



BREAKING NEWS STATEMENT

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CHICAGO—January 15, 2010, 10:30am CST—It is with deep anguish that Friends of the Orphans is confirming the deaths in Haiti of international volunteer Molly Hightower, 22, of Port Orchard, Wash., and Ryan Kloos, 24, of Phoenix, Ariz, who is the brother of Friends of the Orphans international volunteer Erin Kloos, 26, also of Phoenix.

Ryan Kloos, a 2008 graduate of the University of California-San Diego, was recovered from the Fr. Wasson Center in Petionville on the afternoon of January 13. Erin Kloos was rescued from the Fr. Wasson Center on January 13 and is currently in stable condition in a south Florida hospital's intensive care unit. Her prognosis is good.

After an extensive search, Molly's body was recovered from the same location at approximately 4:30am ET Friday, January 15.

A friend of Molly's visiting Haiti, 22-year old Rachel Prusynski, a University of Portland graduate and resident of Boise, Idaho, was also rescued from the Fr. Wasson Center on January 13. After medical treatment for a broken arm and severe cuts, she has been reunited with her family in the U.S.

Both Erin, a University of Washington graduate, and Molly, who graduated from the University of Portland, worked as international volunteers for Friends of the Orphans. They served at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos/Nos Petit Freres et Soeurs (NPH/NPFS, Spanish and French for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") in Haiti. Molly assisted in the physical therapy program, and had begun her service in June 2009.

Erin's initial volunteer service spanned September 2007 to October 2008. She had recently returned to NPFS and served in many capacities. While at NPFS, she helped in the lab at the hospital, assisted with visitors and volunteers, and translated for visiting doctors.

Both volunteers spent their evenings and weekends caring for and playing with the children in the hospital and those with special needs.

The Fr. Wasson Center in Petionville served as a guest house, volunteer residence, administrative offices and a day school for children with disabilities, and completely collapsed during the 7.0 magnitude Haitian earthquake.

Friends of the Orphans extends our prayers and deepest condolences to the Hightower and Kloos families during this extremely difficult time.

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