

Hens for Haiti - Recent Highlights



POULAYE

September 2011

By: Christina Newman

If You Build It, They Will Come



So much has happened since the first of the year! After spending five months constructing the main facility, only small details were left to be completed before the purchase of hens. This fall, volunteers will return to Gros-Morne to complete the final

steps of construction including: installation of solar electricity, hiring and training of management and facility employees, and official turn over of finances to Haitian management and the local Caritas. The facility will be prepared to handle the pur-

chase of laying hens by mid-fall and commence egg sales soon thereafter.

As the news of this project spreads through churches and organizations involved in small business development, there are many opportunities for duplicating this effort. As an organization, Hens for Haiti is in the process of applying for non-profit status. Members of Hens for Haiti would like to stay involved with the project in Gros-Morne and other potential projects, expanding the idea of sustainable small business development. For more information on how to become involved or to research the opportunity of a Poulaye in your area, please visit our website or send us an email!

CRS Haiti Matching Grants Program

We have reached our fundraising goal! In August, Hens for Haiti, as a partner of the Church of the Resurrection and Caritas Gros-Morne, was awarded \$10,000 as part of the Haiti Matching Grants program of Catholic Relief Services. The Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville, MD matched this grant with a \$10,000 donation to the project. With these funds, Hens for Haiti can complete construction, purchase hens and begin sales in the Gros-Morne area by the end of 2011!



Members

Christina Newman
Founder, President

Cameron Varano
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Sherley Codio
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Larry Newman
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Contact or Donate

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Feeding the Poor, One Egg at a Time

POULAYE

More than just a Project



Volunteers in Gros-Morne, Haiti:
(Left) Jenny Askew, Becca Mattingly,
Christie Newman

Every year, enthusiastic young adults take time out of their lives to serve as volunteers in Gros-Morne, Haiti. Hens for Haiti was founded from such a volunteer experience. In 2007, Christie Newman landed in Port-au-Prince with ambition, but no clue what she would be getting into. As a year-long volunteer with the Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM), Christie lived and worked with the people of Gros-Morne. Her largest project, at the request of the local Caritas, was the development of an egg-production facility, 'Poulaye'.

When Christie returned from Haiti to begin graduate study, her life had been forever changed. Not only was Christie deeply touched by the relationships she had formed with her Haitian neighbors, but she was determined to follow through with the hen facility she had started. In January 2011, after earning her Master's degree, Christie returned to Gros-Morne with \$35,000 in funds to complete a mission close to her heart, the Poulaye. Christie spent 5 months working with local masons, carpenters, welders, and well-diggers to construct the 3000 square foot building.

But her focus was on more than just the development project. Christie enlisted the help of current RJM volunteers to spread the word about proper animal care and sustainable agriculture practices in the broader community. With Becca Mattingly and Jenny Askew, the team gathered the few resources they had, along with the construction skills they'd gained working on various Haitian projects, to create a model for smaller, single-family hen houses. The team stressed the importance of clean water and shelter from predators and other elements. Christie hopes to continue this outreach education once the large-scale hen facility is up and running. Formations will be held with livestock owners and meat product sellers to educate the public on basic care and simple, affordable ways to provide shelter and essential nutrition to their animals.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION!



HensforHaiti.org