

Unsolicited Proposal
GRASS ROOTS SOLAR FOR CABARET, HAITI

Concept Need: Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, challenged by: a weak political system; an almost non-existent infrastructure (lack of roads, lack of potable water, lack of electricity, lack of agriculture, and lack of means to cook food). The lack of means to cook food has resulted in the disastrous practice of stripping trees to make charcoal for cooking – causing a total lack of ground cover. Since 85% of Haiti is mountainous, the tree destruction is causing massive floods and mud slides. What was left of some good agricultural opportunities was all but destroyed by four hurricanes that hit Haiti in the 2008 season. The time is urgent that this downhill spiral of environmental degradation and subsequent social desperation be stopped and turned around. One must wonder where to begin, and how can there be any improvement?

Localized community development is now vital to prevent further environmental destruction and certain starvation for thousands of Haitians. We believe that the turn around can begin successfully if one community at a time is helped in a people to people way especially by eliminating a misdirection of funds. Simple, tangible, technology placed directly into the hands local communities has been proven to be the most effective means to progress. The “solar pot” is just such a technology. It can have far reaching effects even if begun on a “micro economic” scale. We believe that we have created a tangible program by showing how we can adopt a community and bring solutions such as this “solar pot” technology directly to the people

Goal: Begin the “solar pot” project in a small city in Haiti that was especially hit hard by the 2008 hurricanes. The city of Cabaret lost 71 men, women and children in flash floods spawned by “Ike” (the last of the four hurricanes that hit the island). The people in this community are keenly aware that the use of charcoal from trees helped to create the disastrous deluge of September 2008. Key members of this community have already been identified that can help make the project a success.

Objectives:

- A. To spread the use of “solar pot” technology by providing an alternative to the use of charcoal from trees;
- B. Bring awareness at the *grass roots* level in Haiti about the power of “low-cost” solar resources;
- C. Establish a base of successful community participation in the “solar pot” technology and use this base to introduce further technology such as water purification and micro agriculture.

Strategy:

- 1) Bring the “solar pot” technology directly into the hands of those who need it;
- 2) Provide three weeks of intensive instruction with a traveling team of three and a core team assembled from within the Cabaret community;
- 3) Develop a method where one grouping of families is responsible for caring for the solar pots and sharing the use of the pots;
- 4) Promote local teams who will provide support in use of the hotpots and help develop an infrastructure of resources that can spread the use of the “solar pots”,

Action plan:

- 1) Formalize the relationships of the people living within the community. Obtain the support of the local Magistrate from Cabaret who will designate one of the trainers and be apart of the development team (see letter of commitment from the Mayor submitted with this package).
- 2) Provide a hot pot to a grouping of two/three families located close together who can share one hot pot and provide support to each other.
- 3) Provide hot pot training to each family cluster to include going to the market to acquire local food and teaching the families how to cook what is local and sharing the food with them to eat;
- 4) During the solar cook time encourage families to develop long term strategies in self help such as micro gardening, building water ditches and water cisterns, and placement of shade;

- 5) Bring three experienced hot pot users from Albuquerque, one translator from Albuquerque who shares the culture of Cabaret, recruit individuals from the Cabaret community and provide three weeks of intensive instruction and direct assistance at the *grass roots* level,
- 6) Keep costs low and directed completely at the resource by hosting trainers in the home of one of the translators.
- 7) Develop a local body of expertise and support to help provide low-cost solutions. Include the community leadership in the endeavor;
- 8) Half of the training team to revisit the families of the hot pots six months after the initiation of the effort. Schedule training as an agreement of receiving the hotpots.
- 9) Document and report the before and after success during the one year period of performance.

Summary/Conclusion remarks: A solar pot will feed a family of 4 – 6 for a day. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 people will benefit from the 200 hot pots in the community. This is approximately \$35 per person. The hot pots have up to a 5 year warranty. If we could bring more pots, more people will be assisted. The benefit of one pot can be estimated in terms of an improvement of caloric intake for sustenance and in the reduction of tree cutting. Steps taken for micro agricultural improvement will also show tangible results. The value of this program is hard to quantify but a written record plus a “before and after” photographic review will be provided after a one year time (post hurricane season and with time for implementation).