



**NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SWEET SLEEP PRESIDENT ACCEPTS NEW HAITI MISSION

Christian Groups and Disaster Assistance Experts Come Together to Enact Long-Term Strategy for Helping Orphans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (February 10, 2010) – Sweet Sleep founder and president Jen Gash has agreed to serve on the new Haiti Orphan Relief Team (HORT). The team was handpicked to enact a short- and long-term strategy for displaced and orphaned children in the wake of last month’s devastating earthquake.

HORT is comprised of disaster response specialists and leaders from nonprofit organizations that are members of the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO). Their mission goes far beyond the immediate needs of Haiti’s orphans today in order to establish a sustainable network of support for these children for years to come. The entire team will deploy to Haiti on February 14 for two weeks to lay the initial groundwork for their long-term strategy.

“It is a tremendous honor and opportunity to serve as a member of this group,” said Gash. “I appreciate the trust that HORT is placing in me, and I thank everyone for their continued prayers and support as we launch this critical mission.”

While in Haiti, Gash will serve as the logistics chief for the group. Their immediate goal will be to create a communications infrastructure that will identify and map each orphanage and church in Haiti so that they can be linked to churches in the United States. Team members will also work to train local Haitian partners to carry on this important work in the months and years ahead. This infrastructure will become the basis of a permanent network that provides immediate and long-term assistance where it’s needed most.

Since the January 12 earthquake, Sweet Sleep has provided Haitian orphans with more than 6,000 pieces of bedding, 5,400 pounds of food, 5,500 articles of clothing, 7,400 medical items, 2,000 bibles, and 16,000 diapers—all thanks to the generous contributions of supporters in the Nashville area, where Sweet Sleep is headquartered, and via Internet donations from throughout the world.

Even before the earthquake, there were an estimated 800,000 orphans in Haiti, which is why Sweet Sleep expanded its global mission to include the impoverished nation in 2008. To donate, visit www.sweetsleep.org/donate and type “HAITI” in the special comments box.

Sweet Sleep is a member of CAFO, which unites Christian organizations and churches from across the nation as they work to ignite and equip individuals and churches for effective, Christ-honoring service to orphans. Other participating organizations include World Orphans, UNC

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School of Public Health, Together for Adoption, and Hope for Orphans. Information on this effort can be found at www.haitiorphanrelief.org.

Sweet Sleep is also a member of the ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), which is dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public's trust through adherence to their standards of responsible stewardship. Sweet Sleep is registered with Guidestar, which provides information that advances transparency in nonprofit practice in order to encourage charitable giving.

Sweet Sleep is a Nashville-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides beds to the world's orphaned and abandoned children. According to recent estimates there are more than 210 million orphans worldwide, and every day 5,760 more children become orphans. Sweet Sleep works closely with indigenous staff as well as U.S. churches and businesses to provide beds and bedding with a goal of providing "a bed for every head." Since 2003, Sweet Sleep has provided more than 5,000 beds for orphans in Moldova, Haiti, and Uganda.

For more information about Sweet Sleep, visit www.sweetsleep.org.

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