

## Story From The Field: Haiti 2010

*Ruth Matranga came to Haiti on the first American Airline relief flight on January 17, and was overwhelmed by the strength of character of the survivors of the earthquake.*

*On an early Airline Ambassador relief flight, she met Michael Brewer, founder of Haiti Street Kids. He introduced her to dozens of homeless children and youth he was helping, many of them former restaveks (indentured servants who were practically slaves) and she determined to make a difference. She helped coordinate arrangements for actor Sean Penn to send a medical relief team to the Solino slum neighborhood where many of Michael's street kids are living. On trips every month, she hand carried donations for the boys as well as dozens of musical instruments for Trinity Music School, and soccer equipment for L'Atletique, AAI's adopted soccer program.*

*The team also delivered 1400 backpacks for Solino and toured this poverty stricken slum, where some of Michael's kids were killed in the earthquake and where many still live. Things went wrong, (as they always do in Haiti – cars broke down, tap taps slid down hills, plans changed....but nevertheless, the team had a powerful experience, and opened their hearts to the street kids. Donations also went to our orphan sponsorship program and L'Atletique our adopted soccer program for 2,000 kids. Many, many thanks to all who helped, especially Doreen Koss, who coordinated for the pools, backpacks and more.*

