

Rachel Serotta, Eritaj Volunteer Profile

Rachel spent her summer as the Services Coordinator with Eritaj, organizing funding search and evaluating grassroots development projects in Haiti. She will be in New Delhi, India for 3 months with Cross Cultural Solutions. She will intern in a community-based organization that serves impoverished women and children there. Rachel attended Worcester Academy in Worcester, MA and recently received her Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, from Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

At Colby, she majored in Government and minored in Human Development and Social Justice. For five summers, she worked as a counselor at the Greendale YMCA in the Wee Wuns Preschool camp. She was the Children's Issues Intern for The Massachusetts Human Services Coalition, analyzing and advocating state budget concerns. She also was a

public education and development intern for the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund, a state agency that promotes child abuse prevention programs.

Rachel studied in London during her junior year where she interned for the Honorable Roger Casale, Member of Parliament. She was inducted into the Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, in the fall of 2004. She has spent that summer after graduation exploring her interest in international development issues. She has been volunteering for Growth Through Learning, a non-profit organization that grant scholarships to women in East Africa to continue their secondary schooling.

Rachel is an exceptionally talented young woman who commits her time and skills to humanitarian endeavors while learning about different cultures and societies. We wish her well in India.

Support Eritaj Programs

- Adopt a Child
\$120 full adoption; \$60 school tuition; \$30 books & supplies
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- Eritaj Chronicle

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ERITAJ CHRONICLE

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Haiti

September/October 2005

Eritaj Foundation
73 Union Avenue
Framingham, MA 01702
508-620-1424
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September is the Gift of Education month. See the insert in *Metrowest & Beyond* for the Gift of Education Exposition at the Framingham (MA) library. If you sponsored a child last year, call today to renew your pledge. Sign in at www.eritajfoundation.org to give the Gift of Education to a child if you haven't done so.

Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti



Women harvesting beans

By Karen Ashmore and Josette Perard

All the news from Haiti is not bad. According to a recently conducted groundbreaking evaluation of the first ten years of work done by the Lambi Fund of Haiti, studies showed that Lambi Fund projects involved 76,896 entrepreneurial participants whose collective enterprises impacted 1,222,145 Haitians! The Lambi Fund of Haiti partners with peasant organizations in rural Haiti to enable economic justice, democracy and sustainable development.

The researchers from INFODEV, an evaluation and consulting firm in Haiti, found well-documented evidence that Lambi Fund projects create change with: improved economic conditions, increased availability of food, reduced erosion, improved environment, increased availability of potable water, increased gender equity, improved democratic functioning, increased management capacity of organizations, and increased collaboration among grassroots organizations.

In contrast to aid organizations in Haiti, the Lambi Fund programs are run by and for Haitians to collaboratively develop

holistic solutions that create lasting change in economic development, environmental sustainability and social equality. The 'bottom-up' collaborative model of the Lambi Fund is what makes it work.

Excerpts from Executive Summary: Economic change

From a socio-economic standpoint, all project areas contributed to the improvement of the standard of living of the participating communities. The projects enabled families to more easily pay for the education of their children, to procure health care and to improve their food security.

Availability of food in project areas The results show that after Lambi Fund's intervention, food availability was increased by 4.3 months per year. There was also a net increase in the availability of grain and vegetable seed.

(Organizational) Democratic Functioning

Only 25% of organizations studied in the evaluation held periodic elections before

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Requiem for Louisiana, for Mississippi and for Alabama, for all the Katrina's victims, for those who lost their lives, those who lost all their possessions, others who lost family members and loved ones. They are in our prayers.

Eritaj Foundation, Inc.
Partnerships for a Better Haiti
73 Union Avenue
Framingham, MA 01702

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MetroWest and Beyond

Gift of Education Exposition

Throughout the month of September, the Framingham library in Concord Avenue is hosting the Gift of Education, an Eritaj's sponsored project. As school is about to start in Haiti, many families do not know where to turn to afford basic education. Over fifteen schools in Haiti have benefited from this program since 2000. If you are in the Greater Metrowest community, remember to stop at the Framingham Library to visit the Gift of Education Expo. We want to thank the individuals who sponsor education for a child in Haiti with a free gift including: Circles of Change: a Quiet Revolution in Haiti (20-minute DVD); Twoubadou Sek Haitian genre CD by Haitian musician, Gifrants, Jazz CD, Echoing by Willie Sordillo or a book 'And Don't Call Me a Racist', published by Ella Mazel. Easy process of Visa/Mastercard, one time charge of \$120 or \$10/month covers the school year for some

History links Louisiana & Haiti

In the aftermath of Katrina, many people and articles have compared what is happening in New Orleans to what happens (all the time, it seems) in Haiti. I am struck by how few people realize how important Haiti has been in the history of the US. For instance, the geographic area of the United States doubled with the so called Louisiana Purchase which transferred French territory including Nouvelle Orleans to the USA. France, or rather Napoleon, decided to go ahead because the Haitian slaves had defeated the French army, and back then the Gross Domestic Product of Haiti was greater than the Gross Domestic Product of the entire thirteen original colonies, and immensely greater than that of the Louisiana territory. The Haitian independence benefited much to the

students;\$60 for partial scholarship and \$30:00 for school books and materials. Special contributions can be made to the following funds: Le Fond Madame Dufford Mitton pour l'Education -Gonaives Le Fond Pierre Riche pour L'Education (Centre d'Edudes Secondaires- Port au Prince) James & Diana Thomson Education Fund.

Haitian American Youth of Tomorrow

Second Annual Civic Leadership Conference Miami, Florida – on September 9 – 10, 2005 at Florida International University's Kovens Conference Center (Biscayne Bay Campus). Youths between the ages of 17 to 24 came together to learn from grassroots organizers, labor leaders and community activists, where they gained knowledge on civic engagement, community involvement, and voter education. "Building the Leaders of Tomorrow" is designed to equip the youth with the necessary tools to develop and build leadership skills, and create a

US, which nevertheless refused to recognize Haiti as a country until they themselves abolished slavery a mere sixty years later! Gerard Walle, Director, Hope for the Children of Haiti www.hfc-haiti.com

"In 1800, Spain secretly ceded the Louisiana territory--the area stretching from Canada to the Gulf Coast and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains--to France, which closed the port of New Orleans to American farmers. Westerners, left without a port from which to export their goods, exploded with anger. Many demanded war. The prospect of French control of the Mississippi River alarmed Jefferson. Jefferson feared the establishment of a French colonial empire in North America blocking

foundation for young people to be model leaders in their communities and to play a greater role in public policy. www.hayot.org. Phone: (305) 949-8239

NHAHA

NHAHA 2005 Second Annual Conference in Boston For licensed clinicians, MD, Ph.D and MSW. the conference will offer CE from Boston University School of Medicine, NASW and MPA. September 30- October 1, 2005 Healthy Haitians 2010: A community In Action Toward 2010 Utilizing Clinical Based Knowledge To Support New Prevention Initiatives in the Haitian Community HIV/AIDS, Diabetes, Mental Health Services, Domestic Violence, Elderly Care Holiday Inn, The Lantana, 43 Scanlon Drive, Randolph, MA 02368 For detailed information on the conference visit our website www.ccher.org/nhaha2005.html or contact CCHER at 617-265-0628 ext. 213 or 223 or Email: nhaha2005@ccher.org

American expansion.

The president sent negotiators to France, with instructions to purchase New Orleans and as much of the Gulf Coast as they could for \$2 million. Circumstances played into American hands when France failed to suppress a slave rebellion in Haiti. One hundred thousand slaves, inspired by the French Revolution, had revolted, destroying 1200 coffee and 200 sugar plantations.

In 1800, France sent troops to crush the insurrection and reconquer Haiti, but they met a determined resistance led by a former slave named Toussaint Louverture. Then, French forces were wiped out by mosquitoes carrying yellow fever. "Damn sugar, damn coffee, damn colonies,"

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Lambi Fund

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their collaboration with the Lambi Fund. Because of the Lambi Fund's commitment to grassroots democracy, this percentage has surpassed 75%, improving the process of installing new leadership in organizations.

Gender Equity in the Organizations

The number of women leaders has increased considerably over time. A prime example is AFKB, which had a 900% increase in women members. Along with the sheer number of women in peasant organizations, it's important to stress their integration and their participation in all aspects of the organizations. In many projects, they occupy high-level management positions and have a major role in the decision-making process.



Members of a peasant group in Artibonite Valley running a grain mill funded by the Lambi Fund

Reduced erosion and improved environment

The evaluators observed an increasing cover crop with the establishment of groves of trees and crop rows planted along contour lines, which had already begun to stabilize the soil.

An Executive Summary of the evaluation can be found on the Lambi Fund website at www.lambifund.org/content/10_yr_evaluation.pdf

Karen Ashmore is the Executive Director and Josette Perard is the Haiti Director of the Lambi Fund of Haiti. They can be reached at info@lambifund.org. Visit the newly updated website at "http://www.lambifund.org"

Our Churches, Our Strength

Mercy Outreach Ministry (MOM)

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Judy Ann Fisher, Executive Director

A 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization, Outreach Ministry of the Full Gospel Church of the Lord's Missions, Intl. Our ministry has been working in Haiti since 1989 and has struggled to provide the basic essentials to 44 rural churches and 33 rural primary schools and their communities. We have been able to accomplish the following through our network of rural pastors, churches and their schools. One of the first projects in Haiti was an audiovisual Human Sexuality and HIV/AIDS education project in 1987 with Dr. Eleanor Workman and the Christian Haitian Outreach. Since that time, the Mercy Outreach Ministry has been working in rural Haiti through a network of rural pastors, their churches and schools under the leadership of Pastor Louis Emmanuel Duperval of Anse-a-Veau.

We have provided school supplies, building materials, clothing, toys, supported teacher's salaries, developed micro-enterprises, supplied water filter systems to 10 rural communities, built a cistern in Fond Verette, planted 67 food gardens, established a live-stock program (71 animals), installed a satellite dish at our headquarters in P.A.P for a proposed computer training project, established a computer program at our primary school in Anse-aveau where students have hands-on-training on Fridays and started a sewing training project for women in Anse-a-veau.

MOM has responded to several emergencies in Haiti by providing funds to purchase building supplies for recovery projects. We shipped two 44-ft containers of medical supplies, hospital equipment, school supplies, clothing, etc. in 2002. With very modest funding, we have

worked hand in hand to teach disadvantaged Haitians how to fish rather than to feed them a fish. We promote self-worth, education, training and self-sufficiency as a means of overcoming educational, economic, social and spiritual deprivation.

Rev. Louis Duperval and Rev Shirley Longchamps; Delmas 67 Rue Camelia #14A P.A.P., Haiti Ph: 011 509 554-6867

History links

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Napoleon, the French leader, exclaimed. Without Haiti, Napoleon had little interest in keeping Louisiana. France offered to sell not just New Orleans but all of Louisiana Province. The American negotiators agreed on a price of \$15 million, or about 4 cents an acre. In a single stroke, Jefferson doubled the size of the country."