



With support from Brooke and the rest of their family, Mallery started the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty in 2007, to provide education and health care to Haitians. They raised money to sponsor kids living in an orphanage.

A year later, the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty opened a school in Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince (where the earthquake hit). Les Bours School of Hope has 140 students of all ages.

"We had a 16-year-old ask to be in our kindergarten. A 14-year-old in the first-grade class. There's no public education in Haiti, so these kids are desperate to be in school — they just want an education," Brooke says.

The Haiti Foundation Against Poverty hired Haitians to build the school, and all of the teachers are Haitians. "We believe in giving people a hand up, rather than a handout — to help them be able to provide for themselves," says Brooke.

That's why Mallery and Brooke want to teach business skills to Haitian moms.

Many women in Haiti are forced to give their children to orphanages

because they can't afford to feed them. If the women learn how to start their own small businesses, they'll be able to make money and keep their children.

Mallery plans to move to Haiti, where she hopes to take care of the kids while their mothers learn. She was going to move there soon, but the house she bought was destroyed in the earthquake.

For now, Mallery and Brooke are focused on disaster relief: making sure the students in their school and the children in the orphanage are safe and have food and water.

Mallery and their dad, Keith, went to Haiti as soon as they heard about the earthquake.

Brooke stayed in Grand Rapids, to work on raising money for buying emergency supplies and sending doctors.

"My place is to be here, and support the foundation," she says. "I'm supporting the people who go down there, so they can be effective."

By Rachel Vigoda

How to Help Haiti

Brooke and Mallery Thurlow's organization, Haiti Foundation Against Poverty, is raising money for Haiti through its Web site, www.haitifoundation.com.

Here are some other groups that are raising money to provide food, medical supplies, doctors and other necessary things to Haiti:

- **American Red Cross** (www.redcross.org): They help people after natural disasters and during war.
- **Doctors Without Borders** (www.doctorswithoutborders.org): They send doctors to places where there is a natural disaster, a war, an outbreak of disease, or people who are sick because they don't have food.
- **Partners in Health** (www.standwithhaiti.org): They provide medical care to poor communities.
- **UNICEF** (www.unicef.org): They provide education, food and medical care to kids.



Sisters Brooke (left) and Mallery Thurlow (right) on the site of a school they built in Haiti.



Learn About the History of Haiti

Haiti is located on a tropical island in the Caribbean Sea called Hispaniola. It takes up one-third of the island. Another country, the Dominican Republic, covers the rest.

Hispaniola was inhabited by Taino Indians when settlers from the European country of Spain showed up in the late 1400s. Next came the French, who took over the part of the island that became Haiti. That's why many people speak French in Haiti. Other people speak

a language called Creole.

The French brought thousands of slaves into Haiti from Africa. In the late 1700s, the slaves revolted and fought to make Haiti an independent country. It became the first country ruled by a black man.

But over the years, brutal dictators, an unstable government, violence and careless treatment of natural resources turned Haiti into the poorest country in the western half of the world.