Rutgers Helps Haiti Earthquake

From Classipedia, Fagan’s team helps Haiti with medical supplies

Tag Words: Rutgers Haiti, Rutgers to Renmen

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Summary

Led by Dr. Julie Fagan, the Rutgers Ethics in Science Team has pulled together over 60 boxes to be sent out by Royal Caribbean to help aid Haiti in their desperate time of need. This team is comprised of several dedicated students who have donated their time to organizing much needed medical supplies that will help the medical units in Haiti with their treatment for the survivors. These packages included needles, sutures, tubes, thousands of gloves, face masks, and beanie babies for the orphanage.
The Issue: Haiti Earthquake Consequences

Background (LE)
Before the earthquake, Haiti already had the highest infant mortality rate being 60 deaths for every 1,000 live births, one physician for every 3,000 Haitian citizens, a life expectancy of only 61 years of age and more than three fourths of the population had no access to healthcare at all. In comparison, the United States infant mortality rate is 7 deaths per 1,000 live births, seven physicians for every 3,000 U.S. citizens, and a life expectancy of 78 years of age. As far as healthcare in Haiti, there was not much for the earthquake to even destroy.

The January 12, 2010 Haiti earthquake had a magnitude 7.0 $M_w$ earthquake, with an epicentre near the town of Léogâne, approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. By 24 January, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. As of Feb. 12, an estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian Government reports that between 217,000 and 230,000 people had been identified as dead, an estimated 300,000 injured, and an estimated 1,000,000 homeless. It has been estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged. Many countries responded to appeals for humanitarian aid, pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel. Communication systems, air, land, and sea transport facilities, hospitals, and electrical networks had been damaged by the earthquake, which hampered rescue and aid efforts.

Rescue and Relief Efforts (JP & DG)
Numerous relief efforts were launched almost immediately after the devastating earthquake. Within two days of the disaster, medical teams from the US, Iceland, China, Qatar, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic arrived in Haiti in order to help locate the survivors and provide much needed medical assistance throughout the island. Since the earthquake destroyed countless Haitian hospitals, the treatment of the injured has been greatly hindered by a lack of medical supplies.

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Rutgers

As a large University, Rutgers student organizations are attempting to take part in the Haiti relief effort. They have comprised various programs in order to raise donations for the Haitian people. Among these programs is the Haitian Association of Rutgers University (HARU), which orchestrated a Haitian Relief Benefit Concert at the end of January. Rutgers also hosted a blood drive on February 11 to raise money for the UNICEF Haitian Relief Fund. The next day, the Cook/Douglas Residential Council, Rutgers Ballroom Club, RHA, and Rutgers Residence Life sponsored the “Heart Beat Dance,” with proceeds going to the Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development Fund.

Students at Rutgers Camden have also contributed to the relief efforts by raising thousands of dollars through their Haiti Earthquake Relief Center.

Dr. Fagan’s Contribution

Dr. Fagan also reached out to the residents of Bucks County for further support in our Haiti relief project. She arranged for a group of dentists to send even more supplies to the Renmen Foundation in Florida, which is connected to the Renmen School and Orphanage located near the Haitian city of Port Au Prince. Taking the children of these orphans into consideration, Dr. Fagan decided to ask for a Beanie Baby donation within her community. Paula Butler, a woman of Tinicum, PA, agreed to donate a collection of nearly 60 Beanie Babies that we included with the packages of medical supplies that were sent to Haiti.

Items Donated By Fagan’s Team (LE & DG)
50 Boxes of: syringes, needles, blood collection needles, hypodermic needles, bandage tape, blood collection tubes, glass disposable pipets, plastic tubing, disposable thermal sheaths, drain sponges, non sterile syringe filters, household adhesions, gauze pads, type blood sets, polyethylene tubing, injection adapters, audio sound control cable, self adherent wrap, cloth bibs, beanie babies, safety assay mats, disposable skin stapler, silk sutures, tissue slicer blades, coated vinyl sutures, chronic gut sutures, ethilon nonfilament sutures, glucose strips, pH paper, crèmes (Vaseline bacetracin), graniplastic powder, sterile contain and duct tape, lad tubing, lab gowns, wipes, parfilm, petri dishes, culture flasks, filter units, glass slides, elisa plates, nalgene containers, children’s activities, children’s vitamins, children’s undergarments.

Royal Caribbean

In an effort to contribute to the relief for Haiti, Royal Caribbean cruise line has agreed to ship pallets of needed medical supplies for their tourist trips to Haiti.
Non Profit Organizations
Haiti is having issues with taxes on donations unless the donations are coming from a non-profit organization. Here are a few organizations that are making a difference in Haiti:

**HERO**
Health and education relief organization assist those who are affected by natural disasters. They work to establish infrastructure in order to receive clean water supplies. They helped to build schools, medical clinics and new hospitals.

**HAITI Outreach**
Focused on providing low cost and low maintenance water sources. Their main focuses are health and educational outreach.

**All the Children are Children**
Focuses on providing children with new opportunities such as improved living conditions, programs for health and education as well as economic development.

**Hands Helping Haiti**
Currently building a school on already purchased property and building reservoirs so those other than the wealthy can have access to clean water. This organization focuses on the sponsorship of children.

**Clean Water for Haiti**
A Christian mission that aims to provide sustainable water solutions as well as a filtering system. They also promote sanitation, and hygiene to prevent the spread of disease and provide lessons on how to use the filtration systems.

**Lamb Fund for Haiti**
Working on implementing sustainable development aimed to improve agricultural practices. They also have a micro-enterprise program in order to provide the capital to start up businesses.

**Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**
CRS has been working with Haiti for almost 50 years and serves about 200,000 Haitians each year. Their projects included health and nutrition, water quality improvement, agriculture programs and HIV and AIDS education.

Links to Get Involved:
Donations for Non-profit Organizations
http://www.techsoup.org/stock/Category.asp?catalog_name=TechSoupMain&category_name=Microsoft&Page=1&cg=gsem&sg=msgeneral&visit=1

Financial Donations
www.redcross.com

Remedy Program
Vincent.Joseph@rwjuh.edu

Royal Caribbean News Spotlight
RENMEN Foundation (DP)
Founded in April of 1993 by Florence Thybulle in order to help the recuperation of needy and underprivileged children (the name stands for Recuperation des Enfants Necessiteux et Mal Encadres). It is located in La Plaine du Cul de Sac, a small city North of Port au Prince, Haiti.

Their goal is to promote the health and love of a family to help minority children grow up to be self-reliant. They assist families with resources such as financial support, counseling, after school programs, food, clothing and education. There is a large emphasis on donations and volunteerism to help the foundation meet their goal of assisting the needy families and overcome the social barriers in the community. The organization is based on individual support and donations by a sponsorship program.

The organization hopes to offer more ambitious programs in the future. It has goals for a professional school, a recreation area to hold events and playtime for kids, a library, a medical center, and funding for a school bus. “Through these facilities these children will have the opportunity to live and grow in an environment of love and security.” (renmen.org)

Challenges For Relief (DP)
Initially, there were logistical problems at the Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti that prevented incoming planes and much needed supplies from landing. Due to the confusion, the United States Air Force and Army air traffic controllers took charge at the Toussaint Louverture Airport to facilitate the influx of planes with relief supplies. Once planes were able to land, problems about how to unload, distribute, and refuel the planes arose. Some flights were turned away due to the lack of holding space for the planes and their supplies. Another hurdle to overcome is the issue of security, once supplies have been received and unloaded. Knowing where to take the supplies and how to hand them over safely without the threat of theft is a big issue for humanitarian services.

The main and largest two sea ports of Haiti were also destroyed in the quake, specifically that of Port-au-Prince. Shipments by sea for the time being are required to go to Cap Haiten, a smaller port on the north side of the country, which can only hold a fraction of the volume of ships as Port-au-Prince.

The tension raised by the difficulty in getting supplies to Haiti has spurred rioting and violence as people compete for food that was forced to be air-dropped due to the paralysis of Haiti’s airports and sea ports. Military presence was deemed necessary to provide security for the Haiti relief supplies and the victims themselves.

Hospital Update in Haiti (DP)
Haitian hospital faced many endeavors pre-earthquake in every aspect. To begin with, most hospitals had less than 90 beds and a majority of the citizens could not afford a typical visit anyway. Due to the debt stricken Haitian government, the country is permitted to import medication as well as medical supplies duty free but at the end of the line, there is always a
Haitian government official awaiting an “unofficial” payment for the imports. This problem is now effecting the hospitals more then ever being that there are a vast amount of medical supplies and medicine being donated from across borders. Looters also play a huge part in preventing the hospitals from obtaining supplies.

Even before the earthquake Haiti’s fragile and almost nonexistent healthcare infrastructure has been a patient of public health relief efforts. According to the World Health Organization, nearly half the causes of deaths of Haitian citizens have been attributed to HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, meningitis and diarrheal diseases. Haiti also has an ongoing problem of deaths due to untreated rare tropical illnesses and common infections that can be prevented by mere sanitation. Health officials are now concerned that previously running public health initiatives are going to be neglected in efforts to help clean up the immediate mess caused by the natural disaster which will lead to nothing but an increase in healthcare downfalls.

After the earthquake hospitals can be described as overflowing and utter chaos. Patients are being driven to hospitals by cars, carried in by family, ferried in or driven in ambulances across rubbish and past dead and wounded victims. Doctors Without Borders who have been helping Haiti for years brought in an inflatable hospital because their already existing facility has been destroyed. Beds are full, donations are not reaching local institutions so many of the wounded cannot afford necessary care, waiting rooms are being used as triages for the critically victims since there are no emergency rooms and sanitation efforts are at risk.

Recovery (LE)

Former presidents Bill Clinton, who also acts as the UN special envoy to Haiti, and George W. Bush would coordinate efforts to raise funds for Haiti’s recovery. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Haiti on 16 January to estimate the damage and stated that US had raised $48 million to help Haiti recover. Following the meeting with Secretary Clinton, President Préval stated that the highest priorities in Haiti's recovery were establishing a working government, clearing roads, and ensuring the streets were cleared of bodies to improve sanitary conditions. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden stated that the humanitarian issue will not be resolved in only a month.

There are many foundations and movements in play in order to help Haiti and it’s citizens survive this disaster but there are just as many forces in opposition to the main goal. Hopefully the newly approved reconstruction commission led by former president Bill Clinton, which extends Haiti’s state of emergency for 18 months, will be able to make a significant impact on healthcare reform in the poverty stricken country.

March 17, 2010: SOS Children's Villages announced today that the 33 children who were to be taken to the Dominican Republic by ten US citizens and were temporarily cared for at the SOS Village in Santo, Haiti, will be reunited with their biological families. SOS Children's Villages is a global organization that provides family based care for children without parental care, and social services for families at risk.

The children arrived at the SOS Children's Village in Santo, Haiti, on January 30th. SOS was assigned the task of temporarily caring for the 33 children by Haiti's child welfare authority IBER (The Institut du Bien Etre Sociale et De Recherches) following the arrest of ten US nationals who attempted to transport them to the Dominican Republic under dubious circumstances. After a lengthy process of family verification handled by IBERs, the children, aged four months to twelve years, will return home today.
The Service Project: Relief for Haiti

Overview of Community Service (JP)
Led by Dr. Julie Fagan, the Rutgers Ethics in Science Team has pulled together over 60 boxes to be sent out by Royal Caribbean to help aid Haiti in their desperate time of need. This team is comprised of several dedicated students who have donated their time to organizing much needed medical supplies that will help the medical units in Haiti with their treatment for the survivors. These packages included needles, sutures, tubes, thousands of gloves, face masks, and beanie babies for the orphanage.

Fagan’s Team & Medical Supplies
Led by Dr. Julie Fagan, the Rutgers Ethics in Science Team has pulled together over 50 boxes to be sent out to Royal Caribbean. This team is comprised of several dedicated students who have donated their time to organizing much needed medical supplies that will help the medical units in Haiti with their treatment for the survivors. These packages include needles, sutures, tubes, thousands of gloves, face masks, and beanie babies for the orphanage. Each box with the much needed medical supplies, and assigned a number to each box. At the same time, we had a separate list of the continents that corresponded with each box’s number. While we compiled a complete inventory of the supplies, we also taped post-its to each box with the list of the items in that particular box. This detailed process was essential to our overall effort in aiding the medical relief in Haiti. Without keeping records of all of the supplies, the boxes that we sent would have been disorganized and problematic for the hospital that received them. After the boxes were packed and sealed, we had to transport them from the lab to a large van rented by Dr. Fagan, which led to the next phase of our relief effort. The Renmen Orphanage is housing many Haitian residents along with the children that are without homes.
Email to Vincent Joseph regarding Robert Wood Johnson Relief (Lauren)

Hello,

My name is Lauren Eisen and I am a student at Rutgers University. As a group effort in Dr. Julie Fagan's Ethics in Science class, lab materials and medical supplies were collected from the University to be donated to Haiti relief. She gave me your contact information in an effort to see what materials Robert Wood Johnson Hospital has donated. (Any rwj website leads us to money donations). With knowledge of what the hospital has donated we are looking to donate what the Renmen Orphanage or the people of Haiti still need.

Thank you for your help!
-Lauren

Response:
I think we have donated to this cause at Rutgers. We are not donating to the people of Haiti.

J. Vincent

References

Led by Dr. Julie Fagan, a professor at Rutgers University, I recently teamed up with three other students in an effort to aid the medical units in Haiti with their treatment of the survivors. Dr. Fagan teaches a course for Rutgers juniors and seniors that requires her students to design a potential solution to a prevalent current issue. Initially, I saw this assignment a perfect opportunity to aid those who were in need of help; the people of Haiti. Thankfully, Lauren Eisen, Devin Plote, and Dana Gobbo felt the same way, enabling us to work towards the common goal of aiding the people of Haiti in their earthquake recovery. Fortunately for my group, our professor was equally passionate about our mission. During the early stages of our project, Dr. Fagan informed us that she was currently in the process of moving her lab to a new location. After looking through the supplies she had stored over the years, she realized that they would be highly beneficial to the Haitian survivors.

The first stage of our project was to sort through Dr. Fagan’s lab and organize the various sutures, latex gloves, syringes, face masks, etc. For two weeks, my group and I organized and packed over 60 boxes to be shipped out by a group in Bucks County Pennsylvania that Dr. Fagan discovered near her home. In addition to transporting the boxes of medical supplies, Dr. Fagan also reached out to the residents of Bucks County for further support in our Haiti relief project. She arranged for a group of dentists to send even more supplies to the Renmen Foundation in Florida, which is connected to the Renmen School and Orphanage located near the Haitian city of Port Au Prince. Following the tragic earthquake, the orphanage became a haven for numerous families in the community. The thought of these orphans also led Dr. Fagan to ask for a Beanie Baby donation within her community. Paula Butler, a woman of Tinicum, PA, donated a collection of nearly 60 Beanie Babies that we included with the packages of medical supplies that were sent to Haiti.

Looking back at the effort put forth by my group as well as Dr. Fagan has allowed me to realize the levels of success that can be reached any group of unified individuals. Seeing all the help and support that my group encountered along the way has proven to me that there are a lot of people in this world willing to help others out of the kindness within their hearts. This experience is one that I will certainly carry with me for the rest of my life.

Jonathan Powell
Rutgers University
School of Environmental Sciences
Last week, myself and three other classmates doing a service project as part of the Ethics in Science colloquium with Professor Dr. Julie Fagan, packed 18 boxes of medical supplies from her laboratory and had them shipped to Haiti. As it turns out, Dr. Fagan was in the process of preparing to move out of her lab into another space to be renovated and was faced with packing a lot of equipment and unused supplies. Instead of packing and storing the many syringe needles, surgical gowns, and supplies, we loaded up boxes and prepared them for shipping to Haiti. We also called upon the community for a donation of beanie babies to provide a source of warmth and love in a time of need, and 59 beanie babies were collected and sent with along the medical supplies. Last Saturday, while on the drive home from her lab, a deer ran in to Dr. Fagan’s new Prius. Making something good out of a bad situation, a manager at Enterprise Rental upgraded her rental vehicle to a cargo van so she could take all the supplies from her lab to the group in Pennsylvania that was sending supplies to Haiti. They were sent to Yanick Goutier, Public Relations Officer of the RENMEN Foundation in Florida, a 501(3)c organization, and from there, they went to The Renmen School and Orphanage, situated on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Although part of the facility at the orphanage was lost following the earthquake of January 12th 2010, the children’s lives were spared, and since then, the Renmen school and orphanage has become a sanctuary with food and shelter for many families in the community (www.RENMENHaiti.org for donations). Helping the relief effort first hand, and knowing that a small percentage of children and people in need that are connected with the Renmen School and Orphanage will be comforted and medically attended for has made a rewarding, memorable experience for Dr. Fagan, my classmates, and I. Working together as a group with a united front and common goal to help Haitians opened my eyes to the inherent good of people and the possibilities that can be achieved.