

Jazz Concert Scheduled for September

Jazz musicians will play at a fundraising event for Children of Abraham on Thursday, Sept. 9. The benefit, to be held at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., will feature South Bend's leading jazz group, The Jim Pickley Trio, David Wells, whose CD was #1 for three weeks in February, and Bryan Lubeck, who will be the featured guitarist at the 2010 Smooth Jazz Awards.

The concert is sponsored by a cluster of United Methodist congregations in South Bend and Saint Mary's College and benefits Children of Abraham exclusively.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's. Tickets are \$20 and not on sale yet but you can reserve yours or receive more information by contacting PastorDavidSchrader@yahoo.com or jazz@coa-worldwide.org.



9 Shipments, \$6 Million Worth of Aide Sent to Haiti After Earthquake

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by a catastrophic earthquake and more than 50 aftershocks that followed. Haiti's government estimates that more than 200,000 people died and 300,000 were injured because of the earthquakes. Children of Abraham responded resolutely by sending aid within the first two weeks.

As of April, Children of Abraham has sent nine 40-foot shipboard containers that have been successfully delivered.

"We've been told by officials that Children of Abraham has provided model shipments of aid," said Champ Merrick, Executive Director of Children of Abraham. "Our containers included critical supplies and were packed meticulously for delivery."



More than 250,000 residential and 30,000 commercial buildings collapsed so one million people remain homeless in Haiti.

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First Shipment

Our first shipment contained essential supplies, such as water, solutions, gloves, needles/syringes, dressings, sutures, mattresses and hospital beds, crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and baby warmers.

All shipments were directed to and distributed by Friends of the Orphans, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization with a 110-bed pediatric hospital located in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

Friends of the Orphans also runs a 500-unit orphanage in the area. Friends' staff is well positioned to distribute the containers' contents. They indicated that materials were disbursed immediately upon arrival and items sent directly responded to locals' needs.

"Our existing relationship with Friends of the Orphans and joint team activities helped us tremendously to get material to the people directly affected," said Champ.

Community Provides Great Support for Additional Shipments

Our containers included many items that remain in critical need. We have sent thousands of bottles of water,

Nigeria, Romania and Bangladesh Updates

Children of Abraham received delivery confirmation for the shipment we sent to Nigeria in July 2009.

"You may not know the extent of the blessing but I wish to tell you that the equipment will go a long way in saving and preserving life in Nigeria," wrote Bishop Kingsley Enakirerhi, who is from the city of Ughelli in the Delta State, Nigeria. "We have given some of the equipment to private clinics, while the rest are getting ready to be distributed to the General Hospital that will give out free medical treatment to the public," he continued.

In other news, our second shipment to Ghimpati, Romania was sent in October 2009. Second and third shipments to Bangladesh were sent to Chittagong in November 2009 and to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in May 2010. These shipments are expected to take three to four weeks to arrive at their final destinations.



Thousands of Haitians Receive Aide From COA and Friends of Orphans' Joint Efforts

which became more needed as a result of a flood that further contaminated the general water supply and accessibility to the city water supply.



Orthopedic equipment is needed to help with bone injuries, such as this patient's broken legs.

Several pallets of general food items, including rice, beans and canned food, were sent to address immediate needs as well.

"Donors and more than one hundred volunteers were vital in getting additional shipments out swiftly," said Champ. "We're also grateful to hospitals in Northwest Indiana and Chicago for their generous materials donations."

Follow-up shipments included similar items as the first container, along with hundreds of emergency kits that contained tooth paste, tooth brushes, sanitary items, flashlights, batteries,

plastic utensils, paper plates, can openers, Band-aids, etc. The kits were assembled by several organizations' volunteers throughout Northwest Indiana and the Chicago area.

Since the Port-au-Prince electrical system was all but destroyed, we sent several 6,500-volt generators that were donated or bought from financial contributions.

With so many buildings razed, many people continue to live under tarps without sufficient cover and protection. We have sent more than 600 tents, some contributed and some purchased from financial donations. These tents



The first shipment was received in Haiti and unloaded on Jan. 30.

should shelter about 5,000 people and we hope that in future shipments we can increase that to 10,000 people.

Children of Abraham received more

than \$35,000 in financial contributions from United Methodist Church congregations throughout Indiana, along with strong support from the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center, Temple Israel and other community groups. Individual contributions were also gathered.



Many children sustained injuries. Some severe injuries required amputations, like this patient's leg.

Our Work Continues

Our next shipment will include more tents that will be purchased. Most of these will be 8-person or 6-person tents, along with thousands of pairs of shoes.

As Children of Abraham carries on work in Haiti, we also continue our basic mission to provide medical supplies in other areas of the world where there is need. A shipment was sent to Bangladesh May 22, 2010. (See page 2 for more details.) We are also in contact with hospitals in Nigeria and Kenya, with a potential in Peru. Check our website for updates on these projects.



To donate materials or make a financial contribution for Haiti or any of Children of Abraham's projects, contact us at (219) 513-0003 or donate@coa-worldwide.org.

Q&A: Champ Merrick, Executive Director

Q: How are Children of Abraham and Friends of the Orphan continuing to support people in Haiti?

A: John Shattuck, Vice Chair of Friends of the Orphans Midwest, has been to Haiti several times and returned the week of April 4 to make an assessment of additional needs and provide a report on the use of items already sent. We will coordinate with Friends to send additional medical supplies and equipment, as well as other items critical to daily life. Our website will keep volunteers and donors updated on how they can help our joint efforts.

Please send any questions that you have about Children of Abraham to info@coa-worldwide.org and we will answer them directly and possibly publish in future newsletters.



Champ (left) and other volunteers help load our seventh shipment for Haiti.

COA and Online Communication Forums

Children of Abraham is promoting our organization on the Internet through two popular websites, the online social media site of Facebook and professional networking site of LinkedIn.

Our goal is to connect with more volunteers, donors and the general public and disseminate information efficiently on who Children of Abraham is, what we do and how we do it.

On these sites, we provide specific information on our global projects.

Also, we include information on shipping days as early as we can get the word out.

These tools are a great way for volunteers to coordinate activities together.

It is free to join these websites. To receive an invitation or to get the website address/URL to join, please send a request to info@coa-worldwide.org.

Donate to Help Heal the World

Whether Haiti or other regions of the world, your financial contributions are used wisely. Donate and make a difference to those who need our help.

- \$10 helps pay for packaging materials.
- \$50 helps refurbish a wheel chair or hospital bed.
- \$100 goes toward helping pay for port clearances.
- \$1,500 takes most shipments approximately 1,000 miles toward their final destinations.
- Any financial contribution helps our mission to assist others.

I, _____, want to support Children of Abraham's mission of helping relieve suffering around the world by providing free medical supplies and equipment to areas in need.

Please send checks or money orders made out to and mail to:

**Children of Abraham, Inc.
6635 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, Indiana 46324
U.S.A.**

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Mission Statement

Children of Abraham, Inc., a 100% volunteer-driven nonprofit organization, was formed in 2004 with the principal mission of helping relieve suffering around the world through providing free medical supplies and equipment to areas in need.

– A 501(c)(3) Organization –

www.coa-worldwide.org
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