

Alain Paul Martin
President & CEO

The Professional Development Institute PDI Inc.
www.executive.org
1-800-HARVARD
+1(819)772-7777



January 26, 2010

Subject: Please Help Dr. Paul Farmer's Partners in Health in Haiti Now at www.pih.org

Dear family and friends,

To bring health care to the poorest of the poor, I know of no organization better than Dr. Paul Farmer's *Partners In Health* (www.pih.org) in Boston. And in Haiti, **PIH** was in high gear, with all its doctors and assets, on the daunting task from day one. *Partners In Health* is also collaborating in Port-au-Prince with the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders, among others, to open and run medical facilities and operating rooms. For 25 years, Partners In Health has stood as a beacon of best health-care governance and practices, with immeasurable achievement on the ground, amidst local and UN bureaucracies.

You may already know from Tracy Kidder's bestselling book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* that Partners In Health co-founder Paul Farmer grew up very poor in a bus, made it to Harvard Medical School, where he became MD in infectious diseases and concurrently earned a PhD in Anthropology, practised medicine in Haiti, Peru and Rwanda, and even in Russia, delivering care to the neediest, without seeking or relying on local-government funds. Building on its medical roots in Boston hospitals with Harvard-University medical-community support, PIH care is now cutting-edge and, first and foremost, context and culture centric, with a large dedicated and diverse workforce—the vast majority of which are local people who previously had never had a job. Dr. Farmer is also a medical scholar at Harvard Medical School where he chairs the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine. Acknowledging Dr. Farmer's decades of work in Haiti, President Bill Clinton, in his capacity as UN Special Envoy to Haiti, appointed Dr. Paul Farmer in August 2009 as the "[United Nations Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti to assist in improving the economic and social conditions of the Caribbean nation](#)" to collaborate on efforts to eradicate exclusion from healthcare and combat poverty and unemployment.

Take a look at PIH's most recent annual report http://www.pih.org/inforesources/annual/PIH2009_annualreport.pdf and, if you are eager and willing to help, please spread the word about PIH (www.pih.org), especially among students, NGOs and your corporate contacts, in the medical devices, medical nanotechnology, probiotics and biopharmaceutical community, and anyone interested in bringing decent and avant-garde health care to Haiti. In order to live with lasting peace and social stability, the citizens of Haiti deserve no less than the best in quality care and a safe milieu to work and educate their children.

I was very privileged to meet Paul Farmer in October 2008, was fascinated by his compassion, existential humanism, can-do attitude, and achievements in places like Rwanda, where years before him, I had first-hand experience delivering CIDA's emergency aid through the World Food Program. The progress on Paul's daunting mission led me to write about him, in December 2008, in a monograph on exemplary leaders (see excerpts below). I was grateful that Paul Farmer was a passionate and cosmopolitan Francophile speaking a flawless French, and also comfortable with Spanish, according to a Madrileño and fellow HBS alumnus in attendance. Note that at the time, Dr. Farmer was not a leader of a large team. PIH now has over 11,000 employees, in areas of high-risk exposure that feature armed conflicts, epidemics, malnutrition and natural disasters!

Thank you for your time and efforts.
Warmly,
Alain

P.S. Excerpts about Dr. Paul Farmer

4. Dr. Paul Farmer: A Model Team Leader Who Embodies the Seven CSFs

Among our contemporaries, I searched for someone who can identify with both experienced team leaders and aspiring counterparts; someone who is neither Chief Executive nor a leader of a large team; someone who has the substantive knowledge and know who to bring in to complement his limited strategic know-how; and who reaches out to important sources of financing to leverage his shoe-string budget.

I was privileged to meet Dr. Paul Farmer at the 2008 Global Summit commemorating the Centennial of Harvard Business School. Dr. Farmer brought Michael Porter to provide the strategic expertise. Both briefed us on Dr. Farmer's team's daunting mission to cure the poorest of the poor and alleviate poverty in Haiti, Rwanda, Peru and Russia. With a small team of dedicated doctors and nurses, Paul made a huge difference in improving the health and well being wherever he intervened, without bureaucracy and with small budgets. His performance in Haiti is now seen by the CDC in Atlanta as a potential model for HIV/AIDS and TB clinics in the US because his team is outperforming US counterparts in health outcomes, using the most stringent metrics and modest financial means. Tracy Kidder, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the author of the bestsellers [The Soul of a New Machine](#), [Among Schoolchildren](#), and [Home Town](#), wrote an award-winning book about Paul Farmer titled [Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World](#).^[i] I have adapted a couple of web excerpts about Dr. Farmer below:

“At the center of Mountains Beyond Mountains stands Paul Farmer, a pioneer and leading role model in social justice serving the poorest of the poor. Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur “genius” grant, world-class Robin Hood, Farmer grew up as one of six children in a poor household in Florida. He was brought up in a bus and on a boat, yet he was able to attend Duke and Harvard, where he earned his M.D and Ph.D. In medical school, Farmer found his life's calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. This magnificent book shows how radical change can be fostered in situations that seem insurmountable, and it also shows how a meaningful life can be created, as Farmer—brilliant, charismatic, charming, both a leader in international health and a doctor who finds time to make house calls in Boston and the mountains of Haiti—blasts through convention to get results.

“Mountains Beyond Mountains takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that “the only real nation is humanity” - a philosophy that is embodied in the small public charity he founded, Partners In Health. He enlists the help of the Gates Foundation, George Soros, the U.N.'s World Health Organization, and others in his quest to cure the world. At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope, and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb “Beyond mountains there are mountains”: as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too.”

^[i] Tracy Kidder, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the author of the bestsellers [The Soul of a New Machine](#), [Among Schoolchildren](#), and [Home Town](#), wrote an award-winning book about Paul Farmer titled [Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World](#).