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Freedom Solar Power, ABC Home & Commercial partner to bring electricity to Haitian orphanage

Live music benefit for orphanage's solar project Dec. 15

AUSTIN— Freedom Solar Power and ABC Home & Commercial Services are teaming up to bring a 100 percent sustainable off-grid solar system to an orphanage in Haiti that currently does not have electricity.

Freedom Solar will host a benefit on Dec. 15 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Summit Rooftop Lounge, 120 W. 5th St., with live music by Minor Mishap Marching Band, to raise funds for the project. The benefit is free and open to the public, with a suggested \$10 donation at the door.

Raleigh Jenkins, president of ABC Home & Commercial Services in Houston, is a founder and board member of [A Child's Hope](#), the nonprofit that built the orphanage. The goal is to make the orphanage self-sustaining, Jenkins says, and solar power is critical to that mission because there is no electricity available on the mountain where the orphanage is located.

The orphanage's solar installation will begin in January. Freedom Solar will donate the labor, and SunPower will donate the panels. Proceeds from the benefit will help pay the additional costs of the project, such as international customs and trans-oceanic shipping costs for equipment. Once installed, the 20-kilowatt solar array and battery backup will meet 100 percent of the orphanage's electricity needs.

"Solar power will allow us to build an aquaponics farm to raise fresh fish and grow nutritious, organic produce. Solar will allow us to refrigerate or freeze that food so it doesn't spoil and the children have a constant, reliable source of food. Solar will allow us to light our facilities. It's a life-changer," says Jenkins.

The charitable partnership comes on the heels of Freedom Solar installing arrays on two of ABC Home and Commercial's offices: a 50-kilowatt project at the San

Antonio office earlier this year, and 147-kilowatts at the Austin headquarters last month. The arrays offset 75 percent of each office's electricity costs, and the money ABC saves on its bills will help fund the Haiti orphanage.

Bret Biggart, managing director of Freedom Solar, says: "We're excited to deepen our partnership with ABC Home & Commercial and work together on this meaningful charitable project. Haiti has the world's largest population living in energy poverty, with more than 7 million people lacking access to electricity."

Once completed, A Child's Hope Orphanage will give 320 Haitian children the opportunity to live in a thriving environment that differs sharply from traditional orphanages in the country.

"Most Haitian orphanages are merely designed to keep kids fed and to provide shelter. We're creating a place where kids can grow, learn, and become productive citizens and leaders of Haiti," says Jenkins. "We're overwhelmed with gratitude for Freedom Solar Power. They're helping us build a sustainable future for lost and abandoned children in Haiti for generations to come. It's going to change lives."

For more information or to RSVP to the Haiti orphanage benefit, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1755180694807373/>.

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About Freedom Solar Power

Freedom Solar Power is the leader in turnkey solar installations in Texas, providing high quality, cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for residential and commercial markets. Freedom Solar has installed more than 15 megawatts of solar panels since it was founded in 2007 and grown 307 percent from 2013-15. Recognized as the number one supplier of residential solar systems in Austin by Austin Energy, the fourth-fastest growing company in Central Texas by the Austin Business Journal, and number 338 on Inc. Magazine's top 500 fastest-growing private companies in America, Freedom Solar has completed projects for corporate clients including Whole Foods, Office Depot, Lake Flato Architects, and the University of Texas, among others. <http://www.freedomsolarpower.com/>

About ABC Home & Commercial Services

With offices in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, College Station, and Corpus Christi, ABC Home & Commercial Services employs more than 900 people and offers a wide variety of services including pest and termite control, lawn care and mowing, landscaping and irrigation, tree trimming, air conditioning and heating, plumbing and electrical, pool cleaning and repair, handyman services, appliance repair, and security system installation and monitoring.

<https://www.abchomeandcommercial.com>

About A Child's Hope

A Child's Hope is a nonprofit created to build a safe, loving, and supportive Christian home for more than 300 lost and abandoned children in Haiti. Our goal is to build a self-sustaining community for the children to be empowered and thrive in their own environment. There are still more than 400,000 abandoned children in Haiti. They desperately need your support to make their hope a reality.

<http://www.achildshope.org/>