



# PRESS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF NORWICH

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## **Matching Grant Announced for Outreach to Haiti's Capital Campaign to Rebuild Clinic and Mission House**

**NORWICH** - The Most Reverend Michael R Cote, D.D., Bishop of Norwich announced that the Diocese of Norwich is making a matching grant of \$100,000 to the Capital Campaign for the Diocese's Outreach to Haiti ministry.

Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti (and its predecessors - Haitian Ministries and Hospice St Joseph) has been in Haiti for over 30 years. Its facilities in Haiti were largely destroyed in the earthquake of 2010. After carefully developing plans for an economical replacement facility, a capital campaign was launched. To date \$250,000 has been raised, but building costs have increased and the target is now \$450,000.

When a potential donation from a major charity that would have completed the fundraising fell through, Bishop Cote decided action needed to be taken. He stated, "It is more than 6 years since the earthquake. It is time we had the new building to help serve the people of Haiti."

The temporary sheet metal and plywood structure that is being used for the clinic was built in 2010 with the help of Catholic Relief Services, and expected to last no more than 5 years.

Bishop Cote explained that "From the beginning in 1985, the ministry has lived the gospel message by empowering the people of Haiti to help themselves by promoting the health and education of Haitians. While we have helped tens of thousands of Haitians over that period, just as important has been the spiritual enrichment of hundreds of people inside and outside the Diocese, as they have stepped forward to lead and support this effort over the years. I regularly hear from so many generous supporters that they have received so much more than

they have given. I believe this ministry is important to our spiritual growth as a diocese. For those already involved, I know you will support this need to the extent you can. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to support this effort, I invite you to prayerfully consider if this is something the Lord wants you to support.”

To learn more about what Outreach to Haiti does, and the clinic and mission house rebuilding efforts, logon to <http://outreachtohaiti.org/capital-campaign> or call 860-887-1019