



October 23, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halton Catholic District Board Launches New Board-wide 'Helping Hands from Halton Catholic - Haiti Project'

The Halton Catholic District School Board has launched a new and exciting Board-wide initiative: '*Helping Hands from Halton Catholic - Haiti Project*', in partnership with *Solidarity Haiti*.

Solidarity Haiti is a non-governmental organization, dedicated to supporting development projects in Haiti since 1996, including the building of schools. It is also committed to making more people aware of the need to support international solidarity. For more information on *Solidarity Haiti*, please visit www.solidaritehaiti.org/index_en.php.

The Board's '*Helping Hands from Halton Catholic - Haiti Project*' is an awareness raising and fundraising initiative that will mobilize the resources of the Board's Catholic learning communities in order to reach out to those in need, specifically the people of Haiti, by helping them to build schools that will open doors to opportunities for a basic education and a better life.

"Our senior administration team, as well as our students, parents, Catholic School Councils, teachers, administrators, trustees and support staff realize that we are blessed with social, economic and human resources that we can share with those in need," says Larry Clifford, Superintendent of Education, School Effectiveness Initiatives and leader for the Board's '*Helping Hands from Halton Catholic - Haiti Project*'. "As well as coordinating the fundraising efforts of all our schools by donating some of the monies collected at each school to this very worthwhile cause, our partnership with *Solidarity Haiti* provides an additional opportunity for the extended learning of Christian values and the Catholic social teaching principle of maintaining human dignity for every member of our School Board's community. We believe we can make a difference by assisting the Haitian people to build and maintain education facilities with a Christian-based curriculum at both the elementary and secondary levels."

During the 2008-2009 school year, this initiative will be formally showcased throughout all of the 49 schools of the Halton Catholic District School Board through an engaging presentation that promotes a sharing of resources to improve the human condition of others. The goal is that each of the Board's schools will raise \$1,000 during the 2008-2009 school year, with all of the funds to be directed to the building and operation of schools in Haiti in partnership with *Solidarity Haiti*.

-30-

About the Halton Catholic District School Board

The Halton Catholic District School Board, a provincial leader in student achievement in literacy and numeracy, as well as in Special Education, provides the best of Catholic education to over 28,500 students of all ages at 49 faith-centred learning communities in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. Committed to servant leadership, continuous school improvement planning and the preservation of the enduring gift of Catholic education, the Board is an exciting and dynamic system in which to learn, grow and work.

Believing In You . . . Believing In Us

For further information, please contact:

Larry Clifford
Superintendent of Education
Halton Catholic District School Board
School Effectiveness Initiatives
905-632-6314, ext. 127

Alternate Media Contact or to arrange a photo opportunity, please contact:

Lisa Stocco
Communications Officer
Halton Catholic District School Board
905-632-6314, ext. 126