

real stories

The lives, dramas and triumphs of women just like you

Haiti: One Year Later

Twelve months after the earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people and devastated a country, young women continue to make a difference there every day. ▶▶



From left, Sasha Kramer, Regine Zamor and Natacha Marseille in Port-au-Prince

HEATHER LORENZEN ◊
37, nurse practitioner

When Lorenzen, a nurse practitioner volunteering in Haiti with the International Medical Corps, learned last summer that four girls—one of them barely 12 years old—had been raped within one week in a camp for the displaced, she spun into action. Lorenzen gathered camp managers, police, U.N. officials and anyone else with the power to help; within days, she had lights installed. “So many of the mechanisms that protect women—locks, doors, shelters—had been destroyed,” says the Nebraska native. She now oversees antiviolence workshops for men and women.

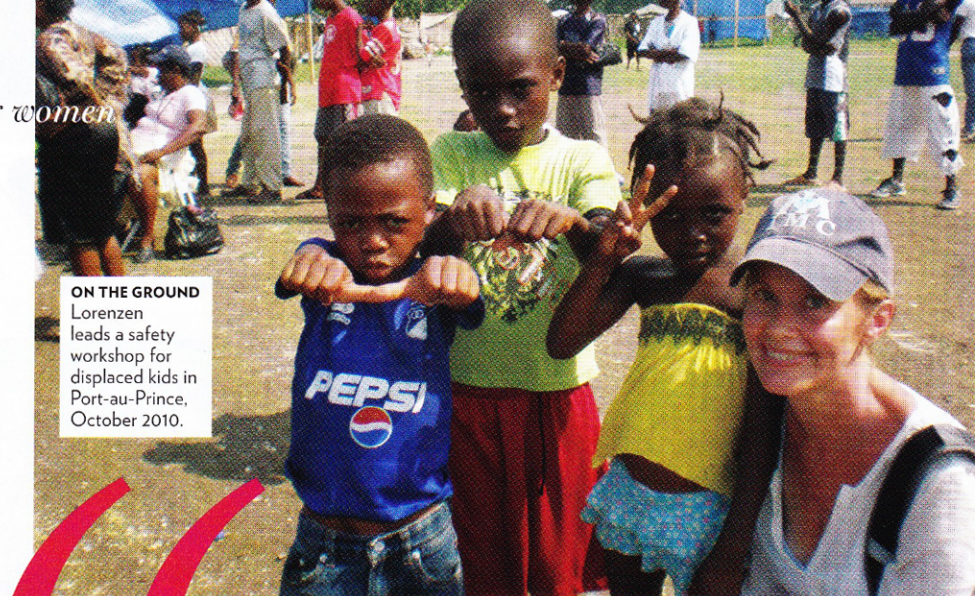
How you can help: Follow the International Medical Corps on Facebook and Twitter. “Giving a gift is an incredible way to help, but sometimes it’s about staying informed,” she says.
—*Jocelyn C. Zuckerman*



REGINE ZAMOR
30, film producer

Three days after the quake, Zamor, a New Yorker born to Haitian parents, arrived in Port-au-Prince. The producer—whose film *Children of Haiti*, about Haitian street kids (including Denick, above left), premieres this month on PBS’s *Independent Lens*—arranged food and water for areas thought too dangerous by many big NGOs.

How you can help: All money donated at favaca.org through January 12 (the anniversary of the quake) will go to Zamor’s Royal Palm charity to help rebuild Haiti. —*Carla Murphy*



ON THE GROUND
Lorenzen leads a safety workshop for displaced kids in Port-au-Prince, October 2010.

“I’ve been so inspired by how resilient the people of Haiti are. Despite tragedy, they are able to move forward and accomplish great things.”

—Heather Lorenzen



NATACHA MARSEILLE
30, school principal

Only weeks after the earthquake leveled much of her hometown of Port-au-Prince, Marseille (above with a student) worked with volunteers to start clearing the rubble of the school she had founded. Meanwhile, 200 of her students were already back in class in a nearby orphanage she’d also founded. “We will rebuild the school. We will rebuild the entire neighborhood,” she declared. “It will be an example for the rest of Haiti.” An orphan herself who now speaks five languages, Marseille faced down border officials to get construction materials into the country, and put mattresses on the floor of her home for displaced friends and foreign aid workers.

How you can help: “The only way things will change here is through education,” she says. Support her school at mevahaiti.org. —*Alice Speri*



SASHA KRAMER
35, ecologist

Haiti has poor sanitation, and much of the land is too eroded to support crops. Kramer cofounded SOIL (Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods) to create toilets that would repurpose human waste as fertilizer. After the quake, she installed latrines in some of the tent cities in Port-au-Prince, where more than 1 million people still live. **How you can help:** At press time, cholera, spread when waste contaminates drinking water, was threatening the capital. To help Kramer’s efforts, visit oursoil.org. —*J.C.Z.*



CHRISTINA NEWMAN
25, agronomist (left)
CAMERON VARANO
24, nutritionist

Newman first came to Haiti in 2007 as an agriculture grad, working with nuns who showed her one of the country’s few egg facilities. “Can you duplicate this?” the nuns asked. (Because meat is costly, children suffer from stunted development from a lack of protein.) So Newman and her friend Varano hatched an organization they called Hens for Haiti to produce protein-rich eggs and provide jobs. They broke ground in August. “The earthquake showed how badly Haiti needs industry,” says Newman. **How you can help:** “Volunteer, educate yourself and give,” says Varano. Go to hensforhaiti.org.vt.edu. —*Nancie L. Katz*

LORENZEN: ALEXANDRA KRAMER/INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS; ZAMOR: COURTESY BAGAY DWOL HAITI RELIEF FUND; MARSEILLE: ALICE SWEETS/OUT OF FOCUS COLLECTIVE; KRAMER: RAMIN TALAE; NEWMAN: JENNIFER ASKEW; VARANO: CHRISTINA NEWMAN