



# MATRIX

January 20, 2010

**Re: Haiti/Hands Together**

Dear Friends:

In response to so many of you who have reached out to me, I wanted to send a letter updating you on the situation in Haiti – through the lens of the nonprofit group that I support. Your calls, emails and offers of support have touched me deeply. I wish to sincerely thank you for your incredible thoughtfulness.

As a way of background, I have personally been a supporter (and for the past five years Chairman of the Board) of Hands Together. Hands Together was founded in 1986 and is a nonprofit organization devoted to educating, inspiring and encouraging people to understand the importance of responding to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in Haiti. Traditionally, Hands Together carried out its mission through programs designed to bring dignity to the poor by establishing schools, orphanages, nutrition and feeding programs, medical clinics, sustainable-development projects, by establishing partnerships with local leaders and communities. Needless to say - last week's events temporarily altered Hands Together's course.

All of Hands Together's plans and dreams for continued progress in 2010 are suspended. In its place, we are grappling with the aftermaths of one of the worst disasters in memory to hit Haiti. We are blessed to know that Hands Together Founder, Father Tom Hagan, and Executive Director Doug Campbell are safe. Father Tom and Doug are together in Port-au-Prince; however, there has been massive damage to our headquarters, housing and operations. First and foremost, the Hands Together Board is focused on preserving the safety and rebuilding efforts for the 30,000 person Hands Together universe it traditionally supported in our every day endeavors in Haiti. Moreover, Hands Together's efforts thus far have begun to be successful in restoring limited internet use and staff member communications as well as recreating our in-country infrastructure so we can provide needed medical supplies and care as well as water and rice to the thousands of Hands Together students, elderly, impoverished and now ravaged associates – however, we need to do more! The Hands Together Board is diligently working to secure fuel, additional food and emergency services such as security personnel to aid in the Hands Together support efforts.

In the week since the earthquake hit, Hands Together has demonstrated its strength and reliability to the 30,000 person strong Hands Together universe in Haiti. If you wish to monitor Hands Together's efforts, please visit the website at [www.handstogether.org](http://www.handstogether.org). Also, if you are interested in supporting Hands Together's efforts there is a giving link found on the website home page. Alternatively, you can send checks to Hands Together, P.O. Box 80985, Springfield, Massachusetts 01138. Please know that no less than 90% of every dollar goes directly to the Hands Together charitable efforts.

Once again, I want to personally thank you for your compassion and support. Please keep Hands Together's mission and all of those in Haiti in your prayers.

Very truly yours,

Joseph S. Taylor

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