



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Artists for Peace and Justice secures long term commitments for the children of Haiti**

*Hollywood actors help rebuild schools in earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince*

**Los Angeles, California. February 11, 2010** - Artists for Peace and Justice (APJ) is proud to announce the support of an impressive roster of Hollywood celebrities. They are lending their financial support and influential voices to help rebuild Haiti by funding street schools for the children living in the slums and in the burgeoning camps around the city of Port-au-Prince. Getting children back to school – often the only place they receive clean drinking water, their only food for the day, medical attention, clothing and hope – has become a top priority. APJ remains committed to long term sustainability in the ravaged country.

"Emergency relief is still very important -- with the help of Operation USA, last week we trucked in another \$150,000 in food and supplies to sustain the St. Luke's program and the children and families of the slums that rely upon its outreach programs," says Paul Haggis, Founder of APJ. Schools right now might not seem like the most important thing to reestablish but it just isn't true. The children may not be in urgent need of an education, but they desperately need physical and psychological support. They need a daily meal and water and medical care that comes with our schools. These thousands of children need a safe place to gather, where they can find hope, and even joy and beauty. The issues on the rise right now are gangs, violent crime, prostitution and child slavery. Schools are more important now than ever."

When built, the street schools will assist thousands of children living in the slums of Port-au-Prince. Prior to the earthquake, APJ had been committed to sponsoring a number of these schools in Haiti and supporting the work of Father Rick Frechette, a doctor and community organizer who works out of St. Damiens Pediatric Hospital in Port-au-Prince, the only free

pediatric hospital in the country. Donors to APJ have an opportunity to contribute to long term sustainability in a country that so desperately needs it.

**The following donors will each contribute \$50,000 annually for the next five years (\$250,000 total).** Each donation will fully sustain a street school in Port-au-Prince including providing clean water, meals, medical supplies and educational material to the children:

Simon Baker with wife Rebecca  
Javier Bardem  
Jackson Browne  
Gerard Butler  
Daniel Craig  
Russell Crowe with wife and musician Danielle Spencer  
Penelope Cruz  
Clint Eastwood with wife Dina  
Gale Anne Hurd  
Ryan Kavanaugh, Hollywood producer  
Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban  
Aviv Nevo, Investor  
Sean Penn  
Lehka Singh  
Peter Tunney  
Olivia Wilde

The following gracious donors have also committed to supporting APJ as their annual **\$10,000 donation for ten years (\$100,000 total) will sponsor an entire classroom:**

Avi Lerner, Hollywood producer  
AnnaLynne McCord

As a volunteer-run organization, APJ is one of few charities that is able to send 100 percent of the funds raised directly to workers on the ground in Haiti. Paul Haggis personally covers the overhead costs of the organization.

### **What is Artists for Peace and Justice?**

Artists for Peace and Justice (APJ), established in early 2009, is a fundraising effort founded by Paul Haggis and friends that encourages peace and social justice and addresses issues of poverty and enfranchisement in communities around the world. Over the past year, APJ has

directed its efforts to raising enough funds to fully sponsor three schools in Haiti in support of the initiatives of Father Rick Frechette and his team. These schools aren't just a place to learn but provide for their only meal for the day, clean water and a chance at the future to children who desperately need it. Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, APJ has focused its efforts on raising much needed funds for emergency relief efforts in the ravaged country that is only a few hours from our shores.

For more information on Artists for Peace and Justice please visit [www.artistsforpeaceandjustice.com](http://www.artistsforpeaceandjustice.com)

**About Father Rick Frechette**

For the past 22 years Father Rick Frechette has worked in the slums of Haiti. He came to the country as a priest and soon saw that what they needed more was a doctor. He began studying for his degree and continued working in the slums of Port-au-Prince on the weekends. The earthquake has devastated many of Father Rick's projects including both of his hospitals and numerous street schools. For a country that already suffers so much, these losses are devastating beyond belief.

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**For additional information or to arrange an interview with a spokesperson for *Artists for Peace and Justice*, please contact:**

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