Project Haiti: Best Bike Challenge & Holiday Giving

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Editor's note: We're endlessly grateful to EBS - and all of our donors thus far - for making Project Haiti a possibility. We ask you to please consider Project Haiti, USGBC's effort to build a LEED Platinum orphanage and children's center in Port-au-Prince, for your holiday donations. You can text 50555 to give $10 to the initiative (full terms) or visit our donation page for more information. Happy holidays & sincerest thanks!

With all the excitement at Greenbuild – the products, the ornate booth displays, the high-profile speakers, and the education around the next innovations in sustainable design and construction – a humbling yet empowering component of this year's conference was USGBC's efforts to raise money and break ground on the Haiti Orphanage & Children's Center, an initiative that they've dubbed Project Haiti.

Going above and beyond simply cutting a check, we at Environmental Building Strategies (EBS) wanted to create a philanthropic experience for all Greenbuild attendees to enjoy and get involved. As high performance building consultants with a love for the outdoors, the environment and good ol' competition, EBS put a "spin" on California's Best Building Challenge to create the Best Bike Challenge: a stationary bike competition to raise funds, awareness and energy for Project Haiti.

Taking place in EBS and Integral Group's expo hall booths, Greenbuild attendees rode stationary bikes throughout the conference to generate watt/hours, which translated into financial donations backed by EBS, Boston Properties, CAS Architects and Nibbi Brothers General Contractors.

With more than 320 riders who generated more than 800 watt/hours of energy on the bikes throughout the show, Greenbuild attendees met and exceeded the threshold goal to achieve a $10,000 donation*. Highlights included the opening evening "bike-offs" between big names in green building, as well as Rick Fedrizzi himself jumping on the bike and accepting the $10,000 check.

View more details about the Best Bike Challenge and Project Haiti, and check out the fun – and funny – event photos on EBS' Facebook page. Big thanks to our contributing partners for making the Bike Challenge possible, as well as to all who jumped on the bike and contributed to the cause!

**Editor's note: The total funds actually raised totaled $9,500.*

Kim Kuettel
Environmental Building Strategies (EBS)

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