

# FRIENDS & FAMILY

Community  Connection



January 27, 2011

Trying to describe this last week in Haiti is like trying to describe the Grand Canyon-- impossible. Our goal was to install as many water filtration systems as possible in strategic locations throughout Haiti. We met with the Assistant to the Minister of Health, Ben Poux. He requested us to visit a tent city in Port Au Prince (PaP) where a number of cases of cholera have been reported. We drove out to the tent city (called 'Aviation' because of its location on top of the old airstrip) to meet with the leaders.



There were 16 different leaders that made up the leadership council of Aviation. They shared with us a number of things about Aviation:

- \* 27,000 people live in the one-mile radius.
- \* 8-15 cases of cholera are reported weekly, and because their bodies are so run down, most die within 24 hours of contact.
- \* They have no running water, though water is delivered by trucks and stored in sim tanks at 21 different locations throughout the city.
- \* There are no schools or any other forms of education.

\* There is no medical aid or support.

\* 95% of the population have no access to jobs.

\* Dirt trenches are dug throughout the city, between the tents, for sewage and gray water, and flow to the nearby river and out to the ocean.

\* 100% of all the people we talked to and interviewed said they would do anything to get out of this city and situation.

After hearing about and seeing these conditions, the FFCC team of three went to work and began putting together the plan that would service and provide clean drinking water for the community. We had the council identify two people for each water station. We trained each team to oversee, distribute, and protect each water filtration system. A total of 42 water managers emerged and became part of the FFCC family. It was amazing to watch this team of water managers learn and implement the disciplines necessary to ensure that this community will be assured of having clean drinking water for potentially the next 100 years -- that's how long the system will work before the filters must be replaced. We ended our work week with a meeting with all the water managers and council members, approximately 80 people.

We began the week as strangers, and even a bit fearful of each other. By the end of the week these strangers became our brothers and sisters. The leader of Aviation, Brunache Jude, gave us a letter that reads as follows:

*"We realize that you are able to provide the camp with pure water. We realize your intervention in our camp to provide pure water to the population. We were very concerned about our water being undrinkable and how sick people are. The leaders want you to know how thankful we are and to tell you again thank you. We are expecting and hoping that you can help with other projects for the population. Thank you for everything you have done and receive our most dignified thanks."*

We also installed other filters in another village called Trouin and in other places in and around PaP. By the end of the week, FFCC installed enough filters to provide pure drinking water for 30,000 people. I'll share more later about our GPS tracking method to follow up with each filter location and the opportunity you will have to see where the filters are installed and the people and families responsible for them.

Many more filters are needed. I hope you were encouraged by the great success of our team and can continue to partner with us as we continue to provide more water kits. Each kit cost \$75, and you can [donate directly through our website](#) to provide one or more kits for this effort. There is still much more to be done, let's continue to help one family at a time!

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## Help Us Make 500,000 Meals!

On March 26th and 27th, FFCC will be teaming up with The Church at Rancho Bernardo (CRB) to host our 23rd Food Packaging Event. We are hoping to package 1/2 million meals or more. **Sign ups will begin March 6th.**

The food packaged by our community has become a critical supplemental food source here in San Diego as well as in Tanzania and Haiti. Your donation of \$20.00 can provide 80 meals to be given away locally and shipped globally. Would you invest in a hungry family today? It will take 14 hours to package 1/2 million meals, so please join us for an hour or two and be a part of this huge humanitarian effort! Click on PayPal and make your donation today. All donations are tax deductible



## You Can Help a Volunteer!

Traveling to locations like Haiti and Tanzania, Africa requires more than the average person's "pocket change". Having said that, we've not seen the lack of money hold anyone back. If you are determined to travel abroad and make a difference with the FFCC team, money should

never be a stumbling block.

To help with this, we've created a [new page on our website](#) dedicated to spotlighting various team members' personal fundraising efforts. Funds raised through these initiatives are used to help team members reach their personal fundraising goals to pay for their travel abroad. [Check it out](#), and thank you for supporting our teams!

### In This Issue

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Help a Volunteer!



You make a difference!

Thank you so much for your gifts of time, talent, and financial support!

### Quick Links

**FFCC Website!**

[email](#) FFCC

Fight Against Hunger High School Club Leaders Meeting	January 30	4:00pm
Tanzania Trip # 9 Team Meeting	January 31	6:30pm
Community Outreach Planning Meeting	February 1	7:00pm
Food Packaging Coordinators' Planning Meeting	February 2	6:30pm
Tanzania Trip # 8 Family Dinner and Send-Off	February 5	5:00pm
Homeless Outreach (Downtown Salvation Army)	February 7	6:00pm
Tanzania February Trip #8	February 12-March 1	
Food Packaging Event #23 (More information soon!)	March 26-27	
Haiti April Trip #6	April 2-10, 2011	
Haiti April Medical Trip #7	April 9-16, 2011	
Tanzania Trip #9	June 20-July 7, 2011	
Haiti Trip #8	August 12-20, 2011	
Haiti Trip #9	November 4-12, 2011	
Haiti Trip #10	January 13-21, 2012	
Tanzania Trip #10	February 10-27, 2012	

### Contact Information

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