

VOICES OF HOPE FOR HAITI'S FUTURE

edited by Hugh Locke



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January 10, 2020

As this Sunday's anniversary of the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti drew closer, I was annoyed to see reporting that focused exclusively on how bad things still are ten years later. And while the list of entrenched problems the country faces is both long and daunting, a first-time foreign visitor would not recognize Haiti if their only guidebook was this one-dimensional international media coverage. In order to strike some sort of balance, I approached several of my friends with the same question:

What is one thing you and your organization or business have initiated since the 2010 earthquake that you feel will continue to have a positive impact and which gives you hope for Haiti's future?

On the following pages are 46 answers to that question, presented in alphabetical order and starting with a list of contributors. Also added on page 15 is my own response, penned with my colleague Timote Georges on behalf of the Smallholder Farmers Alliance.

HUGH

Hugh Locke

President, [Smallholder Farmers Alliance](#) + [Impact Farming Foundation](#)

ps: each answer includes a website, so please think about making a donation to those that inspire you or buying a product you like.

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Investing in Staff to Learn Business Skills as We Grow Our Business

[2nd Story Goods](#) was conceived in 2011 to train women to make jewelry and home goods. The target consumers were visiting mission groups. It took a few years to realize the greater impact would be to construct a full company to support the makers and to reach markets across the ocean. By 2015 we were a registered Haitian company with full support including a human resources director, quality control, bookkeepers, warehouse inventory managers, and a marketing team. The impact of new skill sets is profound. We're now training to make products using locally grown cotton, and this will further stabilize the economy of families and community.

Kathy Brooks, Director of 2nd Story Goods



New Haitian Spicy Peanut Butter Available in the US

Launched in 2014, [Acceso Haiti](#) is a supply chain social agribusiness that aims to improve smallholder livelihoods through market connections, supply of inputs and credit and improved, sustainable agriculture techniques. To date, Acceso Haiti has supported over 4,000 smallholder farmers in Haiti and has aggregated, aflatoxin tested and delivered over 1,000 MT of peanuts to dozens of local buyers. To continue to grow the formal demand for Haitian peanuts, Acceso Haiti, in partnership with Partners in Health, has recently developed and launched a traditional spicy peanut butter for sale in the US: [Lavi Spicy Peanut Butter](#). Every jar of Lavi sold not only creates jobs and economic opportunities to Haitian farmers, but also provides healthy, fortified snacks to children.

Rob Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, Acceso



Fostering Achievement in Country and City

The [Andrew Grene Foundation](#) was created to commemorate a UN civil affairs officer who lost his life in the earthquake of 2010. Since then, we opened a branch of Fonkoze, the microfinance organization, in Aken, sponsoring numeracy and literacy courses for 2,500 women to date; and we opened and operate a high school in Cité Soleil, the most economically-challenged part of Port-au-Prince. The school has 250 students, and this year achieved a pass rate for the Philo, the college competency assessment, of 100 percent. (For context, pass rate for the region this year was 40.19 percent, according to official statistics.)

Gregory Grene, Tim Perutz, Jane Holden, Directors of the Andrew Grene Foundation

Empowering the Creative Economy

Ciné Institute, Haiti's film school, was born from Festival Film Jakmèl.

Following the earthquake, we grew to become the [Artists Institute](#), a professional training and technical resource center established to empower a youth-led creative economy through local film and music production. Located in Jacmel, the beautiful five-acre campus built following the earthquake features recording studios, video editing suites, production offices and classrooms. Our various collaborations have streamed to over 200 million viewers worldwide and won an Emmy Award. Top Institute alumni are now some of Haiti's most respected next generation audio visual professionals earning well over the national average household income

David Belle and Paula Hyppolite, Co-Founders Artists Institute

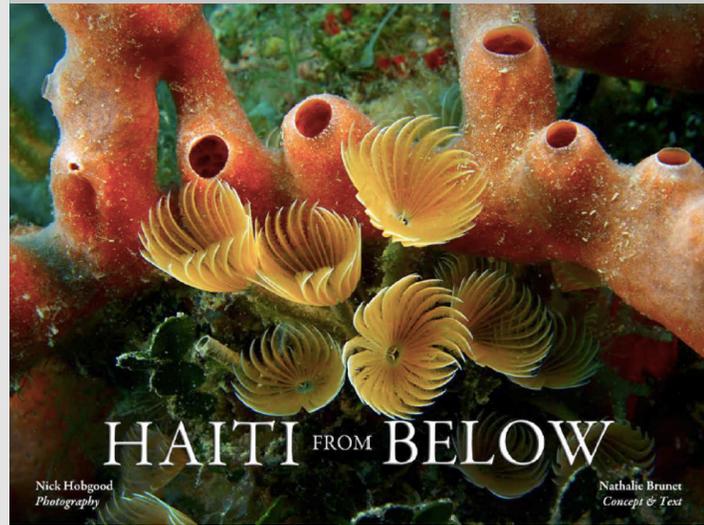


Preserving Our Coral Reefs

Late 2012, wanting to promote public dialogue around the urgent need for conservation of marine resources, [Ayiti Nexus](#) published the coffee table book [Haiti from Below](#) which is a collection of vibrant photographs taken underwater along the northern coastline of Haiti.

The book launched a national debate about preserving Haiti's coral reefs and, coinciding with a series of other environmental initiatives, it contributed to the creation of the first marine-protected parks by presidential decree in October 2013. The power of visuals bearing witness to animal life in key regions of Haiti is an undeniable contribution to this victory. Haiti from Below continues to raise marine awareness and to serve as a marketing tool for coastal tourism initiatives countrywide.

*Nathalie Brunet, Co-Author of Haiti from Below;
Managing Partner, Ayiti Nexus*



Building Up People for Transformation

Through our partnership with local churches outside of Port-au-Prince, [Bright Hope](#) was in the unique position to help these churches absorb the thousands of people displaced from the earthquake. It was a chaotic time of providing life-surviving supplies and equipment, medical assistance and trauma care. The ability to mobilize was so dependent on having the right people on the ground. Since then we have grown the leadership development component within our community development program. Building up people to work together and collaborate has had a transformative effect. We are particularly pleased to see clean water microenterprises/WASH and agriculture efforts on the rise in Haiti.

C.H. Dyer, CEO and President of Bright Hope





Creating Opportunities for Artisans Through Cultural Heritage Preservation and Exports

For the past decade [Caribbean Craft](#) has brought to Haiti many international brands for which we develop collections of handmade goods. We have repositioned the Haitian arts and crafts sector on the international radar right on time to tap into the growing global hand-made market. We also have built a very strong network that trusts us for our commitment to our communities, seriousness and ability to create opportunities for some of the less fortunate. Strong mechanisms and strategies are in development in order to build an impactful label for the sector. This inclusive label will be the backbone to a market driven approach for job creation.

Magalie Noel Dresse, President and CEO of Caribbean Craft



Building Resilient Communities Through Partnership & Dialogue

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, [Concern's](#) spirit was exemplified by head driver Wilquence, who had lost a child, but arrived within 48 hours, declaring: "We're here, alive and ready to work." Within months, we had created a massive safety net that supported and protected over 130,000 thousand people with clean water, temporary shelter, cash for work, small business grants, and a network of nutrition centers and temporary classrooms across the city. Today we are focusing on the most vulnerable at-risk communities, such as Cite Soleil, to help reduce the risks to natural disasters, ensure the protection of children, and build sustainable livelihoods.

Kwanli Kladstrup, Haiti Country Director for Concern Worldwide



Committed to Improving Education Nationwide

Launched in 2007, the [Digicel Foundation](#) committed to improving educational infrastructure by building schools which were safer and more adapted to modern learning standards. During the Foundation's first years, 20 schools were built. After the 2010 earthquake, the decision was taken to intensify the program, and to date 179 schools have been built across the country providing a conducive learning environment to over 60,000 children. In parallel, the Foundation has also invested in the quality of education provided at these schools through its professional development program which aims to upskill principals and teachers by delivering training and accompaniment in the field.

Sophia Stransky, Digicel Foundation CEO

Reaching the Unbanked Population to Bridge the Gap and Empower Populations

Digicel's MonCash—called Tchotcho Mobile at its infancy—debuted in 2010 initially as a grant-based project after the earthquake to reach highly impacted communities underserved by formal banking services. Over time, the product grew its network to over 3,500 agents and was repositioned to become part and parcel of its users' daily lives. Today MonCash offers convenience, security and reliability while serving over 1.5M Haitians and facilitating transfers amongst wallet users, bill and merchant payments and top-up purchases. In the near future, MonCash aims to further bridge the gap by facilitating money transfers between the Haitian diaspora of various locations and their loved ones in-country.

Nathaelle F. Chavenet, Head of MonCash at Digicel



Creating Badass Haitian Superheroes to Engage Youth

My first Haitian superhero, [Djatawo](#), made his debut in 2013. He was created when I was being mentored by Rich Buckler, the legendary comic artist known for his work with Marvel and DC Comics. Since then other superheroes have followed, but the guiding principle remains the same: I want to use comics to raise awareness, particularly among youth, about Haitian culture as well as the social and environmental challenges we face as a nation. Next will be Tanama, and she will soon be using her superpowers to support smallholder farmers as they combat climate change through tree planting.

Anthony Louis-Jeune (Thony Loui), designer and comic book artist



Solar-powered Electricity Grids Empowering Rural Towns

Building on clean energy initiatives launched in 2009, [EarthSpark International](#) and its in-country partner, [Enèji Pwòp](#), launched the country's first solar-powered electricity grid in the town of Les Anglais in 2015. While only 30% of Haiti has access to some grid electricity, access to electricity in rural areas is only 5-10%. Homes and businesses connected to Enèji Pwòp grids enjoy affordable, 24/7, electricity powered by the sun. EarthSpark's award-winning "feminist electrification" approach empowers women as it energizes towns. Just last month we launched our second grid in the town of Tiburon, and plans are underway for several dozen more grids in the coming years.

Allison Archambault, President of EarthSpark International





Empowering Communities to Thrive in Every Season

Fonkoze is a Haitian organization founded in 1994 by a group of grassroots leaders - to empower Haitians, primarily rural women, with financial and accompanying development services to lift their families out of poverty. Since its inception, Fonkoze has been fulfilling this mission - through every natural disaster that has hit Haiti since. As a result, hundreds of thousands of disenfranchised families across the country are now equipped with the tools, knowledge and resources to not only survive an earthquake like the one in 2010 - but to rebuild and thrive in spite of it.

Carine Roenen, Executive Director of Fonkoze Foundation



Combining Recycling, Farming and Sports

Fondation L'Athletic D'Haiti (FLADH) has been serving the youth in marginalized areas like Cite Soleil since 1993 through sports and education. Since the earthquake, while our sports and academic programs are still going strong, we added a waste and recycling center, **Natura Compost**, and a teaching farm to close the circle in how we serve our youth and their families. We believe that sports and academics are important foundations for the kids we serve, but we also believe that the success of future generations must start with our kids and their families knowing how to care for the environment and how to replenish the soil organically, so that in turn they can grow healthy food while enriching their hearts and minds.

Robert Duval, President and Founder of Fondation L'Athletic D'Haiti (FLADH) and Natura Compost



Investing in Farmers and Planting Small Forests

One thing we have done at **Haiti Friends** is to really invest in the farmers in the rural countryside. We have provided technical support and supplies to farmers to rethink the way they farm their land. We have seen substantial growth in household incomes, and vast improvement in quality of the soil, creating greater yields. The millions of trees that we have planted with the farmers are turning into small forests throughout the Artibonite that are now visible from satellite images. I have hope that collectively we can #ReforestHaiti and create a lush, sustainable, environment of abundance for the future of Haiti.

Edward Rawson, Executive Director of Haiti Friends



Building Houses, Changing Lives

After the January 12, 2010 earthquake, [Haitian Connection](#) started our project of building houses for women and their children to provide them with a secure, safe place to live. Nobody can take that away from them, and it is a life changing gift that the women did not even dare to dream about. Each house has 3 rooms, a latrine, and a veranda. Between 8 to 10 people find employment during the construction of each home, and they were built in rural communities near Jeremie. It allows women to start a small cottage type industry, and most important to them, with the money earned they can now send their children to school.

Renate Schneider, President Haitian Connection



We Arrived After the Earthquake and Continue to Provide Medical Care

[Hands Up For Haiti](#) (HUFH) began when a small team of volunteer health professionals travelled to Cap-Haïtien following the 2010 earthquake. The city, while not directly affected, was home to many who fled Port-au-Prince and needed medical attention, particularly children. Today, HUFH supports a Haitian staff of more than 40 medical and other professionals as well as community health workers and lay staff. Programs include fighting malnutrition, cervical cancer screen and treat, hypertension screen and treat, prenatal care, the community water project, community health education, and a hospital and surgical fund. HUFH has also made a commitment to train the next generation of doctors and nurses.

Karen Akst Schecter and Thermitus Jean, respectively Executive Director and In-Country Executive Director, Hands Up for Haiti



Investing in Agricultural Training for Best Practice Farming

[Haven](#) continues a strong focus on the training elements for farming, which are an essential part of the support offered to local farmers, agronomists and students. To date 681 have benefited from training that includes environmental management, crop management, climate change agroforestry, and routes to market, to name a few. Focused in the rural areas of Cavailon, le Caye and Ile a Vache, the results have been tangible improvements in best practice farming, food security and becoming sustainable. We are continuing our work to further stabilize the economy as well as local families and their communities.

Damien Meaney, Country Director of Haven





Providing Opportunity for Deserving Students

HELP is Haiti's largest university scholarship program which began in 1996 with \$30 and a single student. The earthquake took two of our students and HELP's facilities were destroyed. But HELP immediately engaged its students as volunteers for organizations like the American Red Cross. Over 97% of HELP students participated in relief and recovery efforts. This approach to service developed into HELP's 4-year citizenship and leadership curriculum, through which all students volunteer at least 12 hours per month tutoring, mentoring, even street cleaning. This experience furthers HELP's goal of creating a new class of leaders in Haiti. To date, HELP has graduates who include six Fulbright Scholars, business owners, founders of civic organizations and community leaders who are working to expand opportunity in Haiti.

Conor Bohan, Founder and Executive Director, HELP



Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in the Artibonite

The rehabilitation services and physical therapy (PT) program at **Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti** (HAS) quickly grew upon its founding following the devastating earthquake in 2010; today it remains one of the few functioning Rehab/PT programs in the country. The HAS Rehab/PT program plays a crucial role in caring for patients throughout the hospital: the team is directly involved in caring for orthotics or prosthetics patients, children with development delays, stroke and trauma victims, and many others. While the number and complexity of patients treated in the Rehab/PT clinic continues to increase each year, the staff is committed to ongoing professional development so they can provide the best possible care for each and every patient.

Jessica Laguerre, Administrative Chief of Staff, Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti



Diverse Set of Schools and NGOs Link Up to Build Opportunity

Dr. Carmelle Bellefleur, Professor Emerita of Nursing at the State University of New York, wanted an accessible learning center built in her native Haiti. She had already established a nursing school with l'Université d'État d'Haiti in 2013. Then she purchased 40 acres of land in Akayè to donate to something big. With support from the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**, 13 **SUNY** schools partnered with local leaders and five core partners (Haiti Development Institute, Hope on a String, YouthBuild International, AME-SADA and the Salesian Sisters) to design the Sustainable Village & Learning Community. They hope to break ground in 2020 on several educational centers that will fuel economic growth and community development.

Amy Bracken (WKKF) and Rosemary Ortlieb-Padgett (SUNY)

Beauty Products That Change Lives

Kreyol Essence makes natural and ethical beauty products sourced with ingredients from Haiti. Since the earthquake, the company has created work for over 300 farmers and women producers with its signature products: Haitian Castor Oil, Haitian Moringa Oil and Haitian Vetiver Oil. We have worked for over three years to penetrate the main stream beauty market in order to scale and stabilize our social impact. Expansion plans are now underway with specialty and natural retail partners such as ULTA and Whole Foods Market to have Kreyol Essence products in 2,000 stores. That will translate into sustainable work for 1,000 producers and seasonal/part time farmers, and within five years the goal is to be able to impact 30,000 households in Haiti.

Yve-Car Momperousse, CEO of Kreyol Essence



Here for the Long Run

LIDÉ began as a short-term project to strengthen resilience for adolescent girls after the earthquake. But, the factors that make girls vulnerable to disasters and crises stem from ongoing challenges of poverty, infrastructure, and barriers to education, healthcare, and opportunity. “Relief” is not enough. These issues need long-term solutions. That’s why, for over 1,000 girls in rural Haiti, LIDÉ provides year-round systems of support that strengthen resiliency through the arts, literacy, and academic skills, including programs for youth with disabilities, and offer counseling, health education and basic care, and scholarships. LIDÉ also has trained hundreds of educators and other NGOs to cope with the psychosocial impacts of disaster or violence as is being experienced now.

Dr. Kathryn Adams, Holiday Reinhorn, and Rainn Wilson, Co-founders, LIDÉ



Sisal Rebounds Due to Worldwide Natural Fibers Trend

Haiti once had a sizeable share of the international sisal fiber market and produced some of the highest quality product in the world. Cheaper nylon substitutes led to the near collapse of sisal, but in 2010 the **North Coast Development Corporation (NCDC)** set out to revive the crop—spurred on by new demand for natural fibers along with interest from a Haitian company that needed more sisal to meet export demands. To date NCDC has planted almost 500 hectares, employs 25 full time staff and up to 100 seasonal part-time workers. Current sales average 4,000 kgs per month, but this will increase as more sisal becomes mature enough to harvest.

Ann Piper, Director of the North Coast Development Corporation





Two Churches Working Together in Solidarity

[Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic](#) (OLQP) Church in Virginia joined Saint Joseph Church in Medor, Haiti in a parish twinning relationship in 1997. The objective is to help the people of Medor raise their standard of living while deepening the relationship between the people of both communities. OLQP provided funds to build the primary and secondary schools, and continues to support a good portion of the expenses of the schools, as well as clean water, sanitation, and agro-forestry activities. The earthquake destroyed Medor's primary school and damaged its church; OLQP provided funds to rebuild and repair them. The twinning relationship between Saint Joseph of Medor and OLQP is one of hundreds of such relationships made possible through the [Parish Twinning Program of the Americas](#).

Sue Carlson, M.D., Chair, Haiti Ministry, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church



Changing Youth Destiny Through Basketball

The [Pétion Basketball Academy](#) (PBA) began in 2016 to provide a safe place for boys and girls—ages 6 to 18 and from all over Port-Au-Prince—while teaching them the fundamental skills of basketball. Using the facilities of Collège Catts Pressoir, PBA offers preliminary and advanced training sessions after school and on Saturdays, with a two-month training in the summer. Chess classes teach players to think strategically for both basketball and life. There is a tuition, but scholarships are available for youth whose families cannot afford the fees. Over the past three years, several PBA participants have been recruited by US talent scouts and given full scholarships for high-school, with the possibility of college scholarships to follow.

Sebastien Pétion, Founder and Head Coach of Pétion Basketball Academy



Education is the Only Solution

In 2010, the [Foundation for Progress and Development](#) (PRODEV) established a model school in Zoranje. Located on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Ecole Nouvelle Zoranje provides a quality, free education to nearly 600 children who might not otherwise attend school. The beautiful and fully accessible campus features fruit trees, playgrounds and internet access while the curriculum emphasizes holistic child development practices. Education that nurtures students' creativity while encouraging them to become engaged citizens is the only way to guarantee a brighter future for Haiti, and PRODEV is proud to be a leader in designing new and innovative strategies to strengthen education in Haiti.

Maryse Pénette-Kedar and Lucienne "Milou" Brutus, for the PRODEV Foundation

Training the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals

[Project Medishare](#) has been working in Haiti for over 25 years providing Healthcare. The devastating 2010 earthquake created a special union between Project Medishare (PM) and Hospital Bernard Mevs (HBM). After moving the PM tent hospital off the tarmac and into HBM's facility, we've spent the last decade training Haiti's next generation of healthcare leaders. Medical residency programs and volunteer visits have allowed for hundreds of essential training and educational opportunities for medical professionals. Ten years later, the hospital and all PM programs are fully staffed by Haitians. We will continue taking these steps to create a more sustainable Haiti.

Renee Lewis, Executive Director of Project Medishare for Haiti



Solar Cooking & Biodigesters for a Brighter Future

[Public-Private Alliance Foundation](#), [Solar CITIES Global Biogas Education](#), [KDCK](#), [Solar Cookers International](#) and others are collaborating with the [Université Notre Dame d'Haiti at Hinche](#) to conduct what we believe is Haiti's first university course and related efforts on solar cooking, bio-digesters for biogas cooking and fertilizer for a tree nursery. The focus is on classwork, community outreach and entrepreneurship. Objectives are to promote innovation, enhance the school's biomedical and nursing programs, replicate the course elsewhere, and reduce health and environmental damage from cooking with charcoal.

David Stillman, Public-Private Alliance Foundation; Kathy Puffer, Solar CITIES Global Biogas Education; Rose Bazile, KDCK and Université Notre Dame d'Haiti at Hinche; Alan Bigelow, Solar Cookers International; and, Father Herald Jean, Executive Vice Rector, Université Notre Dame d'Haiti UDERS de Hinche



Partnering in Education

[Purchase College](#) is invested in building the infrastructure for sustainable exchange programs with Haitian-based partners. Our transnational film program led the way for us with the Artists Institute, in Jacmel, while simultaneously FOKAL continues to provide the stabilizing guidance as we work to lay the groundwork for an ongoing free exchange of students studying in Africa, Haiti, and the US. Concurrently, Purchase is a partner in SUNY's learning through development program supported by the Kellogg Foundation.

Barry Pearson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Anne M. Kern, Dean for Global Strategy and International Programs, Purchase College





Empowering People to Create Wealth in Rural Communities

Raising Haiti Foundation was founded in 2014. It uses the 3LEGS model to create wealth in rural communities through: grassroots organizing, higher education and growing small businesses through tree planting. Since its founding, 22 students have received university scholarships and promise to return to rural communities after graduation to promote prosperity. Six hundred farmers have been enrolled in a new “tree currency” program in partnership with Smallholder Farmers Alliance, improving the environment and increasing their incomes. Two recent university graduates are enrolled in a microcredit internship with the goal of starting microcredit programs in 2 communities, providing small loans to women farmers.

David Hoffman, President of Raising Haiti Foundation



Creating Wealth and Changing Communities through High Value Agricultural Production

After the 2010 Earthquake, **REBO Group** created a new company to focus exclusively on high-potential agricultural value chains. That company, PISA's, main focus has been to tackle the collapse of coffee production after Hurricane Matthew and the Rust epidemic. Seeing the despair of farmers, the company deepened its partnership with UPAB, a grower association in Thiotte and produced 700 Thousand rust-resistant coffee seedlings in the Southeast. Most were planted in the past 3 years, impacting 500 farmers. PISA also created a large size, model farm, planted in a sustainable, multi-crop model to be copied. PISA also works with producers, facilitating access to organic inputs, seedlings and technical support.

Gilbert Gonzales and Jean-Marc Ewald, respectively CEO and Head of PISA-Southeast Operations for REBO Group



Community-Driven Development on La Gonave

Roots of Development/Rasin Devlopman works on Haiti's largest island, La Gonave. Our mission is to improve quality of life on the island by strengthening the capacity of local leaders and helping them acquire greater ownership over their own development. Since the earthquake, we have provided professional leadership and capacity-building workshops to over 340 community leaders and elected officials from every communal section on La Gonave. Our work has increased management capacity on the island, which has led to locally initiated and locally owned development initiatives that have increased access to housing, clean water, energy, and employment opportunities on the island.

Chad W. Bissonnette of Roots of Development and Faradhia Moise of Rasin Devlopman

Green Healing in Cite Soleil

When aid came to Haiti following the 2012 earthquake, it did not make its way to Cite Soleil and the community continued to be the most marginalized and impoverished part of the country. [Sakala](#) was established in response to that situation. Our first step was to create an urban garden—now the largest in the nation—in order to bring the healing power of nature to this forgotten place. The moringa tree is a dominant feature in the garden, providing nutrients as locals consume its leaves and giving hope as it thrives in a tough environment. Sakala is now being recognized internationally for its development work and we remain committed to improving life in Cite Soleil.

Daniel Tillias, Founder of Sakala



Taking Traveler Health Emergency Care to a New Level

On August 2019, [Santé Nou](#) launched the first nationwide health emergency care platform for travelers to Haiti. The service is linked to the primary care needs of loved ones in Haiti. During a health emergency, Santé Nou dispatches Local First Responders equipped with medical kits to begin administering critical care. Ground and air ambulances are mobilized to transport the injured to affiliated hospitals located in and out of Haiti. Beginning this month (January 2020)

Santé Nou, will kick-off the primary care service by deploying 571 Local Primary Care Providers to provide primary care in every section communale in Haiti. Coupled with affiliated hospitals, clinics and LPPs, the Santé Nou service is truly accessible and affordable to everyone.

Dr. Raj Dahiya, Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of Santé Nou



When Small Producers Have Direct Market Access, Haiti Prospers

[Singing Rooster](#) is a social enterprise nonprofit. We have an integrated supply chain benefiting small producers in coffee, cacao and art. Our partnership model is holistic, and our collective goal is to replant bare mountains with cash crops and to build international markets for world-class products: wholesale / retail / fundraising with Haitian coffee, chocolate and art.

Molly Nicaise and Christophe Nicaise, co-founders and CEO and VP, respectively, of Singing Rooster





New Data App Supporting Smallholder Agriculture

Graduate students from the [SIPA Capstone Program](#) at Columbia University are now in their third year of working with the [Smallholder Farmers Alliance](#) (SFA) and [Timberland](#) on a new data app. This pioneering effort is giving Haitian farmers access to both data and financial tools at the same time as registering the impact of individual crops on farmer income, food security, climate change, biodiversity and women's empowerment. The initial focus is on connecting SFA farmers to the high value cotton export market, but the app is being designed to be applicable to any smallholder-grown crop in any country.

Suzanne Hollmann, Director of SIPA Capstone Program, Columbia University



Planting Trees to Finance Farm and Community Improvements

The [Smallholder Farmers Alliance](#) began its work in February of 2010. Since then farmer members have planted over 7.5 million trees, with each tree earning them credits they exchanged for both agricultural and community services. Farm yields and income have been improved, and reforestation has been advanced, through this "tree currency" model. We have now embarked on a new plan, in partnership with [Timberland](#) and in consultation with the [Ministry of Environment](#), to plant 25 million more trees over the next five years. And each tree is currency that will be used to finance farm and community improvements.

Hugh Locke and Timote Georges, Co-founders of the Smallholder Farmers Alliance



Tackling the Sanitation Crisis With an Environmental Solution

For over 13 years, [SOIL](#) has been demonstrating that it is possible to sustainably provide safe, ecological sanitation services in some of Haiti's most under-resourced urban communities. Following an extensive emergency sanitation response to the devastating 2010 earthquake, SOIL has expanded its internationally-recognized household sanitation service in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien, which now provides 6,500+ people with safe, in-home sanitation. By treating and transforming 400+ tons of waste each year into agricultural-grade compost, SOIL is helping stop the spread of diseases like cholera, nurturing local economies, cultivating food production, rebuilding vulnerable ecosystems, combatting climate change, and nurturing a more resilient future.

Sasha Kramer, Co-founder and Executive Director of SOIL

From a Street Clinic to a 100 Bed Hospital

In 2009 [St. Luke Foundation for Haiti](#) was running small schools and street clinics in Port-au-Prince. With the critical need for hospital space, generated by the earthquake in Jan of 2010, St Luke took their medical team, along with volunteer doctors and nurses, and moved them into a make-shift hospital constructed with shipping containers. At the end of 2010, the cholera outbreak saw St. Luke expand the hospital into a temporary structure, the equivalent of a pole barn. In 2015 they started construction on a state-of-the-art 100 bed family hospital that today serves 400 to 500 patients per week in both outpatient and inpatient consultations. Plans are currently in work to add even more capabilities to serve the people of Haiti.

Fr. Rick Frechette, President, St. Luke Foundation for Haiti



Sister Parishes United in Faith, Hope, and Purpose

[St. Mary Catholic Church](#) of Huntley, Illinois was “twinned” with St. Louis King of France parish in Leger in 2009 through the [Parish Twinning Program of the Americas](#). With the earthquake destroying the church and school, our resources were directed at a complete rebuild. Subsequent focus was on supporting parish ministries and expanding the school to over 400 students. St. Mary supported college students have returned to teach in the school, open a medical clinic, and assist the farmers. Recognizing that increasing the productivity of small-scale farmers was central to economic improvement led to our 2018 partnership with SFA utilizing the “tree currency” model. Over 10,000 trees have been planted and productivity is improving through the distribution of tools, quality seed, and training. We and, more importantly, the participating farmers, believe the future is much brighter as a result of this program.

Rich Wiltz, Haiti Ministry, St. Mary Catholic Church



Bringing Dignity to Waste Management

[Thread International](#) began working with waste collectors in 2011. Since then, the organization has worked with hundreds of individuals working in waste collection, partnered with sister organization WORK to bring critical assistance and services to this population, and has driven demand from multinational corporations including HP, Marmot, and Timberland for responsibly collected recycled material from Haiti. These partnerships have resulted in substantial international investment in recycling technology in Haiti, the growth and sustaining of Haitian owned recycling centers across the country, and has transitioned more than 100 children who used to be full time waste collectors into full time students.

Viv Luk and Kelsey Halling, respectively the Executive Director of WORK and Head of Partnerships at First Mile





First Cotton Export in 30 Years

Timberland has partnered with the [Smallholder Farmers Alliance](#) (SFA) since 2010 to plant trees in Haiti. In 2016 we also joined forces to research the possibility of reintroducing commercial cotton growing after a 30-year absence. This resulted in 100 farmers harvesting their first crop in January of last year. It was exported in August and the cotton was woven into fabric that is now in the hands of Timberland's product designers. Cotton was once Haiti's fourth largest agricultural export, and its return holds promise for the country's agricultural economy. We will continue to support the SFA to scale both its tree planting and cotton growing to positively impact thousands more farmers in the coming years.

Atlanta McIlwraith, Senior Manager for Community Engagement & Communications, Timberland



Creating Jobs Through Agroforestry

The 2010 earthquake shook [Trees That Feed Foundation](#) too! It triggered our work in Haiti. We started planting thousands of fruit trees. Fruit trees provide food for decades, they benefit the environment, and they also can create jobs. We help smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs to start small businesses in food production. We buy their products for 2 or 3 years, to get them established. Then we back off. Those businesses become a permanent, important part of the local community—boosting agroforestry, hiring staff, feeding schoolchildren. Our entrepreneurs gain a livelihood, and a sense of pride and dignity. The photo shows freshly baked *konparets* made with breadfruit flour.

Mary and Mike McLaughlin, co-founders, Trees That Feed Foundation



Supporting Economic Development in the North

Following an agreement signed between the Haitian government, the US government and the IADB, [Unité Technique d'Exécution](#) (UTE/MEF) began building the Caracol Industrial Parc (PIC) in 2012 to support the economic development in the North and counterbalance the economic concentration in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. Since its opening, the PIC has created more than 14,000 direct jobs and thanks to the PIC's power plant, 14,758 customers in the surrounding communities have continuous access to electricity. The forthcoming extension of the PIC is expected to create 6,000 additional jobs. An energy project will finance two new solar plants that will be built inside the Parc and will offer a green energy of a capacity of 12 MW which will help expand the distribution network.

Pierre-Michel Joassaint, Executive Director of Unité Technique d'Exécution

Establishing a Culinary Arts School

World Central Kitchen (WCK) was founded in 2010 following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. In 2015, WCK established a culinary program in partnership with the Haitian Department of Education, and in 2017, we built and opened our own École des Chef culinary school in Port-au-Prince. Now the country's premier culinary school with over 40 students graduating each year, École des Chef is creating a talented workforce for Haiti's hospitality sector. Upon graduation, students are placed in internships with hotels and higher end restaurants. The majority of these placements turn into full-time offers of employment for our graduates.

Alexandra Garcia, Chief Program Officer of World Central Kitchen



Environmental Awareness for a Difference

Wynne Farm, created in 1956, is a private enterprise in the heights of Kenscoff, Haiti. Since 1994 it has been open to the public as a natural reserve. Its foundation, "Fondation Wynne pour l'Environnement" has been conducting ecological guided tours, internships for agronomy students, farmers workshops on sustainable agriculture and school programs for environmental awareness. We receive approximately 15,000 visitors per year at an affordable entrance fee teaching the importance of preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development for the healing of planet Earth. People are also encouraged to redefine their priorities to contribute to a greener, more sustainable Haiti.

Jane Wynne, Coordinator of Wynne Farm

