



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Woman-Owned NPO Bring Art Healing To Children in Haiti Through Successful Art Event, Raising \$1800.00

San Francisco, CALIF. – Art-entrepreneurs are bringing creative outlets and medical supplies down to Port au Prince and Jacmel, Haiti after raising \$1800.00 through a weekend fundraiser at Coffee Bar in the Mission District.

The Voodoo Art Show event took place in San Francisco and utilized donated contributions from local artists, photographers, musicians and one special unique chef.

Coffee Bar and the Jetset Chef combined efforts to make this event possible by donating the venue rental fees for two evenings of art and food. They were graciously able to donate \$1000 towards art education in Haiti. Mitch Aidelbaum captured the event through the lens of his camera, all his images can be found at www.projecthopeart.org

Says Nathan Downs of Coffee Bar, "As Coffee Bar grows so do our social responsibilities. Being that we source a global product that transcends culture and geography it is imperative that we reciprocate on that level. When approached by Alex Marsh it was a *no brainer* to partner with Hope Art. It is especially gratifying to have one point of separation from the children we are impacting"

Despite the growing focus on tragedies elsewhere in the world, the women of HOPE Art are determined to continue to bring healing through art, whimsy and creativity to tent cities, orphanages and schools throughout Haiti.

Says Photographer Mitch Aidelbaum, "Children are the most vulnerable amidst the aftermath of a disaster. Every child whose world has been disrupted, seen the death of another person or lost friends or family is in need of emotional care, even if they have not suffered

physical harm themselves. I was happy to donate my photography services in order to help such a beautiful organization."

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.

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.

Full HOPE Art details can be found at www.projecthopeart.org

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

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