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## One Sleepless Night for Haiti

By Esther Medina  
Key Biscayne Times



-- photo by Esther Medina

Student organizers of the 'All Nighter for Haiti,' Michelle Azzi, Isabelle Martinez, Irene Mendez, Diego Soto and Luisa Santos

When most college kids are thinking of what to do for the weekend, a group of Miami Dade College students are doing everything in their power to raise funds and give hope to families in Haiti. Michelle Azzi, Isabelle Martinez, Irene Mendez, Diego Soto and Luisa Santos are devoting their time and effort to organize the 'All-Nighter For Haiti 2010', a fund-raising event to be held on Friday, October 15th at Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus Fred Shaw Memorial Plaza, from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.

The students belong to Students Aiding International Development (SAID), which is a student-run organization that in coordination with the non-profit and Florida-based Food for the Poor are seeking to raise awareness

about the suffering and deplorable living conditions in Haiti.

They are hoping to raise a total of \$40,000 or more through corporate sponsorship, online and personal donations, and funds raised on the night of the event. The money will help for the development of a four-pond Tilapia farm in the Artibonite region and the construction of housing for those displaced by the Jan 12 earthquake.

"We are working with an established organization," said Irene Mendez, member of the All-Nighter team. She added "I believe our project speaks to the students our age and makes it a lot easier for them to participate in helping a cause, [rather] than just bombarding them with infomercials requesting monetary aid."

The first All-Nighter held was in October of last year, during which, despite very little pre-publicity, raised over \$21,000 for the construction of the Tilapia farms that are already providing Haitians in the Artibonite region with food and a sustainable way of life.

"This project is so unique in the sense that not only solves the issue of hunger in communities through sustainable tilapia farms, but serves as source of employment and income to them," Isabelle Martinez told KBT.

Miami Dade College has more Haitian students, faculty and staff than any other educational

facility in the country. The students and everybody involved hopes to see the Miami community come together and join them in the All-Nighter fun during a night full of activities, band performances, Caribbean food and much more; so, mark your calendars for Friday, October 15th.

Besides attending the event, you can also donate through [Food for the Poor](#).

Also, corporations can sponsor the All-Nighter for Haiti and receive a tax deduction by food and monetary donations. (So far, Chili's Grill & Bar Restaurant on Kendall Dr by Dadeland Mall has stepped in by agreeing to donate 10 per cent of all sales on Tuesday September 28th made from purchases where the customer turns in the official event flyer.)

Visit the students' blog to print Chili's flyer, view updates, pictures and videos [here](#).

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