



Healing Hands for Haiti members (volunteers) join Handicap International's first response team

January 21, 2009 Five volunteers from Healing Hands for Haiti International from Canada and USA will be joining Handicap International's early response team and deploy to Haiti. Dr. Colleen O'Connell (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation specialist, Fredericton), Al Ingersoll (Prosthetics, Minneapolis), Frank Shirley (Orthotics, Boston), Carly Gray (Physical Therapist, Ottawa), Ruth Duggan (Occupational Therapist, Halifax) flew out Jan. 19 & 20 to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and have taken an air shuttle to Port au Prince.

The mission's goal include:

Activities

- 1.1 Search, identification & immediate essential first aid and wound care for injured persons in the community
- 1.2 Provision of transportation to hospitals
- 1.3 Provision of essential life-saving injury care at hospital level

- 2.1 Installation of a temporary hospital support structure in coordination with the functioning hospitals
- 2.2 Identification, distribution of devices and consumables, urgent rehabilitation care and follow-up at hospital and community level of persons with injuries
- 2.3 Printing and distribution of leaflets on wound management and injury care

- 3.1 Identification and provision of specific midterm cares and follow-up for persons with amputation, spinal cord injuries and complex fractures
- 3.2 Provision and fitting of persons with amputation and spinal cord injuries with prosthetic or orthotic device

Dr. Colleen O'Connell is a Board member of Healing Hands for Haiti International and heads the Canadian partner, Team Canada Healing Hands Inc. The HHHI headquarters in Port-au-Prince has suffered damage to 75% of its buildings and infrastructure including its clinic and prosthetic/orthotics workshop. The guest house facility is intact to accommodate medical teams and become a base of operations. About 25% of our local staff have been located and are safe. An emergency relief fund has been set up for local staff and their families. A structural engineer will be sent to assess damage and plan repairs. The planned construction of Haiti's first Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Institute will be accelerated.

***Handicap International** works to improve the living conditions of people living in disabling situations in post-conflict or low-income countries around the world. Our programs reduce and address the consequences of disabling accidents and disease; clear landmines and prevent mine-related accidents through education; respond fast and effectively to natural and civil disasters in order to limit serious and permanent injuries and assist survivors with social and economic reintegration; and advocate for the universal recognition of the rights of the disabled through national planning and advocacy. Handicap*

International is a co-founder of the Cluster Munition Coalition and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which was awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

Healing Hands For Haiti is a registered, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the expansion of quality rehabilitation services and programs for the benefit of Haitian adults and children with physical and mental disabilities. *Healing Hands for Haiti* believes that the best way to serve the people of Haiti is to enable them to help themselves by delivering sustainable training, education and support.

For further information contact:

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL UNITED STATES

6930 Carroll Avenue -- Suite 240, Takoma Park, MD 20912-4468 USA

Phone: (301) 891-2138

Fax: (301) 891-9193

Website : www.handicap-international.us

E-mail : info@handicap-international.us

Eric Doubt, Executive Director/ Directeur général

Healing Hands for Haiti International Tel: 905.702.9964 Cell: 905.510.0401

www.healinghandsforhaiti.org

Canadian Office: 26 James St., Georgetown ON L7G 2H4

A physical medicine & rehabilitation project since 1999

Video at: <http://www.youtube.com/healinghandsforhaiti>

Photos at: www.flickr.com/photos/ericdoubt/collections/72157612037622688/

Jeff Campbell, General Manager

Team Canada Healing Hands Inc. Tel: 506.363.3836 Fax: 506.363.3244

www.teamcanadahealinghands.ca

PO Box 1313 Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5C8