



between **FRIENDS**

News from Friends of the Children of Haiti

October, 2010

Friends partners with FilterPure to bring clean water solution



Ernst Pierre-Louis at filter factory in Cyvadier.

CYVADIER, Haiti – Water is essential for life. But in Haiti, water often brings death.

That’s why Friends of the Children of Haiti is trying to improve lives by improving the water supply.

Clean water is not abundant in Haiti. Nearly every water source in Haiti is susceptible to contamination with human waste because of the absence of a sewage-sanitation system.

The Pan-American Health Organization reports that more than half of all deaths in Haiti are due to water-borne gastro-intestinal disease. According to International Action, contaminated water is the leading cause of infant mortality and childhood illness in Haiti. Germs for hepatitis, cholera and chronic diarrhea are carried in water used for cooking and drinking.

Those problems became even starker after January’s devastating earthquake and contaminated water continues to plague.

So, rather than just hand out bottled water, Friends is seeking a long-term solution by partnering with FilterPure. The U.S.-based non-profit organization is committed to providing clean and safe drinking water to the developing world.

FilterPure’s approach is simple. A ceramic pot is placed on the rim of a five-gallon plastic storage bucket. Water is poured through the pot and filtered into the plastic bucket. The filtered water is then dispensed for drinking and cooking via a single spigot. Filters are cleaned by lightly scrubbing the surface. The effective useful life of the filter is at least 5 years.

After the earthquake, FilterPure sought a site near Jacmel to manufacture the clay water filters. Friends has provided space on their property to build a small manufacturing plant. Two local men have been hired to lead the manufacturing process, and several more will be employed to help process filters.

“I have been very impressed with Friends and their commitment to the community of Jacmel,” says FilterPure’s Executive Director Lisa Ballantine. “We are excited to be a part of that work and bring clean water as a part of that solution.”

“...we will be preventing infections in hundreds of our patients”

- Dr. Gregg Stoner

CALENDAR

Nov. 8-19, 2010

General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

Nov. 10, 2010

Sosyete Potomitan event
Peoria, IL

Jan. 9-21, 2011

General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

March 14-25, 2011

General Practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

May 9-20, 2011

General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

July 11-22, 2011

General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

Sept. 12-23, 2011

General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

Nov. 7-18, 2011

General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

The factory will produce 1,000 filters a month when it gets up and running. Filter distribution is expected to stretch from Cyvadier to Port-au-Prince.

Friends recently approved an initial purchase of 300 of the filters to be distributed to families who participate in the organization's child sponsorship program. "By providing these water filters to our sponsored families we will be preventing infections in hundreds of our patients. It is a great step forward in preventive health care," says Friend's Dr. Gregg Stoner.

"The filter plant will definitely be an asset to Haiti," says Friends CEO Richard Hammond. "Having clean water to drink will help make them healthier."

Donor 'thanks' Friends with home run ball proceeds

Hideki Matsui's record homer-hitting in last year's World Series was nothing compared to the home run hit by Scott Myers on behalf of Friends of the Children of Haiti.

Myers, a Friends child sponsor who lives in New York City, luckily grabbed Matsui's third Series round-tripper in Game 6. Recently, in a brainchild of a creative contribution, he put it up for online auction. "It's the right thing to do," he says simply.

Myers, a financial advisor who grew up in Louisiana, learned of the child-sponsorship program while surfing the web a few years back in search of a small relief agency to support. Ever since, he had kept an eye on events in Haiti.

Meantime, Myers attended Game 6 last fall at Yankee Stadium. He was six rows up in Section 307 when Matsui whacked an 89-mph fastball and launched his third homer of the Series, a record also held by Yankees forebears Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

The ball passed just over his head, triggering a massive scrum of spectators eager to get a hand on the ball. Suddenly, the ball appeared just behind his seat back. A quick grab, and it was his.

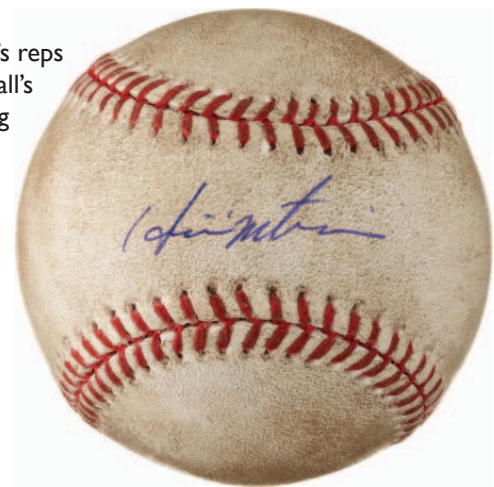
Myers rushed the ball into his jacket. Later, once the frenzy had died down, Matsui showed off the ball to the crowd and cameras. Surrounding fans cheered his good fortune.

At home, he safely tucked it into a closet. He didn't think of the ball as much more than a nice souvenir, until the next morning. Co-workers told him, "You could make a nice chunk of change."

Myers put that suggestion on the back-burner until January, when he was moved by TV images of the quake. He decided to sell the ball and split the money between two Haiti-related charities, including Friends.

To goose the value, Myers managed to contact Matsui's reps and get the star to autograph the ball. Via E-bay, the ball's value kept rising. When the bidding ended, the winning offer hit an impressive \$23,000, half of which has gone to Friends.

Myers tells Friends, "I want to thank you for your selfless work."



Just updated:

Sosyete Potomitan event

Pianist Dr. Joshua Russell will perform "Valses to Voodoo" in concert at Dingeldine Music Center on the Bradley University campus in Peoria, Illinois, on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. The concert will feature works by Haiti's best known composer, Ludovic Lamothe, who is also known as the "Black Chopin." Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served at the event, which runs 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free, with donations accepted to benefit Friends' "Sosyete Potomitan." For more information please contact Jane Gray at jag194@mac.com or 309-453-0672. Additional information about Dr. Russell and the music is available at www.joshuarussellpianist.com Please mark this date on your calendar now!

FRIENDS  OF THE
CHILDREN
OF HAITI

P.O. Box 789
Peoria, IL 61652

ph. 309.369.2634
email@fotcoh.org
www.fotcoh.org

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