

Haven Newsletter



Countdown to Build it Week

Build it Week updates

Excitement is certainly building up for Build it Week. We have reached and exceeded our target of 250 volunteers. There are now 270 volunteers making the 4000 thousand mile trip to Haiti on October 25th 2009.

After a series of well-attended briefing meetings nationwide we hope that everyone feels well prepared with information and tips for Build it Week. In advance of the trip please feel free to contact the office **01 433 3930** at any stage if you have any questions. You should have received a volunteer handbook at the briefing meeting. This is Haven's guide to volunteering.

Please read this handbook carefully as it contains important pre departure and in country information.

Congratulations to those of you who have successfully completed your fundraising efforts! We know it is a daunting challenge to raise £4,000 and we at Haven have the highest respect for all of you. A special thank you to all the volunteers who are continuing to raise money – above the £4,000 target – your hard work will mean better living conditions for more poor Haitians. If you have remaining funds to lodge please forward them to Haven as soon as possible.

Some key points to note about Build it Week

Water

Ouanaminthe is hot hot hot! The only way to ensure that you do not dehydrate is to drink water and plenty of it. We recommend that volunteers drink a minimum of **4 litres per day**. Water will delivered around the site by the water team, from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm each day. There will also be water marshals circulating with pouches of cold water. You will lose essential minerals and salts during the day through perspiration so please make sure that you are drinking plenty of water and also taking a rehydration sachet once a day.

There will be a supply of water available in your house and in the entertainment centre at all times. Our team is trained to look out for signs of dehydration; if they ask you to visit the medical centre or to sit in the shade for a while, please do so.

Food and Drink

The central hubs of activity in the evening will be the entertainment centre and the dining facilities. All meals will be served in the dining facilities having been carefully prepared by our crack team of caterers. Please remember that these caterers are also volunteers so there will not be an out of hours dining service.

Siestas

It is far too hot to work in the midday sun in Ouanaminthe. For this reason we have scheduled a siesta time each day from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm so that everyone can eat lunch at midday and then rest for an hour. In order to conserve your energy it is essential to avail of this siesta time. Even if you don't feel tired please use this time to lie down and rest.

Buddy Up

There will be four people in each house for Build it Week and we would like if everyone adopted the buddy system while onsite. If your room buddy is ill or has not returned to your house, please contact a member of the Haven team immediately. There will be a list of contact details on the information wall in the sitting room in each house.

Gift Giving

Many volunteers have asked us if it is possible to bring a gift to Haiti for the local community. This is an incredibly generous gesture and one that the people of Ouanaminthe will really appreciate. Below is a list of items which our community development worker, Farah, has suggested would be useful:

- School materials (pens, pencils, geometrical instruments, notebook, school bag)
- Sport equipment (soccer, basket ball)
- Radio with batteries
- Clothes (t-shirt, shirt, cap, etc.)
- Towels
- Soap, toothbrush, shampoo
- First aid kit
- Musical instrument (flute, guitar, etc.)

We would like the maximum amount of people to benefit from our presence in Ouanaminthe and as such we are trying to ensure that the gift giving facility is as equitable as possible. If you are bringing a gift please give it to Farah and she will ensure that is given to those most in need.

During Build it Week, friends, family and supporters can check out our progress in Haiti by logging onto Haven's website

www.havenpartnership.com.

We will be uploading blogs, videos, photos and news every day, so please let your loved ones know to log on to see you in action.

Upgrade process



House before upgrade



Reinforcing the structure



Completed upgrade

Haven progress report



Hugh Brennan, CEO

With just one month to go to the start of Build it Week, our contractor and the local staff are putting in long hours to ensure everything is in place for the arrival of the volunteers in Ouanaminthe.

130 houses are under construction. The structure is finished on 80 of these and they are being fitted out and the other 50 are at various stages from foundation to roof. Drainage pipes are being laid and septic tanks are being dug by hand. The first well has been dug and the water has been tested. Thousands of concrete blocks are being manufactured on site by local workers as well as tons of concrete being mixed to create foundations, columns, beams and more than two acres of roofing, all

being put in place. The local community is carrying out the internal painting of the houses which will be home to 270 volunteers from the 25th of October to the 1st of November.

The plumbers are busy installing the water tanks and internal plumbing in the houses. Beds have been ordered, mosquito nets have been bought and 12 acres of land which was scrubland just over six months ago has been transformed into hive of activity. Following Build it Week, the end result of this and all the volunteer activity will be a living, thriving community of 200 families complete with houses, water wells, community centre and playground.

The house upgrade programme is progressing well with 30 houses completed in Ouanaminthe and another 30 being improved. 80 houses have been upgraded in our second project in Petite Rivierre Des Nippes in southern Haiti which is in partnership with Fonkoze, a micro credit organisation and also with a philanthropic couple from Florida, Coleman and Anna Gorham. The upgrades consist mainly of new concrete foundations and floors and repairs to roofs. Some walls have also been repaired. Our contractors in both projects are employing local people to carry out the upgrade works, while the home owners and their extended families and friends assist with labour and with the supply of Materials. By the end of the year we will have upgraded 250 homes.

Community Development



Farah Dorisme

Hi. My name is Farah Dorisme and I am Haven's Community Development worker. I've been working in this field for around four years now and I really enjoy being involved in community issues. I started work with Haven at the end of July and my main job is to work with the beneficiaries.

I am assisting the community to select the beneficiaries of Haven's new homes and upgrades – although they have the final say. I am involved in organising training for the beneficiaries and people in the wider community. Part of my role is also to ensure that the community is actively involved in the Haven project, especially in the upgrade

programme. I will also help the committee to ensure that community facilities like the community centre we will build during Build it Week are self-sustainable.

During Build it Week, I will be organising visits for all the volunteers to the current homes of our beneficiaries, to the town of Ouanaminthe, local schools and other interesting areas. I'm really looking forward to it.

Final Checklist

Before you close your suitcase please make sure you have included the following items in your luggage:

- Light windcheater jacket
- Long sleeve sweater for evening
- Long sleeve shirts
- Long light trousers
- Steel toe boots
- Heavy socks to wear with boots
- Light trainers / shoes for evening
- Work shorts
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Towel
- Flip flops for the shower
- Toiletries including soap and shampoo
- Sleeping Bag
- Pillowcase
- Personal medication (two week supply)
- Plasters, painkillers and diarrhoea medication
- Insect repellent with minimum DEET 50%
- Sunscreen high factor
- Torch – one with an LED bulb is recommended
- Wet wipes
- Antibacterial hand cleaning liquid
- Rehydration sachets
- Vaseline
- Cash in Dollars (small denomination)
- Phone charger
- Adaptor for US plug

There will be no opportunities to purchase any of the above so we recommend that you bring the items with you. It's better to be looking at it than looking for it!



Haven's Development Work

In order to truly tackle poverty and give people the chance to lift themselves out of the poverty trap, NGOs like Haven engage in development work. Our building programme – of new houses and upgrades – addresses one of the three fundamental human needs – that of shelter. But, our beneficiaries have other very pressing problems – like access to food, education, health-care, training and job opportunities, among others.

To give you an idea of the massive needs in Haiti, on the Human Development Index (HDI), a tool the UN uses to measure the standard of living in countries, Haiti stands at 148 out of 177 countries. Sudan and Bangladesh have a higher HDI or standard of living than Haiti. Ireland has a HDI of 5.

We can't do everything. But, we can certainly do our best to help our beneficiaries in other ways – hence our development programme. Some of the development interventions we are engaged in or planning for the people of Ouanaminthe are:

- Micro-credit training
- Pre-occupancy workshops for all beneficiaries
- Training in construction for community
- Post-occupancy workshops
- Income generating projects: guesthouses, mango trees, coach-stop
- Community facilities: building a new school classroom, playground, community centre and coach stop facilities
- Research

During Build it Week, our volunteers will have the opportunity to meet many of our beneficiaries and the wider community in Ouanaminthe. We want to involve the community in our activities and make sure we all have the chance to make new friends and



learn about life in Haiti. We will be organising tours to the wider area with our Community Development Worker Farah. She is the person who acts as Haven's main liaison between the community and the charity. There should also be an opportunity for everyone to visit the local school, where we will be building an extra classroom during Build it Week and meet the teachers and students there, including a great supporter of Haven, Wilson Pierre, the principal.

As well as the classroom, we are going to build a playground/basketball court and a community centre – this means the community will also have some amenities to enjoy when they move into their new homes. Any gifts or donations which volunteers are kind enough to bring to Haiti for the community will be distributed fairly after we leave Haiti. This is to ensure that the whole community benefits from our presence during Build it Week. With 200 families getting new homes, 250 more having their houses

improved, that leaves approximately 150 families who will not receive better shelter from Haven – we want to make sure these families also benefit from our presence during Build it Week.

If you wish to make a donation directly into our bank account, the details are:

**Bank of Ireland
Pembroke Road
Ballsbridge
A/c no: 19986578
Sort code: 900973**

Haven volunteers please ensure you have the following:

Medical vaccinations and malaria medication

Filled in and returned to Haven the medical history form and volunteer code of contact

Read the insurance cover that Haven is providing

Electronic visa requirements for travelling through the US

Sideline the documentary crew who will be making an hour long documentary for RTE 1 on Haven's Build it Week is seeking budding directors.

If any one is planning on bringing a handycam or small video camera with them for Build it Week and would be interested in doing a video diary or some fly on the wall style shooting, please contact Sideline's Arlene on:

**T. 01 631 5310
E. arlene@sideline**

**Haven
The Malthouse,
South Block, Grand Canal Quay
Dublin 2, Ireland**

**Tel: +353 1 433 3930
Fax: +353 1432 5959
Email: info@havenpartnership.com
Web: www.havenpartnership.com**

CHY: 18494