-



mission. In addition to our collaborative efforts with the Haitian American professional organizations and the numerous Haiti Hometown Associations, Konbit will be holding advocacy and leadership development workshops for community members. Konbit will build upon the capacity and generosity of its partners and allies to continue to engage the Haitian Diaspora in Southern Florida, and to extend the Konbit model to other U.S. cities with a significant Haitian population.

"Konbit" is a word in Haitian Kreyol for gathering, collaborating and cooperating for the greater good – a concept at the heart our mission.



Haiti In The News



Elections by Marli Lalanne, Deployment

What do a Grammy winner's aspirations, an actor's contempt and a journalist's confusion have in common? You guessed it, Haiti's Presidential elections. For many of us in the diaspora, the August 5th interview with Wyclef Jean and Wolf Blitzer on CNN's Larry King Live ignited the hype about Haiti's upcoming presidential elections. Following the CEP's (Conseil Electoral Provisoire) de-

liberation, the list of presidential hopefuls contracted from thirty four to nineteen

Continued on page 2

Cholera and Tomas: Intensifies Haiti's Crisis By Daby Sully, Deployment Mgr

Over nine months after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Port au Prince, the country faces yet another devastating situation.

The Cholera outbreak has led to over 1000 deaths and left over 16,000 infected people (which only include documented cases) seeking aid in the already crowded hospitals of Haiti. Cholera, an intestinal bacterium, thrives in feces-contaminated water. It is caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholera and the reason it is so deadly is because this bacterium releases a toxin...

Continues on page 2

Cholera and Tomas: Intensifies Haiti's Crisis continued

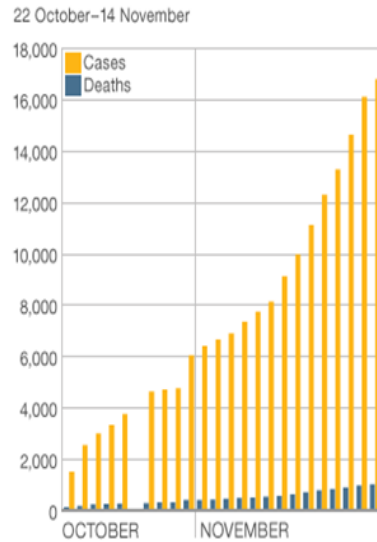
which causes an excess release of water from the intestines.

This leads to severe diarrhea and vomiting and can kill victims within hours if proper rehydration measures are not taken. This contagious disease is rampant in the already languished country, causing an estimated average of 32 deaths every 24 hours since the first known case on October 21, 2010.

The most known cases of Cholera are found in the central Province of Artibonite but now presents itself in all of Haiti's 10 provinces. Already overwhelmed, Haiti encounters another problematic situation with Hurricane Tomas.

Bringing forth 15 inches of water, Tomas exacerbates the spread of the Cholera outbreak as it floods the infected waters of the Artibonite River. These series of unfortunate events definitely put a

Haiti's cholera outbreak



Source: PAHO/MSPP

Graph Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-11767795>

damper on the recovery process for Haiti. Majority of the people affected by the earthquake still live in tents all around the capital, not to mention the pre-existing conditions this country faces due to its lack of clean water and proper sanitation. But we remain optimistic.

In the coming year, more than 270,000 individuals are estimated to become infected with this disease. Though awareness has been brought to Haiti's issues, we must not downplay Haiti's needs or ignore its cry for help. Though in the US we do not find ourselves living in such conditions that would render us susceptible to such illness, communicating the issues and informing the people of preventative measures they can

Elections continued



Haitian citizens excluding Clef but still leaving some influence from the musical world. Renowned Haitian singer Michel Martelly's candidacy was sanctioned by the CEP. Other well-known running candidates include Mrs. Mirlande Manigat and Mr. Charles Henri Baker.

Sunday, November 28th will be an important day in the lives of Haitians everywhere, aligning into an already eventful 2010 for the nation. Several debates have given a fragment of the voting public that has access to media in Haiti a glimpse at the views and plans of the candidates. The diaspora has also been included in this process like never before through presidential debates, notably one at the Florida International University on Sunday November 14, and other individual candidate outreach for fundraisers and support. Throughout the month long campaign season, many allegations have surfaced against political veterans and parties related to the incumbent. Some unknown candidates had a chance to shine to small audiences and many promises have been made. Whatever the outcome of the election we hope that true leaders emerge amidst the ruins and devastation to build a proud and unified Haiti.

HOW TO PREVENT and TREAT CHOLERA By Daby Sully

We must bring awareness by educating the Haitian diaspora on how to treat and prevent the spread of Cholera so that they may communicate this information to their families in Haiti.

If you or someone you know is infected, rehydration is very important. Below are two serum

compositions that are essential to rehydrate infected individuals:

- 1 liter of sanitized water
- 3 tbsp. of brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. of salt
- ½ tbsp. baking soda
- OR
- 1 liter of coca cola
- 2 tbsp. of brown sugar
- 1 tbsp. of salt

To sanitize your water:

16 drops of Clorox to every gallon of boiled water (and up to 32 drops after that). If the water is still not clean enough to use, discard all contents for after 32 drops of Clorox, water becomes hazardous to drink.

1st Annual Taste of Haiti Fundraiser Helping Rebuild Haiti

December 8th, 2010 . 6:30PM-10PM

Sponsored by Good Samaritans for a Better Life

The Aimable Foundation and Konbit for Haiti

Location: Konbit for Haiti: 521 NE 81st ST, Miami

Please send RSVP to Dec8@konbitforhaiti.org

By December 4th (



November 15, 2010 Haitian Consulate holds meeting at Konbit for Haiti By Marli Lalanne

The Haitian Consulate hosted a meeting for the Minister of Haitians Living Abroad at our center in Little Haiti, Monday, November 15, 2010. About thirty members of the diaspora responded to Minister Ed-



win Paraison's convocation. The event materialized into a conclave

where all shared their perspectives and opinions freely as the minister took notes and offered feedback. Out of this exchange, the audience learned about some of the accomplishments of the department such as instituting the "Loi Voltaire."

The goal of the meeting was to present the "Etats Généraux de la Diaspora" to the public _ a detailed outline defining the role of the department of Haitians Living Abroad and the actions needed to strengthen its impact. This document will be showcased and discussed at a conference next year that will regroup about one hundred Haitian descendants from all different sectors of the diaspora. The final outcome of this future meeting will be to produce a detailed report representing the views, needs, requests and contributions of all Haitians living on all continents to the Haitian government.

Koze Ayiti communications of Haiti
Building informed society through communication
Bati yon sosyete byen enfòme ak konnikasyon



Haitian Youth Empowerment, A Day at the Races By Athena Jones

On a bright blue sun filled Florida day, a group of eager and determined sprinters



sprint to their finish in the semi-finals. The noticeable rhythmic cheers are accented by the sounds of whistles and claps. As the racers made their way to the finish, they were winners regardless of their final place. The Coconut Grove bad race now sounds of "compa music" from Haiti brought to the Grove by the Haitian Youth Empowerment Program. 1st & Alton, TRC and Cecil worked with the children and teens at Konbit for Haiti. Each Saturday they decorated the bed and brought it to life. The students were the masterminds and artist behind the beautiful decorations on the, Tap Tap inspired bed. The bed was donated by Bamboo Bob.

Recent Events

October 9, 2010

Oxfam Haitians Leading the Way: The Importance of Agriculture, Decentralization and international cooperation in Post-Earthquake Haiti. By Athena Jones

"Strong [minded] hardworking women can fundamentally revitalize the agriculture trade in Haiti.," Madam Morette encouraged. Madam Jacqueline Morette was a guest speaker at the Haitian Leading the way event. It was hosted by Sophia Lafontant of Oxfam, Kathleen Feliz of Fonkoze and Konbit for Haiti. Morette is the President of the United Women Association in Pouille Haiti. She stressed the importance of education and training all workers regardless of gender but specifically focusing on female farmers. Employment and education of these workers reestablishes



the agriculture trade and rebuilds the foundation of Haiti's agricultural niche and re-defines the country's part in the world market but it must begin know. Morette reiterated , the systemic benefit and the exponential potential and need to educate and employ female agricultural workers topic needs to be a priority, encouraged by GNO's and the USA. Each educated female agrobusiness owner could then pass the knowledge and business to their children, and so on. Thus shifting the overall earning potential of Haitian female Entrepreneurs. This not only benefits the current subsequent earning agricultural revenue potential but could fundamentally re-establish the trade potential of Haiti. The event also featured Leonie Hermantin: Deputy Director of Lambi Fund for Haiti. Doctor Pierre-Michel Fountaine: Professor at the University of Miami.



CECOSIDA: Diversity Issues within the Haitian Community October 23, 2010 by Athena Jones

On Saturday evening a group of 20 spoke candidly about the need for diversity awareness within the Haitian Community. The open Dialogue encouraged tolerance and respect. Vicky Rosenthal is the Project Coordinator of CECOSIDA. Topics ranged from HIV/AIDS, domestic violence to LGBTQ. Regardless of the level of intense conversation, participants continued to listen and be respectful towards each other. This forum will be a series of conversations. The proceedings was filmed by Koze Ayiti.

October 27, 2010 Diaspora Meeting by Marli Lalanne

On October 27, 2010 Konbit for Haiti hosted a Diaspora meeting. About twenty five involved and concerned members of the Diaspora were present and we had the honor of welcoming three special guest speakers: Major Joseph Bernadel, the representative for the Diaspora on the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission (IHRC), Mr. Jean Robert Lafortune, chairman of the Haitian American Grassroots Coalition (HAGC) and Mr. Estanley Baptiste, Silver Knight Award recipient and a Math major at Miami Dade College. We offered a brief media presentation that highlighted the commonalities and connections between the Haitian Diaspora and their counterparts in Haiti. Then, our presenters took the stage to offer a wealth of information and insight on issues, opportunities and roles of the diaspora. Konbit for Haiti launched a bold initiative to quantify the contribution of the Haitian diaspora and collected "Assessment of Diaspora Contribution forms" from all the attendees. Our challenge is to unite the Haitian community at large and we will keep engaging the diaspora through communication, congregation and outreach on a regular basis. We collected feedback from the attendees and are constantly improving in our approach. By collaborating we can ensure that we stay strong, move forward and avoid duplication of efforts. The next official Konbit for Haiti Diaspora meeting is open to be hosted by another concerned member of the diaspora ready to present a productive agenda with a clear goal.

**A Closer Look by
Daby Sully**

KONBIT has done a remarkable job in sending medical professionals on the grounds to provide relief for the suffering people of Haiti. Deploying healthcare workers since January, KONBIT's deployment team set forth on a trip to Haiti to assess the needs, build contacts on the ground and formulate new partnerships to expand our capacity for deployment to different facilities.

To date, KONBIT has sent 176 medical professionals to facilities including Hospital Benard Mevs in Port au Prince and J/P HRO camp in Bourdon. We currently have 24 professionals scheduled in the next two months to travel to Haiti with the aforementioned facilities, as well as to Hospital L'Espoir – one of our recent partners located in Delmas 75. In compliance with our central mission to rebuild and reconstruct a more sustainable Haiti, we have also partnered with the Trauma Resolution Center (TRC) to provide a pre-briefing/training which prepares our deployees for their experience in Haiti. Linda McGlathery who hosts these sessions has been a wonderful addition



(from the left Shalimar , Nancy , Joanna , Daby KONBIT, Linda TRC, Brittany , Nina , and Roxanne

tion to the team. She provides these services by informing our volunteers of the conditions in Haiti, presenting how to cope with stress and demonstrating exercises that would be useful while adjusting to the unfamiliar surroundings. The sessions are followed by a pre-deployment dinner hosted by KONBIT which allows everyone to get acquainted and build relationships that may be essential in enhancing their deployment experience.

Volunteers' Reactions



Konbit Deployment Dinner. (from left to right, Marli Lalanne, Nurse Allana and Daby Sully)

WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT HAITI?

“I am still trying to work through my feelings about my experience. It was tragic and wonderful at the same time. Overall it was well organized... The Haitian staff are the real heroes! Us volunteers come for a week and just when we are getting tired, it's time to go. They however, are the day in and day out with no outlet and no rest. My admiration of their work is boundless.” -Dr. Petrovani, Family Physician

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CASES YOU TREATED AND WHAT EQUIPMENT(S) WERE USED TO DO SO?

We had babies with

sepsis, pre-maturity, staph infections, heart problems, post-op complications, seizure disorders. The equipment used was basic equipment, but we only had infant warmer for premature infants, so we had to move on baby out of the warmer, to make room for the newest one.” –Pippa, RN NICU

HOW WAS YOUR WORKLOAD AND DID YOU FIND TIME FOR YOURSELF TO RELAX BETWEEN SHIFTS?

“I worked very hard. 13 hrs/day but I found it fun and rewarding and did have time to relax after my shift at night. I essentially ran the ICU and the Med/Surg unit, so I was kept busy all day with patient care.” –Dr. Mayer, Internal Medicine Physician

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU NOTICED WERE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR LAST DEPLOYMENT?

This time I was provided the opportunity to work as CMO-manager during my stay. This experience was different from my last visit on February 17 through February 23 because Benard Mevs Hospital seemed to be more in a state of transition... A lot more trauma patients this time including sick babies, gunshot wounds, falling out of trees, sickness in general... Less resources available and people need to be more prepared before they go to Haiti.” – Dr. Thompson, Internal Medicine Physician

HOW TO HELP

You can make a monetary donation to:
 Project Medishare <http://www.projectmedishare.org/our-programs/cholera-response/>
 STAND WITH HAITI <http://www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti/blog-entry/cholera-outbreak-on-the-ground-in-st-marc>
 American Red Cross: 800-733-2767 or www.redcross.org
 Partners in Health: <http://www.pih.org/donate>
 World Vision, Federal Way: 888-511-6548 or www.worldvision.org

Special Thanks

We could not have done this without the massive support provided by SEIU who has allowed KONBIT to really grow and utilize the resources placed in front of us to make this experience a memorable one for everyone who comes aboard. SEIU Thanks!

Building Partners Here and Abroad

Partnerships By Marli Lalanne

Staying faithful to its mission, Konbit for Haiti has ramped up its collaborations and efforts to support progress by unifying the



with Gladys Thomas the president of the Fondation pour les Enfants d'Haiti which is the umbrella organization under which l'Hopital l'Espoir is established. She welcomed Konbit and gave us a tour of the conveniently located and well-equipped guesthouse where she will house the medical volunteers we will send to her hospital in the future.

They recently had a successful re-opening on November 18, 2010 where they were able to celebrate their accomplishments and care for hundreds of patients.

~MIT~

Konbit for Haiti also linked up with Konbit MIT, an initiative aimed at helping NGOs working for Haiti recruit talent in Haiti. The system was developed by MIT graduate students Aaron Zinman and Greg Elliott and allows Haitians to call a number free of charge and answer a series of questions asked in Creole about their skills and experience. Bob Lemoine lent his voice to the project free of charge so that Haitians who call can recognize a familiar voice from Haitian radio. The system records the callers' answers into a database where they can be translated by volunteers and retrieved by employers.

This ground-breaking job search engine is designed to make sure that whether or not a job seeker is literate they can still have a fair shot at getting a job they are qualified for. Koze Ayiti facilitated the beta test for this system in Miami at FANM's community center where they instructed a dozen participants and interviewed some of them. The Miami

Herald also documented this experience. The creators are preparing to launch the system in Haiti in the coming months.

Konbit is also working with a delegation of the Department of Urban Studies & Planning at MIT on community projects in specific neighborhoods in Haiti. Whether it's strengthening the grassroots or opening our doors to different organizations and entities that want to convene in a welcoming space, Konbit for Haiti is dedicated to setting the example of working together in harmony to make a difference.



diaspora and facilitating various partnerships. In September we visited our healthcare partners in Port-au-Prince and formed a new partnership with L'Hôpital L'Espoir in Delmas 75. This newly renovated facility was established in 1993 and is now complete with a maternity ward, psychology department, two operation rooms and a delivery room. We met

School of International and Public Affairs presented Mission to Haiti: The US Role in Reconstruction with the Honorable Kenneth Merten, US Ambassador to Haiti.



Florida African American and Caribbean Empowerment Alliance (FACE)

Primary Elections By Winie Cantave

Florida African American and Caribbean Empowerment Alliance (FACE Alliance) in its statewide GOTV (Get Out The Vote) effort in partnership with SEIU 1199, established an operation center at Konbit for Haiti, in an effort to encourage African American and Caribbean communities to participate in the primary elections. For four days, from the Saturday preceding the November 2 election until that day, 38 canvassers participated in knocking at the door, motivating, educating and encouraging voters to fulfill their civic participation.

This operation was firmly committed to empowerment, leadership development, and mobilization as the path to stronger, more engaged and healthier communities. FACE Alliance develops and promotes community leaders who can continue to fight for social justice and work for more civic engagement among underrepresented communities throughout the state.

FACE Alliance is located at 14645 NW 77th Ave, Suite 201, Miami Lakes, FL 33014. Its Caribbean Outreach branch is located at Konbit for Haiti, 521 NE 81st Street, Miami, FL 33138. Its website's address is: www.facealliance.org.

Where was Konbit?



September 1, 2010
Prior to their trip to Jacmel, the Haitian American Nurses Association (HANA)

gathered volunteers from Miami Dade College to help collect and organize hundreds of donated goods. Their activities were publicized by Island TV, who studio served as the collection site. KONBIT for Haiti was able to sponsor their mission and HANA acknowledged this gesture by inviting the deployment team to speak on KONBIT's behalf.



September 13, 2010

September 22, 2010

The Human Services Coalition hosted a community forum at the Little Haiti Cultural Center to discuss the impact of Haiti Earthquake on South Florida. KONBIT for Haiti was invited to speak under the panel of health to discuss programs provided by KONBIT's Community Center.



October 22, 2010

Florida Atlantic University hosted the Haiti and the Americas Conference which focused on Haiti's history, culture and imaginations abroad. KONBIT had the opportunity to present itself on the non-profit and cultural work panel with FAVA-CA, FIU Information Services and Toussaint L'Ouverture High School.

Be the Change!
By Marli Lalanne

When I asked my sister how to translate the word “volunteer” in Creole, she replied after careful thinking “byen erèz.” This translation is not literal but in the Haitian context, it couldn’t be more accurate. When someone goes out of their way to benefit the well-being of others in the Haitian community, one of two things are put in question, either their motives or the inordinate amount of free time they dispose of.

Growing up in Haiti, I was constantly reminded of how lucky I was to have parents

Volunteer

who were capable of properly feeding, sheltering and educating me. My own awareness of my surroundings, strangers, adults and friends would always advise that I be thankful. Unfortunately, when they talked about giving back to the less fortunate it was in a very mathematical manner. They suggested giving in church on Sundays, sparing some change for a beggar (while being careful of course) or maybe bringing in some non-perishable goods or toys. Sharing these items are nice gestures to be encouraged however it didn’t instill a sense of connection in the community and never seemed to make a lasting impact in the lives of those who needed help.

In our community we have many givers, thinkers and advocates but very few of the volunteers we desperately need. A volunteer is someone who never counts how many hours they’ve worked and lives by what they preach. It is someone who turns problems into solutions with positive thinking and effective teamwork. A volunteer is someone who knows the value of hard work and patience and knows how to celebrate small and big victories. Most of all a volunteer is someone that has found motivation, strength, bliss and love in a cause that defines their purpose in life. I figure even though in Creole my sister used the term “byen erèz” to

describe a nonchalant, care-free individual who is bountifully provided for, the literal meaning of these words “well happy” are a much more adequate description of volunteer because to sum it up a volunteer is someone who is well, very happy. I guess my sister was on to something after all.

Konbit for Haiti is calling out to all volunteers. If you believe in our mission we can use your help to make a bigger impact. “Come with your vision and let us take the journey with you.” Contact us at

“Come with your vision and let us take the journey with you!”

admin@konbitforhaiti.org,
phone number: (786) 358-0565

Upcoming Events at Konbit for Haiti

HOPE FROM HAITI: NEW WORKS FROM HAITIAN ARTISTS & MASTER ARTISANS



AN ART EXHIBITION & SALE CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF HAND, HEART & SPIRIT
OPENING: DECEMBER 4 EXHIBIT DEC. 5-25 / GALLERY TALK: DEC. 9
KONBIT FOR HAITI MIAMI, FL.
THANKS TO BEYOND BORDERS & UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI - PHOTOGRAPHS OF MAGAN JEAN-LOUIS' PAINTINGS BY MAGGIE STEBER

KONBIT FOR HAITI, EPPLE SEED ARTS,
MEN NOU GALLERY & KOZE AYITI PRESENT
HOPE FROM HAITI:
NEW WORKS FROM HAITIAN
ARTISTS AND MASTER ARTISANS

OPENING RECEPTION:
Saturday, Dec. 4, 7:00 PM featuring Miami's premier Haitian world music fusion band MaWoN.

GALLERY TALK:
Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:00 PM: An exploration of art and hand craft as central to human expression in the Haitian experience, and in the universal human experience. Jeff Rogers introduces the work of Epple Seed Arts in the context of social and political realities in Haiti.

HOURS:
After the 5th, Monday through Fridays 9-5
Saturdays and Sundays 2-6 through Dec. 24

LOCATION:
Konbit for Haiti in the Biscayne Plaza Shopping Center at 79th and Biscayne

For more information contact Jeff Rogers at 423.362.0117
or email eppleseedarts@gmail.com

www.konbitforhaiti.org | www.eppleseedarts.com | www.beyondborders.net
www.mennouhaiti.com | www.kozeayiti.org

Haiti's Shoe Box

Giving is the reason for the season.

Sponsored by:
Good Samaritans for a Better Life
The Aimable Theodore Foundation
Konbit for Haiti

Drop off Location: Konbit for Haiti
521 NE 81ST ST
Miami, FL. 33138
786.358.0565

Donations accepted until December 8th, 2010

Items Suggested

Brushes. Combs. travel sized items.
small Vaseline's. Q tips. Lighters.
box matches. Pens. Pencils. Soap.
Razors. small toys. Baby clothes
(newborn-4yrs) small bottles of
bleach, hand sanitizer

Flyer by Athena Jones

