

CAUSE
CELEB

Maria Bello: Youth Ambassador

The actress travels to Haiti to improve the lives of its youngest citizens

Maria Bello, Josh Brolin and Diane Lane recently spent five days in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, with Artists for Peace and Justice, a foundation that aids kids in need on the Caribbean island. Working alongside Father Rick Frechette, who is also a physician, they helped launch the first youth rehabilitation center in a country where 250 children die each week, most from preventable diseases. "The malnutrition is staggering," the star says. "It's one of the poorest nations, but we're geographically so close that we can actually do something about it." —KWALA MANDEL

INTENSIVE CARE

Bello holds a child with atrophied limbs. "We woke up the next day and she'd died of malnutrition," Bello says.

"The kids just fell in love with Josh," Bello says.

HELPING HANDS

"That was our first night in Haiti," says Bello, with Brolin and director Paul Haggis, right, who helped establish the foundation and organize the trip.

PEACEMAKER Checking in on a little girl at Kay Saint Germaine—House of Little Angels, a rehab center built for disabled and malnourished children.

What You Can Do

Street schools started by Father Rick, who has been working in Haiti for more than 20 years, provide education and daily hot meals to more than 3,000 children.

Go to artistsforpeaceandjustice.com to learn more about the charity and to make a donation.