



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOPE Art: VooDoo Haitian Fundraiser Dinner and Art Show

To inspire, heal and improve the quality of life for children in need through the creative process of art

OAKLAND, CALIF. -- Art is a universal language that any man, woman and child can speak. It matters not, the country of origin or skills possessed. Jenni Ward, Kathy Barbro, Amanda Luu, Jacquelyn Knapp, Julie Ulm, Sarah Miller and Melissa Schilling are seven California women ready to record the spirit of Haiti through crayon, paper and a camera lens. They will be using art therapy for disaster relief, and work directly with the children who have been most affected by the devastation. The group is in the midst of compiling a book, spliced with the children's artwork and imagery collected, during their first trip to Haiti in the early part of January 2011.

Art therapy as a creative outlet has been proven to provide healing to young adults and children who have been traumatized by disasters, as they are usually less capable and less comfortable expressing themselves through words. Exploring the arts as a catalyst for healing and therapy, HOPE Art is inspiring creativity, communication and self expression. Many refugee camps in Port-au-Prince, Haiti are hastily constructed tarp and cardboard makeshift towns. It's been nearly a year and a half since the earthquake and there is still so much work needed to rebuild communities. Efforts to bring basic life necessities are still underway and crucial, but not forgotten are the children's needs. Prior to the earthquake Haiti was one of the poorest countries globally, 1 in 15 children did not survive past age 5. Along with food, water, shelter and health care, educational activities must resume and healing must begin.

HOPE Art is amassing funds through Kickstarter and has collected private donations from Clean Well, Dick Blick, Clementine and Palace Arts. Additionally, the group is selling a custom chocolate art bar series through Sweet Earth Chocolates, ceramic Art Heart sculptures through earth art studio and Haitian mural project templates through Art Projects for Kids. There will be a VooDoo Haitian Dinner held at Coffee Bar in San Francisco on June 10th and 11th to further raise private funding for the project's art initiatives. The women behind HOPE Art come from a variety of

backgrounds, pooling their skills and creative energy into the children of Haiti using art as a universal language.

About HOPE Art: We believe that there are not words as powerful as a single drawing, sock puppet play, mural, photograph or creative enterprise. Using art as a catalyst for healing and expression we intend to initiate whimsy and wonder while infusing creativity into disaster stricken communities. So often children are not part of the conversation within a hard hit, natural disaster area. We bring their ideas, thoughts and emotions to life in full color regardless of language, creed or custom. We do this using art as the Universal Language.

"Art is the Universal Language"

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