

**KAY BLADA RECYCLING**  
Work Trip to Haiti Preparation  
December 2018

This is the last trip for the year of 2018, and it's an important and exciting one. Together with the Haitian team, we will be celebrating this year's milestones and most importantly we are going to celebrate our 3rd anniversary! Also, we will be setting new goals for the year 2019.

*The Marathon*

**The First thing that will happen during my time in Haiti will be the Marathon.** For the town of Hinche's anniversary, Hinche Marathon Organization is partnering with Kay Blada Recycling in hosting a running race to raise awareness about the environmental issues the Department of Center Plateau is facing.

This big celebration will bring thousands of people to the area from all around the world, to come celebrate one of the oldest cities in Haiti, which is home for over 32,000 people. Kay Blada Recycling is going to be collecting litter from all around the town and it's surroundings during and after the marathon, to make sure that the area will be cleaner than ever for the actual day of the celebration. The marathon will take place on December 7th and Hinche's anniversary is on December 8th. Kay Blada Recycling will be distributing tools to everyone who will be involved in the cleanup, and promote Kay Blada Recycling's work in the community, encouraging locals not to litter, but recycle.

*Meeting with the School Teachers*

It's very important that I meet with the teachers everytime I go to Haiti, especially at this point in our growing phase. Kay Blada recycling is in the process of developing a new curriculum to improve its **Environmental Education Program**. I am going to expose the new ideas to them and collect ideas from them to better understand how the new curriculum will help improve their work.

With the help of Kay Blada's board of directors, we have been thinking about new ways to structure our education program to complement the current curriculum, with hands on activities and set plans that will enable us to measure progress which will result a long term cleaner environment.

With the help of our 25 strongly committed teachers, we are going to develop a classroom based curriculum to go along with hands-on activities. We will be talking about what has been working for the past 2 years that the program has been in practice. We will also brainstorm about how can use lessons learned to improve this new curriculum that is being developed.

### *Meeting with all the Hospitals in the Center Plateau Area*

Kay Blada Recycling had signed a contract with these hospitals and the execution of the contract has not been applied as planned. As you may imagine, hospitals pile up their waste and burn it (for them, that's easier). Kay Blada Recycling is presenting a new practice which involves sorting the waste and separating recyclables from other medical waste. Then, Kay Blada Recycling will come and pick up the waste for recycling.

There are over 40 clinics in the area, generating a great amount of waste, and we want to help manage and reduce their waste. Most importantly, we want to make sure that the conditions are clear and will be respected, since this collaboration with the hospitals is putting our workers at risk as they use their hands to process the material.

Therefore, this meeting will be more of an education session for the hospital's personnel, to explain to them the importance of this collaboration and how much we value our workers' safety. We will also be emphasizing how this new way of handling the waste will benefit their work as caregivers, as less people will come in with problems related to open burning. They are contributing to a long-term cleaner environment and healthier community.

We are also going to:

- Look at ways to simplify the collection process to make it easy for them.
- Find out what is their preferred way of doing the separation.
- Explain how Kay Blada Recycling is willing to provide the tools needed to store and transport the plastics.
- Improve/train Kay Blada Recycling's employees to exercise good communication skills, be responsive to the hospitals' requests, and professionally represent Kay Blada Recycling.

### *Begin Purchasing Land*

This year, one of my goals was to find and secure a piece of land for Kay Blada Recycling. It took a long time to find a land that was big enough and at a good location, and also at a good price. After months of looking, we have a few options of land to buy. On this trip, I will be investigating the land's history, current ownership, and how long they have been on the land. I want to learn as much as possible about the surrounding neighbors' behavior. Then, with the help of my lawyer, negotiate the price and necessary legal steps.

Owning land will open so many doors for our organization. Having more space will enable Kay Blada Recycling to handle more plastic and simultaneously create more employment. We are now in a desperate situation to purchase land, because our current lease ends in 12 months, and our landlord is not renewing the lease. Kay Blada Recycling risks not having a place for its operations if I do not find a place before November 2019. Please stay in touch with us, because when I come back we will launch a fundraising campaign to raise funds to purchase the land. We count on your support :)

## *Staff Meeting*

Among 6 of us, including the Education Program's leaders, conversation will be around:

- Acknowledgement of all the progress that we made this year, celebrating our 3rd year of operation.
- Looking at Kay Blada Recycling's current operation situation/condition
- What does our future look like by having a larger space?
- What other tools and equipment can contribute to making operations easier and more efficient?
- What will the budget/finances look like for 2019?
- How can we improve the performance of the team?

## *Establishing New Recycling Centers*

**Also on the trip, I will be part of the establishment of two new recycling centers, in two different communities.** I have been in contact with two young entrepreneurs who are very interested in the work Kay Blada Recycling does and want to bring that practice to their communities.

One recycling center will be in a community in Gonaive, Department of Artibonite. There I will be training the group of people on how to buy, process, transport, the plastics. The other one will be in Mirbalet which is in the Department of Center Plateau. They have it in place already, I will only be helping this person organize his recycling center and put in place a structure that will make it easy and accessible for the transportation process.

This trip, like other trips, will be very productive. The cost for each trip to Haiti is around \$2000. When I take these work trips, I put a lot of effort into improving/empowering my staff to do things on their own, on my behalf which will enable me to reduce the number of trips that I take. The current practice is that I take 4 trips to Haiti each year. But the goal is to reduce that to only 2 trips per year— or none, if not necessary.

In the meantime, please consider supporting this mission by making a donation right now at [www.kayblada.com/donate](http://www.kayblada.com/donate). Would you like to support our cause every month? Please consider going to [www.kayblada.com/monthlydonations](http://www.kayblada.com/monthlydonations). And as always, look out for our trip report, where we will let our supporters know about the fantastic progress!

### **Blada**

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