

How Aunties International began:

"I started volunteering for a nonprofit clinic in Haiti the summer after the 2010 earthquake. I have no medical training, so flying to Haiti didn't seem to be the best use of my skills. Instead I simply asked them "What do you need?" They responded with "birthing kits", i.e. clean supplies to give to their expecting mothers who would most likely deliver their babies at home. It was spring of 2011 and Mother's Day weekend seemed like a fitting time to gather some friends and have an event to benefit these mothers in Haiti. Our flagship project was born, no pun intended. Over the years the event grew and people asked how they could duplicate the event within their own communities. At the same time, more ideas were conceived to help women and children across the globe. In 2014 planning began to create a nonprofit that would do just that. We narrowed our focus to projects that would benefit women and children in the areas of health and education, and in 2015 we became a federally recognized 501 (c)(3) public charity."

## **About Aunties International**

Aunties International is a nonprofit dedicated to improving health and educational opportunities for women and children domestically and abroad.

Aunties International looks for organizations that are already doing good work and partners with them on specific projects related to health and education. In a way, that's kind of what an auntie does! Aunties support the work mom is already performing. That support could be providing encouragement, offering a helping hand, filling in where mom leaves off or just adding the 'fun' and enrichment and all the stuff mom can't always get away to do.

We care deeply about our sister, and we care about her kids like they were our own.



Every woman our sister. Every child like our own. www.auntiesinternational.org

For more information contact:



## Birth Kits

Help make births in Haiti cleaner, safer and healthier by assembling birthing kits.



- Tammy Schluender, founder

## **Birthing Kit Basics**

Every day 800 women in the world die from pregnancy and childbirth related complications. Eight percent of maternal deaths are caused by sepsis (infection). The World Health Organization says that almost 3 million babies who die each year can be saved with low-tech, low-cost care.



## What is a Birth Kit?

It is critical that women have clean supplies to safely deliver a baby. Most women in rural Haiti deliver at home with the help of a "traditional birth attendant". Birth kits contain vital supplies and have resulted in a **drastic reduction in newborn infections**.



## Where do the kits go?

We partner with a medical clinic in rural Haiti called Real Hope for Haiti (realhopeforhaiti.org). They distribute the kits to women receiving prenatal care and in their third trimester of pregnancy. On average the clinic distributes **60 kits per month,** often to women walking several hours through the mountains to be seen.

#### How do the kits get assembled?

This is a great project for small groups, typically about 10-20 people. Supplies are gathered and an assembly line is created. The event generally lasts about 2 hours and requires enough space to layout the supplies. We ask each group to have a leader who can help coordinate the event.

### Where do the supplies come from?

Some of the supplies will come from your group, some of them have been donated by others, and some will need to be purchased. We will work with your group leader to determine what supplies Aunties International can supply and what items your group can provide.

#### How much does a kit cost?

If you add up the individual items **each kit costs about \$12**.

# Can I contribute without coming to an event?

Absolutely! We collect donated items all year round. The most needed items are newborn onesies, cotton flannel receiving blankets, newborn hats and hotel sized soaps. If you have contacts for bulk donations for the other supplies please let us know! And if you would rather contribute cash, we can certainly use that to purchase supplies and pay for shipping to Haiti.

## What goes into a Birth Kit?

Newborn onesie Small bar of soap Umbilical ties Alcohol prep pads 2"x2" gauze squares Liquid hand sanitizer Disposable under pad Receiving blanket Exam gloves Scalpel blade Safety pins Sanitary napkins Gallon zip top bag Piece of cloth 18-22"

