

September 13, 2004

Dear Friends,

Hurricane Ivan has caused severe damage to Jamaica. Hagley Gap, the village where the Blue Mountain Project clinic is being built, was devastated. Wooden shacks were flattened. Tin roofs blew away. Massive landslides have eliminated the roads that serve as the lifeline for the people living in this village. They are unable to access Kingston to get supplies such as food and clean water. Power is out. Without electricity, the people are relying on kerosene lamps and propane stoves. Although the people are making due at the moment, it will only be a matter of time before these supplies run out. With no way to access to the city, the people will soon face serious consequences.

These are only the short-term effects of Hurricane Ivan. The loss of electricity has forced local employers, like the Blue Mountain Coffee Factory to close its doors. Even if they were able to open, workers would not be able to get to the factory because there is no road. And without employment, money cannot be made to rebuild ones home. Imagine what it must be like for the people in Hagley Gap, who had almost nothing before Ivan hit, to have to begin rebuilding from such a tragedy with virtually no resources.

Please help us beat the hands of time. Roads need to be rebuilt quickly to ensure adequate food and water can be delivered to the people living in Hagley Gap- before the current supply is depleted. Please act now.

Sincerely,

Denise Cagley-Jefferson
Chair

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The Blue Mountain Project has made incredible progress in the last several months! Some of the most exciting news is that the Jamaican government has awarded us a building to operate our Wellness Center. The Wellness Center will operate seven days a week to provide basic health care as well as pre/post natal and emergency services. It has been sitting empty for years so needless to say it needs some repairs. If you would like to contribute to this project please visit our donations page.

Mark www.bluemountainproject.org on your favorites to keep updated on the great things that are happening! Some of the most exciting features include the photos shot during Mission: Toothbrush and the upcoming Art Gallery, where you will be able to support the Blue Mountain Project through buying original artwork. We still have space

for more artists, you can view the details of this program on our website or contact Sarah Beamer or Zac Zager.

We are planning Mission: AIDS Awareness to take place during the Grand Opening Celebration for the Wellness Center and Annual Meeting in Hagley Gap, Jamaica on June 25, 2005. We will be providing workshops, testing, counseling, and free condoms in effort to prevent the spread of this deadly disease. We are currently accepting applications for medical and mental health professional volunteers. Please email us if you are interested.

A word from the Chair, Denise Cagley-Jefferson:

Mission: Toothbrush was a huge success! I was able to distribute about one thousand toothbrushes and teach hundreds of school children the importance of dental hygiene. You should have seen the smiles on the children's faces as they dressed up in the tooth costume and practiced brushing each other with a giant toothbrush. Not only did they leave school that day with the knowledge to keep their teeth healthy, they left with the tool necessary to do so. The impact of the toothbrush will have a lasting effect in their health to come. Un-brushed teeth can lead to many systemic health problems, the most serious being brain damage or heart failure.

On June 8, 2004 I hosted a Health Fair, with the assistance of local volunteers. Topics addressed were first aid, blood pressure, dental hygiene, hand washing and nutrition. Almost 200 people attended the fair, half of them children. Unfortunately, I ran out of supplies about two hours into the fair and had to turn many people away empty handed. One of them was a 4-year-old girl who had an infected cut under her toe. It was so infected that you could see straight down to the bone. Luckily, I had my own personal first aid kit with me and I was able to clean it out with an alcohol wipe, apply antibiotic ointment and cover it with a bandage. I explained to her father the importance of keeping it clean. Simply having basic supplies like rubbing alcohol, cotton balls, antibiotic ointment, and bandages can make the difference between keeping and losing a foot, hand or other limb. This is just another reason why the Blue Mountain Project is so valuable.

We would like to thank the following donors: (Rebecca Earnst, Linda Dee, Irie Jefferson, Spencer Luvert, Pam Stienbeck, Mary Cagley, Diane Moran, Corey Cochran) Thank you for supporting the Blue Mountain Project!