

Rasin Foundation to Honor Bill Walczak
For Dedication to Haitian Community of Boston

PRESS RELEASE

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The Rasin Foundation, a Boston-based non-profit that supports the Petite Rivière Health Center in Leogane, Haiti, announced today that it will be honoring Mr. Bill Walczak at its upcoming annual fundraiser to be held at the Endicott Estate in Dedham, MA, on October 6, 2013.

The Board of Rasin felt unanimously that Mr. Walczak's contributions to the Boston Haitian community through his work in Dorchester's Codman Square neighborhood exemplified the intersection between successful community development, improved community health, and an enriched social and educational environment. Mr. Walczak, now a candidate for Mayor of Boston, had the vision to take an underdeveloped and financially destitute part of city and empower the culturally rich members of the neighborhood to rebuild and create a thriving community.

The health center in Codman Square that Mr. Walczak helped to envision and then to launch now offers high quality care with a holistic approach to a complex urban clientele. This health center has been a national and even international model for other health centers, including Rasin's own Petite Rivière Health Center in Leogane, showcasing innovative approaches to addressing the social determinants of health.

One of the major determinants Mr. Walczak wished to address was education. As such, he was also instrumental in the development of a charter school that opened its doors within the health center, understanding the surest road to a stable and successful future – especially in low income areas – is through a solid foundation in education. The school not only serves neighborhood children but also provides health, financial, and literacy education for adults. Together, the health center and school provide hundreds of jobs to local residents in the Haitian and other communities. For all these accomplishments, the Rasin Board is excited that Mr. Bill Walczak will be accepting their recognition at the Rasin Foundation Fundraiser on October 6th.

The Rasin Foundation built and opened the Petite Rivière Health Center in Leogane, Haiti, shortly after the earthquake in 2010. The health center, which recently received its official local accreditation, is staffed by a full time nurse and has visiting clinicians (physicians, dentists, physical therapists, etc.) who provide care on a periodic basis throughout the year. In addition to the clinical services, Rasin has begun laying the groundwork for a microfinancing program for women in the community, offers low cost solar light bulbs and lighting systems for residents in the area who have no electricity in their homes, and sponsors a soccer team for youth and adults in the neighborhood. In 2014, Rasin hopes to build a solar lit community center where health and literacy classes can take place and where students can study after hours.

For tickets or further information about the Rasin Foundation, please see www.rasinfoundation.org.