



MEDIA FACT SHEET ON PROGRESS IN HAITI ONE YEAR AFTER EARTHQUAKE

SALESIAN MISSIONS – USA MEDIA CONTACT:

Hannah Gregory

hg@missionnewswire.org

mobile: 207-213-0835

Twitter: @MissionNewswire & @ProgressinHaiti

News site launching Jan. 8: ProgressInHaiti.org

Note: Photos and b roll available upon request.

YOUTH REBUILD HAITI, BECOME LEADERS OF THE FUTURE THROUGH SALESIAN MISSION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In Haiti, youth are the long-term promise for rebuilding their country. They are eager to become nurses, teachers and construction workers, as well as to develop the skills needed to be the country's new leaders.

Salesian Missions is fully committed to rebuilding its educational infrastructure. **Since 1935**, Salesians have worked to educate Haiti's most vulnerable youth and trained the best and brightest to become teachers.

BACKGROUND INFO: Damage and loss of life from the Jan. 12 earthquake included:

- Salesian Missions lost 85 percent of its schools and buildings in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck, killing hundreds of students.
- A vast Salesian Missions compound in Cité Soleil (which consisted of schools, trade shops, housing, the street children program and housing, youth center, feeding programs and administrative offices) was almost completely destroyed.
- At least 250 and up to 500 students and staff were killed or buried in the rubble, the majority were young women studying to become teachers.
- Kitchens that fed 25,000 of the city's poorest children daily were affected.
- Even with the enormous losses and beyond-challenging circumstances, Salesian Missions worked hard during a time of great crisis to continue to provide for the children and families that already depended on them, in addition to so many others now in desperate need.

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- In response to the one year mark, Salesian Missions will launch **ProgressInHaiti.org** Jan. 8 – a special newswire service dedicated to sharing information about programs and progress being made in Haiti.
- While some humanitarian organizations and many people have left the country, the Salesians will continue with their work for the people of Haiti as it has since 1935.
- To date, 23,000 students and 1,200 teachers have returned to classes at Salesian Missions schools.
- To date, approximately \$2.5 million in funds have been spent by Salesian Missions on relief efforts for the Haitian people, along with additional in-kind donations.
- Since the earthquake in Haiti, 59 containers of relief supplies—including food, water, clothing, medical supplies, computers, , religious goods, personal hygiene supplies, water purification plants, water purification tablets, 1600 schools in a box, 10 industrial generators, and forklifts—have been shipped, as well as two school buses and nearly 2,000 tents. To ensure the most effective use of supplies, Salesian Missions evaluates the situation at each of its sites to match needs with available resources. This was accomplished in part thanks to a partnership with Feed My Starving Children.
- Donations are still urgently needed for Haiti and can be made by going to www.FindYourMission.org.



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More than 23,000 students and 1,200 teachers have returned to classes at 10 Salesian Missions educational works.

To date, students and teachers have returned to the following locations at Salesian Missions schools:

Note: Drouillard is site of former Provincial House and now headquarters for the Rinaldi Foundation. The number there represents staff.

Location	Teachers / Staff	Students
Cap-Haïtien	100	1208
Fort-Liberté	58	545
Cayes	30	240
Gressier	32	181
Pétion-Ville	90	1507
OPEPB (Little Schools)	900	19000
Gonaïves	17	50
Thorland	18	306
Fleuriot	18	50
Cité Soleil	30	500
Drouillard	30	0
TOTAL	1323	23587

SALESIAN MISSIONS Focus in Haiti Includes: (Details of these programs are on the following pages.)

- Teaching Job Skills
- Building Schools
- Special School Projects
- Feeding Hungry Children
- Health
- Internally Displaced Persons



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Teaching Job Skills

Salesian Missions' unique approach of teaching job skills allows youth to directly contribute to the rebuilding of their country:

- Older youth in trade schools are using their carpentry skills by making desks for classrooms.
- Students in Salesian tailoring programs are making school uniforms for other children.
- Salesian Missions alumni have been hired to contribute to the reconstruction process.
- For long-term efforts, students are studying in specific trades—including: agriculture, nursing, woodworking, mechanics and masonry, as well as learning skills in electricity, air conditioning and welding.

Before the quake, Salesian Missions provided vocational training in a wide range of occupations. Hundreds of these students lost their lives in the earthquake—the majority of them young women studying to become teachers. Today the provisional buildings include structures for workshop classes and technical teacher classes.

Special School Project

Agricultural School

- In Cap-Haitien, plans for the refurbishment of the agricultural facilities are in progress
- Students learn advance farming methodology to improve crop quantity and quality.
- At the agriculture school, 145 students—of which 34 are women— will increase their opportunities to obtain meaningful skills to support their families, and to provide their communities and country with quality food sources.
- The three-year program focuses on students from families with limited economic resources.

Special School Project

Salesian University Network

- The Salesian University Network will help university students who have been unable to return to school.
- Thirteen computer labs or cybercafés will be established to help students continue their education in their specific area of studies, and improve computer science, English, and Spanish skills.
- The network will also provide an important means for students to connect with other students, form friendships and resume educational activities.
- The computers have been shipped to the following thirteen locations and are in the process of being installed: Fort Liberté, Ouanaminthe, Cap-Haitien, Gonaives, Hinche, Jacmel, Cayes, Fleuriot, Petionville, Cite Militaire, Cité Soleil, Thorland, Gressier



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Building Schools

- Students and teachers of the “Little Schools” have installed prefabricated buildings for themselves and other students.
- New nursing and agriculture school projects are moving forward.
- Construction continues for primary schools and high schools.

Feeding Hungry Children

In Haiti, feeding hungry children is often the first step in providing an education. Children who initially come to be fed become engaged in school activities. They are also prepared to learn. At Salesian Mission schools in Haiti, feeding programs are in operation and supporting efforts to rebuild the community. Thousands of students receive daily breakfast of a cup of milk and bread. A new kitchen is under construction soon to provide food for the children from the schools in Cité Soleil and La Saline, the poorest districts in the area.

Health

- In Haiti, early relief efforts focused on preventing an outbreak of disease.
- Salesian Missions is funding a project to staff doctors and nurses for a period of two months to provide relief to the cholera victims in the following communities:
 - 1 Doctor for the Département de l'Ouest based in Port-au-Prince
 - 1 Doctor for the Département de l'Artibonite, Département du Nord and Département du Nord'Est based in Cap-Haitien
 - 1 Nurse for the Département de l'Artibonite based in Gonaives
 - 2 Nurses for the Département du Nord based in Cap-Haitien
 - 1 Nurse for the Département du Nord'Est based in Fort-Liberté
 - 1 Nurse for the Département du Pétion Ville
 - 1 Nurse for the ENAM work in Lakay
 - 1 Nurse for the work in Les Cayes (Bergeaud)
- Today, Salesian Missions is committed to preventing the spread of cholera. Salesians and volunteers have distributed water purification tablets for treating water. Children who take part in feeding programs are learning personal hygiene. The message of preventive measures is also being spread through repeated explanations of the importance of hygiene via broadcasts on Radio Soleil, the radio station of the Catholic church in Haiti.
- Efforts are also focused on the long-term health of Haiti’s people. The School of Nursing, a Salesian Missions training facility, is one of the few schools for nurses remaining in the country.

Internally Displaced Persons

In Haiti, thousands of internally displaced persons found accommodations through Salesian Missions when they were left homeless by the earthquake. They received care from basic necessities to social services, including shelter, food and cultural, recreational and spiritual activities.