

PRESS RELEASE

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### **BAAWL + HOPE ART TEAM UP TO RAISE MONEY FOR GIRLS IN HAITI**

San Francisco, CA -- BAAWL (Bay Area Arm Wrestling Ladies) and HOPE Art are teaming up to host a women's arm wrestling tournament on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, from 8pm to 11pm, in San Francisco at Chez Poulet, 3359 Cesar Chavez St. The event will be a raucous performance-based competition that empowers women and raises money to support women-focused projects.

The tournament on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be a display of theatrical antics and hardcore athleticism. Two-person teams of woman-identified wrestlers will compete in lightweight and heavyweight brawls. Each wrestler will have a persona, bio, theme song, and a money-hungry entourage to back them up and collect "bets" from the crowd. Registration to participate in the event can be found at <http://projecthopeart.org/arm-wrestling>.

Proceeds from the evening will go towards art-based programming facilitated by HOPE Art at the Organization of Young Girls in Action (OJFA in French), a girls' empowerment center in the Carrefour neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Exploring the arts as a catalyst for healing and therapy, HOPE Art is inspiring creativity, communication, and self-expression for young Haitian girls who are orphaned and struggling to build their lives and their communities.

#### **About BAAWL:**

BAAWL is the first West Coast league inspired by the original CLAW (Charlottesville Ladies Arm Wrestlers). Staying true to the vision, and inspiration of CLAW, BAAWL's mission is to empower all women and strengthen communities through theater, arm wrestling, and philanthropy.

#### **About HOPE Art:**

Exploring the arts as a catalyst for healing and therapy, HOPE Art is inspiring creativity, communication, and self-expression for young Haitian girls who are orphaned and struggling to build their lives and their communities. For more information, visit [projecthopeart.org](http://projecthopeart.org).

#### **BAAWL Media Contact:**

Katharine Norwood  
Phone (415) 601-6841  
[kbnorwood@gmail.com](mailto:kbnorwood@gmail.com)  
[www.baawl.com](http://www.baawl.com)

#### **HOPE Art Media Contact:**

Melissa Schilling  
Phone (831) 239-5544  
[melissa@projecthopeart.org](mailto:melissa@projecthopeart.org)  
[www.projecthopeart.org](http://www.projecthopeart.org)