

PRESS RELEASE

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The purpose of this press release is to raise funds to equip two workshops at the newly reconstructed Professional School of Jacmel, Haiti (Ecole Professionnelle de Jacmel) following the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010.

On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, including the South-Eastern portion of Haiti, killing an estimated 250,000 people and destroying vast expenses of building and infrastructure. The "Ecole Professionnelle de Jacmel" (EPJ) or Professional School of Jacmel, a vocational training center, was one such institution.

In the interim, a grant to the Haitian government from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Banque Inter-Americaine de Development (BID) made it possible to rebuild new facilities, currently under way, covering an area of approximately 30,609 square feet in the Bois-Boeuf District, located about two miles to the East of Jacmel. The new spaces will accommodate a total of eight (8) workshops, several classrooms, a dormitory, and administrative offices and construction is expected to be completed by March 2017, should everything goes as planned.

Currently, a total of **\$US 149, 926.50** is urgently needed to equip two (2) of the unfunded workshops (automotive mechanics and woodworking) out of the total of eight. This fundraising effort is of vital importance in order to create the optimal conditions for the more than 165 current students (75 females and 90 males) to get trained in accordance with the international standards that govern vocational training. The government only has funding for two workshops (sewing and building construction) and the school is prepared to open its doors and operate with a minimum of four (4) disciplines.

Established in 1926, the EPJ's whose motto is "**Work takes us away from three great evils: boredom, need and vice**" has already trained several generations of professionals (over 8,000 graduates in 91 years of operation) in automotive mechanics, building construction, sewing and the culinary arts.

Further, to satisfy the ever-increasing demands by young people wishing to pursue a vocational education to obtain a diploma, additional efforts will be pursued in funding courses and workshops in electrical, plumbing, metallic/commercial construction, and air conditioning. It is critical that EPJ continue to fulfill its mission of providing the country with a skilled workforce, which is a must to bolster the city of Jacmel and the surrounding area's re-development.

You may send your tax deductible contributions online on <https://www.epjacmel.org>

For additional information please contact Mr. Jacques Guillaume via e-mail at info@epjacmel.org or call 904-386-1726.

References and background information on Ecole Professionnelle de Jacmel:

<http://lenouvelliste.com/lenouvelliste/article/118771/Lecole-professionnelle-de-Jacmel-oubliee>