



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SEAMSTRESSES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COME TOGETHER
TO OUTFIT ORPHANS IN HAITI FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

San Francisco, CALIF. – Art-entrepreneurs, from local non-profit HOPE Art, put out a call for homemade dresses in a simple blog post. 12 weeks later nearly 400 dresses have come in from all over the world. The pattern for the dresses was provided by Oliver + S Sewing Patterns and is available for download on the HOPE Art website. Parents and children from 27 states, Girl Scout troops and Home Economic classes have all joined the cause. Additional dresses from seamstresses as far away as Australia joined those from the States and Canada for a total of 351 dresses and growing.

The dresses will be taken down to a girls' orphanage in the Carrefour District of Port-au-Prince Haiti in time for the 2-year anniversary of the Haitian earthquake.

Despite the growing focus on tragedies elsewhere in the world, the women of HOPE Art are determined to continue to bring healing through art, whimsy and creativity to tent cities, orphanages and schools throughout Haiti.

Art as a creative outlet has been proven to provide healing to young adults and children who have been traumatized by disasters, as they are usually less capable and less comfortable expressing themselves through words. Exploring the arts as a catalyst for healing and therapy, HOPE Art is inspiring creativity, communication and self expression. Many refugee camps in Port-au-Prince, Haiti are hastily constructed tarp and cardboard makeshift towns. It's been nearly two years since the earthquake and there is still so much work needed to rebuild communities. Efforts to bring basic life necessities are still underway and crucial, but not forgotten are the children's needs. Prior to the earthquake Haiti was one of the poorest countries globally. 1 in 15 children did not survive past age 5. Along with food, water, shelter and health care, educational activities must resume and healing must

begin.

To discover more about the handmade dress drive, visit:
<http://projecthopeart.org/hope-art-handmade-dress-project/>

About HOPE Art: We believe that there are not words as powerful as a single drawing, sock puppet play, mural, photograph or creative enterprise. Using art as a catalyst for healing and expression we intend to initiate whimsy and wonder while infusing creativity into disaster stricken communities. So often children are not part of the conversation within a hard hit, natural disaster area. We bring their ideas, thoughts and emotions to life in full color regardless of language, creed or custom. We do this using art as the Universal Language.

"To inspire, heal and improve the quality of life for children in need through the creative process of art"

HOPE Art Media Contact:

Melissa Schilling

Phone (831) 239-5544

melissa@projecthopeart.org

www.projecthopeart.org