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Maryland Team Installs Solar Panels on School and Health Clinic in Rural Haiti

Volunteers Provide 25 Years of Electricity to Help Education and Health Outcomes

BEALLSVILLE, MD—A team of volunteers from the Maryland nonprofit group Global Solace has just returned from a trip to Carcasse, Haiti, where they installed a three-kilowatt solar energy system that will provide reliable energy to a school and health clinic and serve as a critical resource in the community for decades.

The installation is part of Global Solace's mission to provide reliable, renewable sources of energy to schools and health clinics in the developing world, where more than two billion people live with limited or no access to electricity.

Because of the installation, the Carcasse health clinic will be able to provide services after daylight—which would not be possible without electricity—and the hundreds of students at the school now have the ability to do homework and study at night, access to internet-connected computers, a printer, a scanner, and audio-visual equipment.

The volunteer team of solar engineers and electricians focuses on designing sustainable systems customized to the communities they will serve. The Carcasse installation will last for 25 years with regular maintenance provided by technicians Global Solace trains locally.

Less than thirteen percent of Haiti's population has access to electricity through the electrical grid, and expanding access through traditional central utilities is expensive and largely untenable for developing countries.

"We believe that education and health care are inalienable rights and we are making those systems more effective through a bottom-up approach, installing renewable energy systems at schools and health clinics, providing entire communities with access to energy," said Lee Bristol, Executive Director of Global Solace. "We think there is tremendous potential for the developing world to utilize renewable energy to foster development and improve outcomes."

Global Solace is a Maryland-based nonprofit with a mission to bring reliable, renewable energy to the more than two billion people living in energy poverty in the developing world. Learn more and find out how to get involved at www.globalsolace.org.

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