

March 31, 2010



Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

As you know, the country of Haiti has been devastated by the recent earthquake. The dental profession has not been spared. One third of dental practices have been destroyed. Our colleagues overseas are unable to maintain the necessary oral health of their citizens. This could have devastating effects on oral health not just in the short term, but it has the potential to affect future generations because the proprietors of these practices are also the key educators at The National University

However, the ADA is prepared to provide aid to the people of Haiti using the International Disaster Assistance fund (IDA). As described by the ADA Foundation Criteria for International Disaster Assistance, "The IDA fund is dedicated exclusively to accepting financial donations to be used to support and/or reconstruct the oral health infrastructure in countries affected by disasters of any size and magnitude."

Fortunately, aiding Haiti falls well within the parameters of these criteria. Working with the Haitian Dental Association (HDA), the International Development Subcommittee (IDS) has developed a plan to re-establish the oral health care infrastructure of Haiti.

According to [REDACTED], an estimated 30 private dental practices have been lost and approximately \$10,000 is sufficient to rebuild each practice. The IDS has created the "Adopt- A - Practice, Rebuilding Dental Offices in Haiti" fundraising campaign in order to raise these monies. The IDS intends to appeal to the dental industry, friends of the ADA and dental specialty groups to donate amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in order to accrue the minimum \$300,000 necessary to rebuild the practices. All donations would be deposited in the IDA fund which would be closely monitored by IDS under the Division of Global Affairs to guarantee that they are spent judiciously. In order to ensure the public benefits from the generosity of donors, Haitian dentists with reestablished practices would be asked to give back to the community.

Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) has been identified as a suitable NGO partner to manage the distribution of funds and oversee the reconstruction process. IDS and HVO share a long term relationship in the application humanitarian aid in the oral health sector. In 2007, HVO was charged with the responsibility of purchasing a mobile dental unit to aid the people affected by the tsunami in Sri Lanka. This task was completed to the satisfaction of the ADAF. The IDS feels that HVO will perform admirably in their role as intermediary to manage the application of the Adopt- A- Practice program as well as oversee the long term sustainability of the project. The IDS would like to launch the Adopt A Practice campaign April 19th and plans to feature an announcement in the ADA news on May 3rd. Its goal is to have raised \$300,000 before the end of 2010.

The ADAF Criteria for the IDA fund recognizes the reconstruction phase as the best possible time for intervention, "The reconstruction phase that follows search and rescue operations is where these grants can be most useful. Funds are intended to help in the reconstruction of dental services that have been destroyed or severely disrupted, to help re-build and re-equip dental clinics destroyed in the disaster, and to re-establish the oral health care infrastructure." The Adopt-A-Practice campaign is the ideal method for applying this mission to the needs of the people affected by the earthquake. The IDS humbly entreats the ADA Committee on International Programs and Development (CIPD) to accept and endorse this campaign so we can get to work rebuilding oral health in Haiti.

Sincerely,

