

architecture for humanity



**\$500,000 CHALLENGE GRANT TO REBUILD SCHOOLS IN HAITI:  
WWW.STUDENTSREBUILD.ORG**

*Architecture for Humanity, Bezos Family Foundation and  
Global Nomads Group Combine Forces for New Initiative*

**January 27, 2010 Seattle**—In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, [Architecture for Humanity](#), the [Bezos Family Foundation](#) and [Global Nomads Group](#) have partnered to create "[www.studentsrebuild.org](#)," a \$500,000 matching challenge grant and *call to action* for middle and high school students around the globe to help rebuild better, safer schools in Haiti.

"Schools and learning are vital to rebuilding," says Cameron Sinclair, co-founder of Architecture for Humanity. "We urgently need to restore a sense of normalcy in these young hearts and minds and not allow this tragedy to dictate how they see their future. This is an opportunity for young people here to see how they are connected to the global community and learn the real challenges of rebuilding after disaster."

But, the goal is not simply to raise funds for the cause. Students can become real partners in the sustained reconstruction effort. Through interactive video, conversations with building professionals and live connections to Haitian students, they will learn first-hand how people can work together in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake to rebuild communities and lives.

"Global Nomads Group is about dialogue and exchange so it's important that students develop a deep connection to the people on the ground" says David Macquart, co-founder of Global Nomads Group. "Our live interactive broadcasts will enable participants to glean real insight into Haiti and the people who live there, not just their plight. At the end of the day, making connections with the people they help will make students' philanthropic efforts that much more gratifying."

The dynamic new site—[www.studentsrebuild.org](#)—will add content each week: video, challenge team updates, curriculum, news from the field, and more.

"If students, teachers and schools are looking for ways to help the people of Haiti, the Architecture for Humanity and Global Nomads Group team is an excellent choice," explains Jackie Bezos, who with her husband, Mike, founded the Bezos Family Foundation. "They will treat students and teachers as real partners, value their support and keep them informed of the progress in Haiti."

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## THE CHALLENGE *Donations are matched 1:1, up to \$2,500 per school.*

- The challenge is open to middle and high school students and educators at schools worldwide. *Create teams, brainstorm ideas and raise cash!*
- All donations will go through Architecture for Humanity and will be matched by the Bezos Family Foundation up to \$500,000.
- In order to encourage as many schools as possible, we will cap the match of \$2,500 per school. However, there is no limit on what schools may donate.
- The top three fundraising teams will be recognized at the end of the challenge.
- Creative fundraising is a must! Students will have opportunities to exchange ideas with other participants. The most creative ideas, by a tally of votes, will be recognized at the end of the challenge.

**ACT NOW:** Visit [www.studentsrebuild.org](http://www.studentsrebuild.org) to learn more and sign up your team.

## THE PARTNERS

- **Architecture for Humanity** is a nonprofit design services firm founded in 1999 to build a more sustainable future through the power of professional design. By tapping a network of more than 40,000 professionals willing to lend time and expertise to help those who would not otherwise be able to afford their services, Architecture for Humanity brings design, construction and development services where they are most critically needed. Its disaster relief work in the Gulf Coast and Sri Lanka produced replicable models for effective reconstruction of devastated communities. Its 2009 Open Architecture Challenge to “Build a Better Classroom Design” paired students and teachers with architects, and drew entries from 342 schools, 3,600 students, 500 teachers and 1,200-plus designers. [www.architectureforhumanity.org](http://www.architectureforhumanity.org)
- **The Bezos Family Foundation** The Bezos Family Foundation offers this challenge grant to schools, matching donations dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000. It is a private, independent foundation established by Jackie and Mike Bezos—who along with their children and spouses—serve as directors. The Foundation works to strengthen educational opportunities for everyone, regardless of economic circumstances, and cultivate learning as a lifelong process that begins in early childhood. In addition to funding educational organizations, it has created two programs for public high school students: the Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute and the Bezos Scholars Program @ the World Science Festival. Bezos scholars helped judge the Architecture for Humanity “Build a Better Classroom Design” challenge at the 2009 Aspen Ideas Festival. [www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org)
- **Global Nomads Group** (GNG) is an international education organization that enables dialogue and understanding among the world’s youth through live videoconferencing exchanges. GNG brings the world into classrooms, connecting students to the people and places they often read about so they may learn first-hand about the global issues of our time. GNG’s interactive programs from Port au Prince will allow participating students to meet face-to-face with their Haitian peers and learn directly from them how they are coping with the earthquake’s aftermath. GNG’s follow-up work will highlight the progress being made on the ground. GNG’s programs have been conducted in over 40 countries and have reached over 1 million youth. All GNG programs are directly linked to school curricula, education standards and 21st Century Learning Skills. [www.gng.org](http://www.gng.org)

## MEDIA CONTACTS

Architecture for Humanity, Diana Bianchini  
[diana@dimodapr.com](mailto:diana@dimodapr.com); 310-288-0077

Bezos Family Foundation, Linda Shockley:  
[shockley@bezosfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:shockley@bezosfamilyfoundation.org); 917-521-0711

Global Nomads Group, David Macquart  
[david@gng.org](mailto:david@gng.org); 212-529-0377