

# BUSINESS NOTES

*Maria Scandale*

## Shoes to Haitians Project Needs Help From Island Shop

It's one thing to go barefoot in the summer at the beach and another to be shoeless and walking 2½ hours to get water that's not even clean.

The poor living conditions in Haiti impressed South Jersey resident Leslee Jacobs so dramatically that she, her husband and friends risk their lives to deliver clothing, food, medicine and the Gospel with Hope Alive! Clinic Ministries Inc.

Concern is alive on Long Beach Island as well. The Island Shop clothing boutique in Brant Beach is displaying a bulletin board this summer that outlines the outreach. In addition, the Island Shop has volunteered to be a drop-off point for shoes that will be taken to Haitians in need.

Anyone who wants to donate gently used flat shoes to The Good Samaritan Shoe Drive may bring them to the shop, at 4205 Long Beach Blvd., this summer. Donors will receive a 10 percent discount on Island Shop merchandise.

Jacobs is a Medford resident and Long Beach Island visitor. The circle to LBI is complete because daughter Lindsay and fellow Hope Alive missionary Lori Iwanowski attend the same Come Alive church in Medford as Blake Hoffman of the Island Shop.

Blake told his mom, Island Shop owner Jessica Hoffman, about the program and she immediately responded. "What can we do to help?"

"They were wearing two-liter Coke bottles, cut in half and held on with duct tape, for shoes," Blake Hoffman learned.

Although one of many needs, shoes are a great essential because the native people walk everywhere they go. Parasites and disease can enter the body through the soles of bare feet.

"They have hurricanes and floods, and the first thing that goes out to sea is all the shoes you own," Jacobs related.

Doctors and dentists also trek on foot up mountains, in deep mud and through rivers to Haitian villages where no other medical care is available. "They will stand in line all day to see a dentist," Jacobs said.

The couple became aware of the program while listening to a speaker in 1982 at the Creation music festival in Pennsylvania. "My husband and I looked at each other and said, 'We're going to give our lives to this work,'" Jacobs recalls.

The mission can be a treacherous one. So many Americans would hesitate to travel through the island wilderness for fear of getting sick, one reporter commented. "Or kidnapped," Jacobs said. She has been robbed at gunpoint.

She continues because "when you're called to do something ..." she started to explain, and added, "other people in my family were more concerned for me than I was. I knew I was led and the Lord was going to take care of me."

Jessica Hoffman is glad to play a part helping to "educate people on how critical the need is" in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, while we are fortunate to live in a paradise that could comparatively be referred to as "fantasy island."

"We can't forget about them," Hoffman said. "It's a good time to clean out your closet and feel good about helping people who need help."

More than 1,000 patients a month are helped at Hope Alive! medical clinics, pharmacy stations and orphanages throughout Haiti. For more information, see [www.hope-aliveclinic.org](http://www.hope-aliveclinic.org).

The Hoffmans added that if folks want to donate funds rather than shoes, the Island Shop will forward those donations, too.

On Saturday, May 23, members of the Southern Ocean Rotary Club pitched in to help construct a new Habitat for Humanity home in Little Egg Harbor Township. Ten Rotarians cleared debris and helped install floor joists.

The club was the first organization to volunteer on this particular site.

The Southern Ocean Rotary club meets on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. for lunch at L.A.'s Restaurant in Manahawkin. A service organization comprised of business leaders, Rotary International is dedicated to "Service Above Self" and the highest standard of ethics in business and the personal lives of its members.

Also, the club held a "Get to know us better" event at L.A.'s on Tuesday, May 19. The 26 potential new Rotarians

Continued on Page 35



Ryan Morrill



Supplied Photo

ISLAND TO ISLAND: (Top photo, from left) Leslee Jacobs and Lori Iwanowski, of Hope Alive!, with Island Shop owner Jessica Hoffman and son, Blake. (Above) Haitian people stand in lines like this for medical and other care.

## Automaker Bankruptcies Don't Brake Two Dealerships

Rock solid" is how the GMC dealership leaders in Manahawkin describe their standing this week, elated at the good news received the day after General Motors entered bankruptcy.

Asplundh Buick Pontiac GMC will remain open at 445 Route 72. Two thousand other GMC dealerships nationwide can't say the same.

"We are strong, stable, and we will be here," dealership General Manager Dan Williams Sr. told The SandPaper Tuesday.

Existing customers can be relieved to see no changes on service or parts availability, as well, Williams said. "The Asplundh family wants the community to know we're here to stay."

Asplundh Buick Pontiac GMC is a subsidiary of Asplundh Tree Expert Co., headquartered in Willow Grove, Pa. The family-owned Asplundh Tree Expert Co. has specialized in line clearance services to the utility industry since 1928 and has expanded also into Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Continued on Page 35



Jack Reynolds

DRIVE: The Asplundh Buick Pontiac GMC 'family' (above) got the news Tuesday that the dealership is a 'key dealer' in General Motors' restructuring plan. General Manager Dan Williams Sr. is in the sunroof at center.

Back

Next

Click On A Number Below To Go To A Page