



# H.E.R.O.

HOUSING EDUCATION *and*  
REHABILITATION *of* ORPHANS

[www.haitihero.org](http://www.haitihero.org)

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## INNOVATIVE BUILDING

As we move closer to constructing our own buildings, H.E.R.O. has been researching safe, innovative housing options. There are many alternative building materials offered in Haiti: aerated block, recycled trash, hay bales, and more. What we found most appealing is a structure specifically tailored to tropical climates—the EcoShell. An EcoShell is a dome-shaped building with 30 times the strength of a traditional concrete block home, rendering it earthquake, hurricane, fire, and infestation proof. Generally, three EcoShells can be built using the same materials it takes to build one conventional concrete home.



EcoShells can be built with building materials found locally in Haiti: cement and rebar. Instead of using concrete blocks, however, an EcoShell uses an Airform, basically a large balloon that is blown up to the size of the home one wants to build. The rebar is then bent over the dome and finished off with a thick layer of cement. Once the exterior is completed, doors and windows are fit into frames, plumbing and electrical wiring are installed, and interior walls are constructed.

### CONTACT US!

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We have chosen a 40 foot diameter dome for each unit of our development, with the goal of building five 1,250 square foot domes. Once each dome is constructed, the interior design of the building will be completed to fit our needs, depending on whether the EcoShell is for the dormitory, multipurpose room, guest house, or clinic. This will allow H.E.R.O. to build a development capable of housing, educating, and rehabilitating 40 orphans.

[To Donate To Our Building Project, Click Here](#)

[To Learn More About EcoShells, Click Here](#)



## STREET CHILDREN IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

It is difficult to determine the exact number of street children in Haiti. Some estimates are as low as 10,000 while others rise to over 250,000. Families, and indeed the country itself, are burdened with too many mouths to feed and not enough systems to support them. Children are pushed into the streets by many different forces. Many are orphaned or abandoned by their parents, and extended family is unable or unwilling to care for them. Other children migrate to the streets from abusive families and see it as a refuge in spite of its harshness. There are still others whose families are so overburdened that the children are forced to earn their own keep. Whatever the reason, these kids must care for themselves and learn how to survive in harsh and often dangerous conditions.

When street children make the distinction between themselves and the other children of Haiti, they describe two groups—*timoun lari* (street children) and *timon lekol* (schoolchildren). In their minds, the major distinction between themselves and children who live at home with their families is not their living situations; it is their opportunity for education. Although the constitution declares a free, public education for all, in Haiti public education is virtually nonexistent. Over 90% of schools in Haiti are private and even public schools charge fees for uniforms, books, and other expenses. These costs keep over half the population—and all street children—from school. A free education, and a brighter future, is just one of the basic human rights denied to the street children of Haiti on a daily basis.

For More Information About How You Can Help, [Click Here](#)



Some information in this article was taken from the book *Sleeping Rough in Port-au-Prince: An Ethnography of Street Children and Violence in Haiti* by: J. Christopher Kovats-Bernat

### FAST FACTS

- Street children are between 3 and 18 years of age.
- Boys outnumber girls 4 to 1 on the streets, but the number of girls is growing.
- Virtually all street children earn money in legal ways—working or begging, although around half also supplement their income through illegal means.
- Common jobs for street children include wiping car windows, carrying groceries, or washing pots for street food vendors.

For more information visit us on the web: [www.haitihero.org](http://www.haitihero.org)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@haitihero.org](mailto:info@haitihero.org) or call 888-315-HERO