



Gary Edson  
Clinton Bush Haiti Fund

# ASK GARY

## Gary Answers Kids' Most Frequently Asked Questions.

Kids ask the best questions. They have been writing letters from all across America asking about Haiti. Here are some of the questions asked of Gary Edson, Chief Executive Officer of Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

### Kids ask Gary Edson about what happened before, during and right after the Haitian earthquake.

**Harrison:** How and why was the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund created? It's cool that two presidents from different parties are working together.

**Gary:** Harrison, right after the earthquake, President Obama asked former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to work together to raise money to help the people of Haiti. Together they started the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund and raised more than 53 million dollars.

**Jessica:** How did your organization help to save and give to Haiti?

**Gary:** Jessica, instead of sending aid, the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund gives money to groups that work in Haiti. Each group has special skills and different ways to help the Haitian people through activities, training for workers and loans for businesses.

**Dejah:** I wanted to know how many people lost their lives.

**Gary:** Dejah, the earthquake was one of the most destructive in history. I am sad to report some estimate 220,000 people lost their lives.

**Anthony:** How many people needed to go to the hospital?

**Gary:** Anthony, an estimated 300,000 people were injured in the earthquake. In addition, about 30,000 buildings were destroyed including all the hospitals in the capital. The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund is investing in medical clinics and training Haitians to be healthcare workers.

**Coulter:** Why was there so much damage after the earthquake?

**Gary:** Coulter, unfortunately, unlike many buildings in United States, the buildings in Haiti were not designed to withstand earthquakes. The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund has given money to Architecture for Humanity, a group that trains and helps Haiti rebuild using quakeproof designs.

**John:** What specific area was the most damaged? Where did the earthquake hit the hardest?

**Gary:** John, the earthquake's epicenter (the point of the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake) was near a town called Léogâne, and affected Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, about 15 miles away. Look for the epicenter on Google Earth: 18.443°N, 72.571°W.

**Jackie:** Did Haiti know the earthquake was going to happen before it happened? How long did it last?

**Gary:** Jackie, the earthquake happened on January 12, 2010, at 4:53 PM and lasted for only 35 seconds. The Haitian people did not know that it was going to happen.

**Malayna:** Did the earthquake affect anywhere else besides Haiti? Did the towns ever get repaired?

**Gary:** Malayna, only cities in Haiti were damaged. Even though Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the country of the Dominican Republic, only the area directly around the epicenter was damaged. This epicenter was in the country of Haiti. We are working to train the Haitian people to rebuild (repair) their towns.

**Jack:** I know that Haiti is located in the Caribbean part of the Western Hemisphere. I know some, but would like to learn more. If you can, please send me some information on Haiti.

**Gary:** Jack, you are correct. Haiti is located in the Caribbean Sea and is in the Western Hemisphere. To learn more about Haiti go to our **For Kids** page and check out **Haiti's History**, **Earthquake Facts** and play our **Geobee**.

### Kids ask Gary Edson how the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund has helped since the Haitian earthquake.

**Madison:** Your fund helps a lot with Haiti. How will you rebuild the community economically?

**Gary:** Madison, the people of Haiti are proud and they want to help themselves. We want to train the Haitian people in their community so they can get back to work, help themselves and build their own future.

**Heidi:** If you can tell me how I can help it would be a privilege.

**Gary:** Heidi, you can help by telling your friends and family about how we are helping Haiti rebuild itself. Your support and the support of others is so important. If you are in middle or high school, consider creating a service learning project. Go to our **Service Learning Toolbox** and **Kids Helping Kids** slide show to get inspired.

**Emma:** How do you think Haiti is doing since it has been over a year after the earthquake?

**Gary:** Emma, Haiti has been through a very hard year. Over one million people lost everything. It will be a long rebuilding process but we are not giving up. Our investments in Haiti are helping families start new businesses, get jobs, and send their children to school.

**Alexis:** Can I sponsor a kid in Haiti through the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund?

**Gary:** Alexis, the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund does not support any one individual child in Haiti; however, our programs help the children of Haiti in so many ways. Please visit our **Kids in Haiti** page to find out about the groups we support who help children.

**Liam:** Are you helping to rebuild schools in Haiti?

**Gary:** Liam, we work with a wonderful group in Haiti that helps the Haitian people rebuild schools. Rebuilding schools and getting children educated is very important. It not only gives children a safe place to learn, but also gives jobs to Haitian construction workers and teachers.

**Harrison:** Can I get student service learning hours for helping the people of Haiti?

**Gary:** Harrison, we hope so. Go to our **Service Learning Toolbox** to learn more.

**Coulter:** How do you choose where the money will go? Does the money go to the Haitian government?

**Gary:** Coulter, we do not grant money directly to the Haitian government; rather, we give grants to groups that are doing important work on the ground in Haiti. Visit our **Kids in Haiti** page to see some of the programs that are helping children and families.

**Ibrahim:** What should we donate?

**Gary:** Ibrahim, it's important that you help spread the word and learn all about Haiti. Your time is the gift you can give. Kids from all across the country have created unique projects to raise awareness and funds to help the people of Haiti rebuild their lives. Check out the **Kids Helping Kids** slide show to be inspired.