



## HOPE FORCE INTERNATIONAL

A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO CRISIS AND DISASTER

# HOUSES OF HOPE – PHASE II

**Haiti's devastating earthquake in January 2010 galvanized the world to reach out to a nation suffering from untold destruction.** Over three years later, Hope Force is still actively engaged in



providing basic necessities for Haitians in desperate need. Though the quality of life has been improved for many people in Sous Savanne through recovery initiatives, the issue of long-term housing must now be addressed as disaster relief tents reach the end of their lifespan. HFI has already constructed transitional homes through the “Houses of Hope” project and now plans to extend this initiative by building permanent houses in Sous Savanne and the nearby impoverished village of Babay.

Although earlier transitional homes were constructed using pressure-treated plywood, they will eventually become vulnerable to deterioration over time. With this in mind, HFI staff evaluated the durability and cost-effectiveness of alternative methods of construction available in Haiti. **It was discovered that permanent block houses were only marginally more expensive and could be built for the same price per unit if the Haiti Field Team took a slight cut to its operational budget.** The new block design will significantly increase the longevity of “Houses of Hope” while demonstrating a higher level of commitment to the Haitian people, whose culture traditionally dictates that block homes are considered permanent shelters.

With both Sous Savanne and Babay suffering from dire housing needs, HFI decided constructing these highly-durable homes is the next vital step in accomplishing its goal of bringing about long-term recovery in rural Haiti. **The goal of the “Houses of Hope” project is to work with villagers to build durable, permanent homes, which will be constructed using high-quality blocks, a concrete foundation, and prefabricated roofing kits.** Within 12 months, Hope Force plans to construct 25 homes in Sous Savanne and Babay. These durable houses can be built for \$5,000 each, totaling \$125,000 for all 25 houses. A secondary objective is to build a latrine (\$1,000 each) with each of the houses, as proper sanitation is currently unavailable in Babay.



### **Brief description of block houses:**

- Strong foundation made of rebar grid, concrete and a row of blocks around slab perimeter
- Walls made of quality, high-pressure blocks that will be painted or plastered on exterior
- Rebar through each block, tying slab to perimeter beam on top of walls
- Dimensions: 200 ft<sup>2</sup> interior room, plus 55 ft<sup>2</sup> covered porch
- Prefabricated roof structure made of pressure-treated wooden trusses and purlins
- Windows made of economical, slanted breeze blocks to keep out rain
- Two doors, both equipped with door handles and locks