

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Cubex supports Deaf and Blind Children in Haiti**

June 2010

A devastating earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck Haiti on 12 January 2010. One million people have been severely affected - more than 100,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands are in urgent need of assistance. Funding was urgently needed to provide hospital care, clean water, food and emergency shelter. Amongst thousands of buildings destroyed was also the **Montfort Institute**, home for more than 600 Deaf and Blind Children. To aid the victims of the devastating earthquake, Cubex, Independent Hearing Centre in London, initiated ***Cubex Help for Haiti*** immediately after the disaster and raised almost £4000. As well as money, Cubex have also pledged equipment, hearing aids, batteries, an audiometer, laptop computer and appropriate software, all of which will be donated to the Institute.

The Montfort Institute is the only institution in Haiti specializing in providing education to children who are deaf and deaf-blind and accommodates over 600 sensorial handicapped boys and girls from ages 3 to 20. The Centre aims to help, educate and enable students to master a profession so they can integrate in the society and be independent.

In January 2010 the Institute in Port au Prince collapsed and left more than 600 children in desperate need of food, water, shelter and hearing equipment. "We contemplate rebuilding the Centre on our Santo farm which is a one-hour drive from Central Port au Prince. Our other centres in Cap Haitien, Lavaud and St Marc are much damaged and will have to be repaired. The reconstruction of the buildings has to be antiseismic and anticyclonic and will be much more expensive. We rely upon the generosity of our friends to do so", said Sister Rose Andree Fièvre, Director of the Montfort Institute.

School reopened in Port au Prince on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 under wooden shelters covered with metal sheets. They are amongst the first to begin working to ensure that the already traumatized children will not be left alone or miss school. Many of them have lost one or two parents and brothers and sisters. Two hundred students came back. "They came bare handed as their parents, already very poor, had lost everything. They seem to enjoy the green all around the farm, it looks like a camp site, in spite of the many difficulties we have had. The produce also helps as we must feed all our teachers, employees and students" continued Miss Fievre.

**Their most urgent priorities** are to build a security fence long of 1km around the property to keep thieves away; to rebuild the school on the one-hectare land they own in Santo; to shelter 600 students and to equip their classrooms to respond best to the specific hearing needs of the children. Cubex Hearing Centre are now preparing equipment, hearing systems, batteries, accessories, laptop computer and software programmes to be shipped to the Montfort Institute as soon as possible. The money they raised will contribute towards the acquisition of a sound booth. Adam Shulberg, Cubex Managing Director told us: "The disaster has hit deaf and blind Haitian children especially hard. Disaster leaves people without shelter, food, and access to health care services, but for deaf and blind children it is even harder as they have reduced communication skills. We are very concerned about Montfort's 600 students and want to help improve the quality of their life as much as we possibly can".

**ENDS**

## **Notes to the Editors:**

### **About MONTFORT Institute**

Montfort Institute for Deaf-Blind Children was founded in April 1957 by the Sisters of Wisdom in collaboration with a French missionary, Sister Agnès Colette, a specialist in deaf education. Nowadays, Montfort Institute is the only institution in Haiti specializing in providing education to children who are deaf and deaf-blind and accommodates over 600 sensorial handicapped boys and girls from ages 3 to 20. The Centre aims to help, educate and enable students to master a profession so they can integrate and be independent. In addition to providing basic education, Montfort Institute has a fine program of arts, crafts and sports including dance, sculpture, painting and drawing. Vocational classes are also held in carpentry, tinware, tailoring, home economics, bookbinding, basket making and cosmetology.

**About Cubex**

For nearly half a century, Cubex have built strong and positive relationships with thousands of people with reduced hearing by helping them to achieve maximum benefit with their hearing devices and live their lives to the fullest. The team at Cubex makes it their priority to take the time to understand the personal journey that each and every client undergoes when proceeding with hearing devices. Cubex combines superior hearing healthcare with state of the art technology to offer its clients a comprehensive range of services for all hearing needs, including hearing aids, hearing protection and accessories). For more information about Cubex, please visit [www.cubex.co.uk](http://www.cubex.co.uk)

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