

Medor Fact Sheet

Background Information

- OLQP and St. Joseph Parish in Medor, Haiti began a twinning relationship in 1997.
- Medor was originally settled by runaway slaves trying to find a home so remote that the slave owners could not find them.
- St. Joseph Parish is made up of the Medor community as well as 12 outlying chapel communities. It takes some chapel residents 6 hours to hike to Medor. Some chapels serve as schools.
- The Parish is located in the Caho Mountains and is spread over 74 square miles.
- There are no roads to or in Medor. To get to Medor one must hike or ride a mule approximately 10 miles up and down several mountain ranges.
- There is no running water, electricity, sewage system or postal delivery system.

Programs Supported by OLQP

- Kindergarten-13th grade classes that educate over 1,200 children in Medor.
 - School lunch for each student and teacher, 5 days a week
 - Salt for the school lunch program that is fortified with iodine to support brain development and prevent goiter as well as with a medication to prevent elephantiasis.
 - De-worming medications for each student each year
- Nonprescription medications for a clinic
- Clean water initiative with the following goals:
 - To provide a 5 gallon bucket water purification system for each family
 - To cap all 30 springs to make the water cleaner at its source (so far 6 have been capped)
 - To build a cistern to harvest rainwater for Zorange, a chapel community with no water source
- Sanitation initiative with the following goals:
 - To halt all open-air defecation
 - To have public ecological latrines at all locations of public gathering
 - To encourage each home or group of homes to have its own private latrine

-Reforestation pilot project, which is planting 70,000 trees this year. If grant funding is obtained, this program will be expanded to plant 1 million trees per year for 3 years.

-Grant program where members of the OLQP Haiti ministry apply for grants to help fund various projects in Medor. Local priorities are to build a new primary school and repair church.

Effects of the Earthquake

-St. Joseph Parish was minimally affected by the January earthquake that devastated Port au Prince, however it was hit by two earthquakes in February that rendered the church, kindergarten and primary school buildings unsafe for use. Up to half of the homes were damaged.

-Some students continue to attend class in the damaged buildings; some are now attending class in the library room of the secondary school; some attend class outside.

-The population of Medor grew by 38% as victims of the Port au Prince earthquake moved in with family and friends.

-The school enrollment increased by 55.

-The price of food rose 20-25%

Partnership with Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps

- RAM will send a DC-3 with supplies and volunteers: some will widen road, build airstrip and latrines. Others will run medical, dental, and vision clinics and treat cholera. A medical team of four members from OLQP will join them. First two weeks of December 2010.
- NBC Dateline will feature this work in Jan 2011.
- RAM Ranger month-long leadership training camp to train youth and young adults in leadership and public service projects will start in summer of 2011.