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H.E.A.R. Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to empower individuals and organizations through funding health projects, educational programs, and relief work. H.E.A.R. is committed to helping individuals attain independence and self-sufficiency, particularly those members of the world community who are often neglected and forgotten.

Please consider donating to any one of HEAR's many worthy programs, either through our website or by mail.



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ISSUE
03
Third
Quarter
2008

Health Education & Relief Foundation

Quarterly
Journal of
HEAR Project
Development

HEAR US



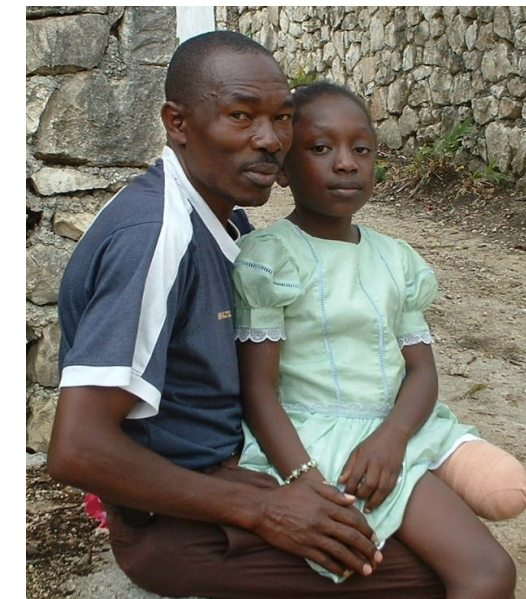
Did you HEAR...? Foundation update

Meet our new Director HEAR welcomes James M. Weiss on the Board of Directors. With the addition of Jim Weiss, HEAR now has Directors stationed in three states and two regions of the U.S. Jim lived and worked in the Chicago area for twenty-one years before moving to Concord, MA where he presently lives and runs Weiss Capital Management. Jim entered the investment management business in 1972 and began his own firm in 2002. He has four children, soon to be six grandchildren, and was married to his late wife for thirty-seven years. Jim has a long history of involvement in nonprofit activities dating back to his days in Glenview, IL when he was a charter member of the Glenview Education Foundation. Currently, he is on the Board of Gaining Ground (Concord, MA) an organic produce farm which grows and distributes 20,000 pounds of produce each year to food pantries while hosting over 2,000 volunteer visits to the farm yearly. Jim is most excited to be a part of HEAR because of its ability to provide high-impact support directly to individuals and activities.

HEAR Forges New Partnership with Little by Little

Earlier this year in Gramothe, Haiti, four children were hit by a car while walking home from school. While three were killed, Laissa survived but was forced to sacrifice her left leg. Her family could not afford a prosthetic leg and due to her disability, Laissa could no longer get to school. A group of volunteers from Little by Little, a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization in Illinois, recognized the severity of the situation during a medical trip to Gramothe and is now determined to help Laissa. HEAR decided to give Little by Little a grant in hopes that it will be able to achieve this goal.

Little by Little is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Haitian citizens in the village of Gramothe, Haiti. In the realization of this mission, they concentrate on primary health care and



Laissa in Gramothe, Haiti with her father

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maternal/child wellness.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. It is a country where the life expectancy is 53 years, 42% of the population is under 14 years of age, and there are only 2.5 doctors for every 10,000 people. Little by Little does what it can to relieve as much suffering in Haiti as possible. On week long medical mission trips to Gramothe, Little by Little volunteers see and treat more than 200 patients each day.

On July 26, 2008, Little by Little held a fundraising event called Swim for A Limb from which all proceeds went towards giving Laissa a prosthetic leg. The event was organized by Jill Cordes, a Glenbrook South High School student whose mother was a member of the team of doctors that met Laissa during the medical mission. As an athlete, Cordes was saddened to hear that after Laissa's accident she could not walk and therefore, could only go where her father carried her.

The HEAR Foundation has contributed to this effort to bring Laissa to Chicago where she can get a prosthetic leg and subsequent medical treatment. Susan Walsh, executive director of Little by Little, has expressed her gratitude to

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HEAR. "[I] feel privileged that Little by Little and Laissa are among [HEAR's] worthy efforts," she says. Nonetheless, Laissa's operation involves more than money.

Little by Little continues to wait in anticipation for Laissa's acceptance from Shriner's Hospital for Children, where the operation may take place. "We continue to be very hopeful, and we all persist with our diligent prayers," Walsh says.

Little by Little's mission to provide education, healthcare, and wellness resonates strongly with the HEAR Foundation. HEAR is honored to contribute to Little by Little's cause to assist Laissa. Walsh also believes the relationship between the two organizations is advantageous. "With [HEAR's] help we can continue to faithfully partner with those in need of improved health and well being, little by little," she says.

HEAR Supports the Sewing and Jewelry-Making Effort at the Marta and Maria Girl's Home

In November a small team of HEAR sponsored volunteers will head to the Marta and Maria Girl's Home in Jalapa, Guatemala to further develop the jewelry, beading, and sewing project which was initiated last year. Since that time, the residents of Marta and Maria have learned a variety of beading techniques and have profited from selling the bracelets, necklaces, and eyeglass holders they created. After seeing the initial successes of the program, the HEAR Foundation recently decided to give a grant directly towards this promising project. "We are profoundly grateful to the HEAR Foundation for its donation," says Clare Kunkel, a volunteer who has been dedicated to the project since its inception and who has more or less assumed the role of director of the program.

Upon arrival in Guatemala, the team will purchase high quality beads, gems, stones and other materials which they will deliver to the Girl's Home. In addition to building upon basic skills that the residents already own, the team plans to introduce more complicated designs and



Residents of Marta and Maria don the clothing they made

products, such as earrings. After the trip in November, the residents of Marta and Maria will have the skills and materials to improve both the quality of their product and the quantity of their output.

While the Home provides a supportive and nurturing environment for its residents, the ultimate goal for all of the programs instigated at the Marta and Maria Girl's Home is to provide the girls and young women with the means to become self-sufficient in the future, particularly after they move out of the Home. Beading, jewelry making, and sewing are valuable skills that will not only generate a profit for the Home, but it will also bring each girl a step closer to living independently in the future.

Another purpose of the trip is to secure the sustainability of the sewing and jewelry-making program itself. Making connections with purveyors and vendors in Guatemala is crucial to this end. These connections will also allow the Marta and Maria Girl's Home to participate in and contribute to the local economy. The team will continue to train the resident nuns, who serve as supervisors, and the older girls in the Home to be sewing and jewelry-making instructors.

"[HEAR has] supported us throughout each phase of the program's implementation, beginning with the sewing initiative and continuing with the beading. Without HEAR's financial gifts, we would not have been able to move our work forward," says Kunkel.



(left) Jewelry made by the residents of Marta and Maria

HEAR on the Ground: A Visit to Sierra Leone

Gregory Antonucci, a Director of HEAR, traveled to Sierra Leone in late August to witness the grand opening of the Center for Women Empowerment, which was funded by HEAR and implemented by Youth Action International (YAI). Community members gathered in the Center to celebrate this momentous

occasion. Sia Nyama Koroma, First Lady of Sierra Leone, and Kimmie Weeks, executive director of YAI, were also in attendance. Excitement and hope shone in the eyes of every person present. HEAR believes it is crucial for members of our Foundation to



Kimmie Weeks, executive director of Youth Action International



Women working at computers during the first day of classes at the Center For Women Empowerment

establish relationships with the people we serve. These connections give both parties the opportunity to acknowledge our common humanity. You can view footage of the opening on YouTube; just search "Women's Center Sierra Leone."

currently working as sex workers were among the first to enroll in the Center. They had not been allowed into the community hall meeting, but they made sure to tackle us and let us know in no uncertain terms that they were tired of prostitution and wanted a skill to be able to support themselves. They were all in their twenties but had been working in the sex industry since their teens."

Weeks concludes, "The work in Kroobay will be difficult. There is much to be done. But together, with passion and determination I believe that YAI can help support breaking hundreds of women in that slum out of poverty. One thing that I've learned in my journey that keeps me going is how little it takes to make a major impact in these communities. Regardless of how difficult the task may seem, we can move mountains if we are determined, passionate, and can ask ourselves 'why not?'"

Youth Action International's Center for Women Seeks to Ameliorate Suffering in Freetown, Sierra Leone

YAI's latest aspiration for its Center for Women Empowerment, for which HEAR was the main sponsor, involves supporting and implementing anti-poverty programs in a slum community in Freetown called Kroobay. Kimmie Weeks, executive director of YAI, tells more about Kroobay in a letter he sent on August 22, 2008: "Home to about 10,000 people Kroobay is one of the poorest communities in Freetown. Poverty is entrenched, endemic and shocking. Yet, the people of Kroobay have much hope and a clear vision for their community." Weeks' goal is to help the Kroobay community realize its vision. "All the women enrolling at the Center this year will be from Kroobay. Once the women receive their training, we'll help them set up production areas in their community. Those trained in computers will then help to ensure that products produced are marketed outside. Finally, we'll be supporting scholarships for children, and group micro-credit loans for some of the women," says Weeks.

He continues, "There was much excitement and fanfare in Kroobay as we visited today and held a community meeting to let the people know about the new plans. Three women



Kroobay, Sierra Leone