



Dear Friends & Family,

I will be going to Haiti to volunteer my time and skills to a midwifery training project with Midwives for Haiti.

The lack of skilled obstetrical workers makes Haiti the most dangerous place in the Western Hemisphere to be pregnant or a newborn. According to World Health Organization statistics, 350 women die for every 100,000 births. That rate in the US is 12.6 maternal deaths per 100,000 births.

In the rural areas of Haiti, only 25% of births are attended by someone with the training and supplies needed to make childbirth safe.

Midwives for Haiti has been working since 2004 to train nurses to be skilled birth attendants. Graduates work throughout the country, mostly in rural communities where need for their skills is greatest. The organization is well-known and respected in Hinche, has the support of the local population, and works in partnership with the Haitian Ministry of Health.

I have attached the link to the organization's website which provides a wealth of information about this inspiring and ambitious project. <http://www.midwivesforhaiti.org>

I am writing to ask you to become a part of the Midwives for Haiti team by providing a donation to help support this life-saving work. Haitian midwives need medical equipment and medications to provide life-saving health care in rural areas. For example, each midwife needs tools that can be sterilized, a steady supply of sterile gloves, basic obstetrical medications, and textbooks that have been translated into Creole. Donations may also be used to assist volunteers cover the costs of translators and travel.

Any donation you make will be greatly appreciated and judiciously used. There are two ways you can make a difference.

1. A check made out to me will allow me to purchase desperately needed supplies and non-prescription medicines to carry into Haiti this month. This will immediately impact the lives of the poorest mothers and mothers-to-be in our hemisphere.
2. A check made out to Midwives for Haiti will be used for the longer term needs of the project. Since Midwives for Haiti is a non-profit organization, this type of donation is tax-deductible.

Please send your donations to my home address. I will be leaving _____ on _____, but in order to have time to purchase supplies would need to have your check by _____.

Thanks so much for your support. I will be taking a camera and will post photographs of the trip for all of you to see your donations in action.

In Peace,