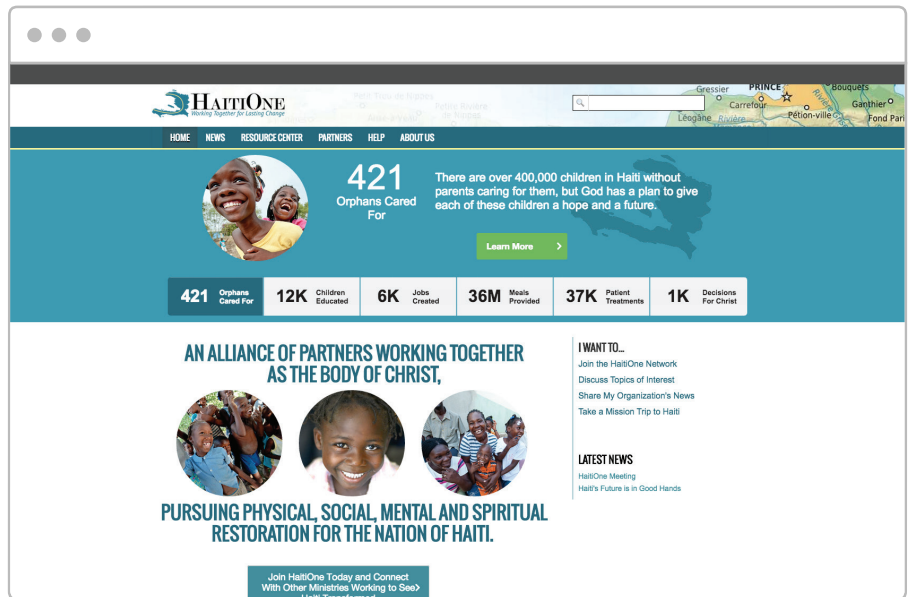# HaitiOne

www.haitione.org

In Brief

Company:
Mission of Hope, Haiti

Country/Region:
Haiti

Industry:
Nonprofit

Use Case:
Collaboration Platform,
Public Website

> We would never have been able to launch on time on our budget if Liferay hadn't had so much out of the box.

Scott Campbell
Business Operations
HaitiOne

Faith in Action

Mission of Hope, Haiti is a Christian nonprofit working to serve the nation of Haiti and see lives changed. HaitiOne is an initiative started by Mission of Hope to unite the various mission-minded NGOs operating throughout the country with a belief that a strong network and better collaboration can ultimately impact every man, woman and child in Haiti.

HaitiOne's resolutions recognize that every child needs quality education, a loving home and an advocate for justice, and all people in Haiti need the opportunity to see, hear and feel the Gospel, experience a dignified means of livelihood, and have access to clean water, proper nutrition, quality healthcare and health education. The HaitiOne network also wants to aid in development of a system for early warnings for disasters and better-organized relief efforts. Utilizing its network of mission minded NGOs, HaitiOne's goal is ultimately to help link the organizations serving in Haiti so that, by working together, we can see the nation of Haiti transformed.

Connecting a Fragmented Network

There are many great mission-minded businesses and NGOs working all across Haiti, but operating within their own unique sphere of influence with minimal collaboration even though they face the same types of challenges. The HaitiOne Network began with a series of meetings and conferences designed to connect these organizations. And from the first gathering, it was clear that there was a need and huge opportunity to connect together to share ideas, best practices, and encourage one another. And with so many organizations scattered throughout the country, it became clear that leveraging the developing Internet infrastructure within Haiti would be a great way to stay connected between meetings.

With all this in mind, the idea for a digital application called HaitiOne.org to support the HaitiOne Network was born. This application would help each organization publish

information about where they worked and what services they offered. In addition, HaitiOne members could provide updates on what God was doing through their organization and share knowledge on the best ways to run different programs like education, orphan care, medical clinics, pastoral training, agriculture and more. Finally, the HaitiOne partners believed the application would become a great vehicle to show the outside world the cumulative impact of their work on the nation. With all this in mind, a multi-year roadmap of features and functions was created.

Looking for a Trusted Feature-Rich Platform

With the need and vision for the HaitiOne Network taking shape, it became time to investigate the right technology and partner to build the solution. While the planned scope of the initial releases was kept small, the need to scale the application and add features seamlessly over time was a critical requirement. Because Mission of Hope and most of the other HaitiOne members are nonprofits, the need to steward resources well and keep costs low was also vital. After an extensive evaluation of products on the market, Mission of Hope chose Liferay, a Leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Horizontal Portals, as the software platform of choice due to its many out-of-the-box (OOTB) features, built-in web content management system, low TCO and long-term flexibility.

Next came the need to choose a development partner to build the initial release. Mission of Hope selected XTIVIA (winner of Liferay's Partner of the Year award for three years and a leader in the portal space). According to Scott Campbell, Business Operations Team Lead at Mission of Hope, "The fit with XTIVIA was outstanding. From the very first meeting we knew they could be a great partner because they invested a lot of time trying to really understand our needs and then helped carefully map our ideas into Liferay's capabilities while keeping project schedules and budgets in mind."

With Liferay's broad feature set and XTIVIA's experience with building on the platform, the new HaitiOne.org site went live in October 2014 taking less than five months to launch.

An Online Network for Real-World Impact in Haiti

The HaitiOne.org team worked with XTIVIA to build both a public-facing website and an internal network for member collaboration. Each organization that joins HaitiOne can publish a profile explaining who it is, where it operates, what services it offers, and the impact it is having across different measurable dimensions. There are also filtering features allowing users to find organizations that match certain geographies or other areas of interest such as orphan care or education, which benefits both HaitiOne members as well as those outside Haiti looking for places to get involved.

Using Liferay's CMS capabilities and social functions, a section for posting current needs and sharing past experiences in Haiti has been brought online. Now, members can enroll and participate in message boards, check for news updates and network on the HaitiOne website. Over time each topic will evolve into a full-fledged resource center containing documents, best practices, resource links in addition to collaborative discussions.

The team is already at work adding features like Facebook integration, geo mapping, and more to provide additional value for HaitiOne members. "The number one thing is how easy it is for our team to add content and basic features. We don't need developers to maintain the majority of the site and can freely add information ourselves with Liferay," said Campbell. "We would never have been able to launch on time on our budget if Liferay hadn't had so much out of the box and XTIVIA not helped us make wise architecture choices on how to use it."

The Road Ahead

Thanks to Liferay and XTIVIA, HaitiOne has taken its first steps toward building a deeply impactful online network. Organizations are starting to discover and coordinate with other HaitiOne partners before taking on new projects so they can learn about pitfalls and opportunities from those who have been through it before. And with the initial release of HaitiOne.org in place, Mission of Hope can start to invite more organizations into the HaitiOne Network as well as offer them a place to share their expertise and impact.

"God has given Haiti everything it needs to see lives transformed," said Brad Johnson, President of Mission of Hope. "And as the organizations serving in Haiti have better tools to work together, we can see the dream of reaching every man, woman and child become a reality. We appreciate XTIVIA consistently going the extra mile to find creative solutions to deliver the first release of HaitiOne.org, and we look forward to collaborating with them on future phases."

As for XTIVIA's staff, the payoff from this project has been much bigger than just the satisfaction of a successful client solution delivered. The team loves to work on HaitiOne.org for the organizations working there and ultimately for the people of Haiti.

ℹ The Liferay Difference

The HaitiOne program experienced:
- A site launch in just 5 months
- Easy-to-use web/document CMS for non-technical users
- Greater unity between NGOs with new digital network
- Enhanced collaboration with social features (forums, blogs, user groups)

LIFERAY. | XTIVIA