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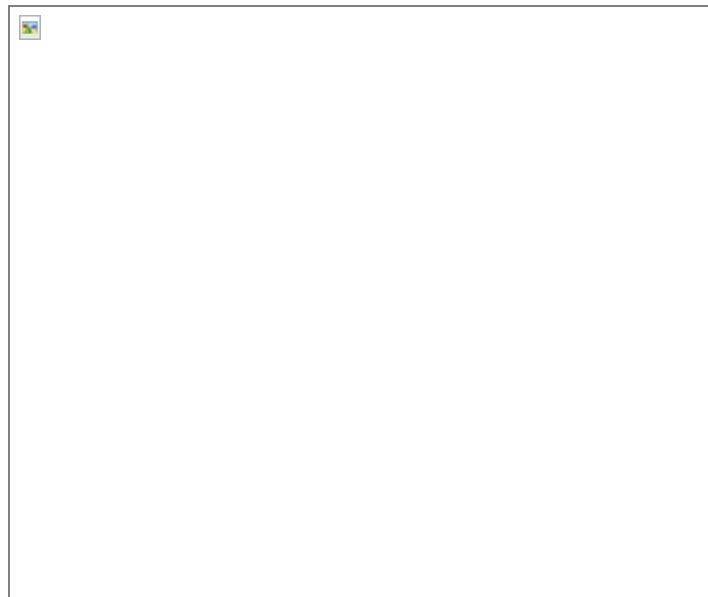
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CULTURE • SOCIETY • POLITICS

VIDEO

Sean Penn Makes Waves in Haiti

by Lenora Jane Estes July 13, 2010, 2:45 PM



Since January, actor/director turned activist Sean Penn has been running a Haitian camp for 50,000 displaced earthquake survivors (see “Welcome to Camp Penn” in *VF*’s July issue), helping thousands relocate to safer ground during the rainy season. With hurricane season approaching, Penn’s organization, *J/P Haitian Relief Organization* (jphro.org), is not only helping Haitians escape the flood-prone areas but also making the rainwater safe for them to drink.

Five days after the earthquake, Penn teamed up with [Waves for Water](#), a California-based charity started by former pro-surfer Jon Rose, to distribute hundreds of filters throughout Haiti. According to Rose, each small ceramic filter, which lasts up to a year, can remove just about everything except salt from salt water and helps up to 40 people per day.

When freelance journalist Jarrod Holbrook heard about Penn’s partnership with *W4W*, he rushed to see the action first-hand. “Instead of focusing on the lives that will be lost during the rainy season, I was interested in the more positive aspect of helping people,” Holbrook says. “Sean Penn is using the rain to his advantage

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to save lives by distributing clean, safe water to people in remote areas. What he's doing with the rain-catching systems is unique."

Penn has now helped supply and distribute more than 10,000 filters, giving approximately 100,000 people access to clean water. In the video above, Holbrook explains in detail how the filters are changing Haitian lives.

Keywords:

Haiti, Hollywood, Politics, Sean Penn, Video, Waves for Water, earthquake

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