

## **Battaglia Fund Request for Proposals**

### **Introduction:**

The Diocese of Richmond's Haiti Ministry was bequeathed the amount of \$80,000.00 from the last Will and Testament of Gaspare Battaglia. The will directs that the bequeathed funds are "to be used in order to provide food and medical assistance for the poor of Haiti." Battaglia Funds are available to Parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond who are involved in a Twinning relationship in Haiti. The money is being made available to twins in the Diocese of Richmond and their twins in Haiti through the Sustainable Development Committee of the Diocesan Haitian Ministries Commission for projects which provide economic sustainability for Haitians; which are themselves economically sustainable after the implementation period; and which are ecologically sustainable.

### **Grant Cycle and Levels of Funding:**

1. The Battaglia Fund closed on September 1, 2010. A total of 11 grants had been awarded, all in the maximum amount of \$5,000.00.
2. \$24,915.03 was collected by the Office of Justice and Peace following the earthquake in Haiti in January of 2010 with the intent of supporting the long term redevelopment of livelihoods in Haiti. These contributions have been added to the Battaglia Fund.
3. The Office of Justice and Peace is currently holding the remainder of the original bequest in the Diocesan Combined Endowment, the additional \$24,915.03 raised by the OJP brings the total amount of the Battaglia Fund to \$50,038.07.
4. The Battaglia Fund will reopen for proposals on March 1, 2011. It will remain open for three months, closing on May 31, 2011. A maximum of 5 grants will be awarded after the close of the second grant cycle.
  - o Communication regarding the opening of the fund to new applications will come from the Office of Justice and Peace and Haitian Ministries Commission.
5. The Battaglia Fund will be open for funding requests annually from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. A maximum of 5 grants will be awarded annually, or until the fund is exhausted without prospect of being replenished.

### **Guidelines for Requests:**

6. All applicants must include the Diocese of Richmond twin/partner and Haitian twin/partner. The Richmond and Haiti twin/partner must work together on all aspects of the grant and implementation process including identification of the project, developing and submitting the proposal, implementation of the project, evaluation of the project and reports.
7. The applicant must contribute matching funds. The Battaglia Fund will match the funds provided by the twins/partners up to \$5,000.00. The applicant may need to contribute or acquire more than \$5,000.00 in order to fulfill the project. The award of the Battaglia grant will be contingent upon matching funds being secured.
8. No funds from Battaglia Fund will be used for administrative overhead.
9. The proposed project or program must meet the requirements of providing food or medical services to the poor in Haiti.
10. The applicants are encouraged to work with other organizations (Fonkoze, Heifer Project, Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Hinche, Caritas Haiti, Midwives for Haiti, Bon Secours etc.) for consultation and technical support.
11. Funds will be used for the project implementation period after which the initiative should be economically sustainable and self perpetuating OR the economic benefits of the project will continue after the initial funding is exhausted and the project itself is terminated.
12. The proposed project or program must meet the requirements of providing economic sustainability for Haitians:
  - o The initiative must meet the goal of providing a means by which the beneficiaries of the grant will be provided a way to secure an increased net income for the purpose of providing food security or health care. Additionally, the initiative must be self perpetuating following the implementation period or the economic benefits of the

project will continue after the initial funding is exhausted and the project itself is terminated.

**Example #1:** Micro - credit loans with a training component can be made available to the community to begin a revenue producing business (i.e. capital can be provided to buy sewing machines and sewing and business skills training provided). The initiative can be economically self sustaining by using the interest received upon the payback of the loans. Haitian participants of the project will be economically sustainable as they receive income from their business and with the increased revenue purchase food and health care for their families.

**Example #2:** A school community can be assisted with start up funds to begin a food program for the children of the school. The community could use grant funds to grow beans and rice. Or start up funds could be used for the community to make peanut butter sandwiches by growing peanuts, grinding them to make peanut butter and baking bread. The business can be economically sustainable if the community sold excess produce to the wider community for income generation.

Or

o The initiative must meet the goal of providing a means by which the recipients of the grant will have a way to provide health care for a community which will be self sustaining.

**Example #1:** An individual in the Haitian community may be identified as a candidate to attend training or receive education in the medical field. The individual would contract to return to the community to be employed in the health care field. The salary would be provided by fees charged to individuals receiving services. The person would then be employed and be economically self sustaining.

? The project must be ecologically sustainable meaning it can continue indefinitely without causing harm to the environment.

? Priority consideration will be given to proposals which have training or educational components. For example, if micro credit loans are given for the purchase of sewing machines, projects with sewing lessons and/or business skills would be given priority.

#### **Timeline:**

1. Requests will be accepted annually from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. The Sustainable Development Battaglia Committee will review the request and respond within 30 days seeking any additional information that may be required to fully review the proposal.
3. Should applicants receive requests for additional information, all responses will be due back to the committee by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
4. Awards will be communicated by August 31.
5. The funds for approved grants will be dispersed via check issued to the Diocese of Richmond within four weeks of the applicant obtaining, or securing commitment for, all funds necessary to fulfill the project (documentation will be required).

**Reporting:** The grant recipients will submit reports every six months and a final report at the conclusion of the implementation period. A progress report template will be distributed to grant recipients prior to the due date of the first report.

#### **Repeat Applicants:**

**Beginning in March of 2012:** Applicants may not receive a Battaglia Grant in consecutive years. In the event the number of qualified applications in any one grant cycle exceeds the number of available grants, those applicants who have not been previously funded will be given priority over previous grant recipients.