



Arm²Arm, Inc.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. Haiti is a French and Haitian Creole-speaking country occupying the western third of the island; The Dominican Republic is a Spanish-speaking country occupying the eastern two-thirds.

The Dominican Republic has long been known for its sugar industry, which employs thousands of Haitian laborers. The U.S. State Department estimates that there are about 500,000 to 650,000 Haitians or Dominicans of Haitian descent living in the Dominican Republic (7-10% of the Dominican population), housed in 375 to 500 bateyes or shantytowns originally built by the



the Dominican government in the late 1800s. An estimated 90% of batey residents are Haitian or of Haitian descent.

Overall, living conditions in the bateyes are appalling, with poor sanitation and unreliable electricity (when there is electricity). Unpaved roads flood during rainstorms, and bateyes lose contact with the outside world. Working conditions are as abysmal as living conditions and have been compared to modern-day slavery. Cane cutters work grueling 15-hour days in order to receive less than \$2.50 or 75 pesos.



Maryse Adonis Executive Director of Arm2Arm, Inc.

Maryse is a native of Haiti. She graduated from Queens College in New York. After graduating from College, she worked for Aetna, Cigna and The Hartford Insurance Group. Currently resides in Wethersfield. For the past eight years, she has been engaged biannually in medical missions to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

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Who We Are

Arm2Arm, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that provides basic assistance to underprivileged immigrant Haitian children who live on sugar- cane plantations or bateyes in the Dominican Republic, and have limited access to essential human services. It is our goal to demonstrate our love for these children through on-site social programs that provide fundamental education, health services, food and clothing. We are committed to using each donation to help those in need.

What We Do

Arm2Arm, Inc., has initiated programming such as: Medical Missions – For the past five years, Arm2Arm, Inc. has organized a team of volunteers, who provide free health and medical services to Haitians in bateyes who have no access to a physician. Education Arm2Arm, Inc. opened a one-room classroom for 27 children who had no opportunity to attend one of the local schools.

How We Do It

Volunteerism is the driving force behind Arm 2Arm, Inc. Each year, teams of volunteers participate in our one-week humanitarian trip to the Dominican Republic to assist the children and families in need. Furthermore, through community volunteerism and monetary donations, we continue to ensure that people in the bateyes are touched by God’s love, and those without a voice will be heard.

How You Can Help

Your financial contribution will help defray the cost of transporting donated medical and humanitarian supplies. Your gifts are important and will make a significant difference in each child’s life. Your tax-deductible donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more will get us one step closer to eradicating illiteracy among children.

