



Together, we can save a life

Prairie Winds Chapter
301 2nd Street South
Marshall, MN 53258

News Release
NEWS RELEASE

Haiti Disaster Relief

Marshall, January 14, 2010–

On Jan. 12, a series of earthquakes with magnitude 6.5 to 7.3 struck Haiti in the highly populated area of Department Ouest, 10 miles from Port-au-Prince. Aftershocks are continuing to occur. Damages and deaths are expected to be astronomical.

There are a number of different ways for businesses and individuals in our communities to be involved and to help that are slightly different than what was done for Katrina and other hurricane situations within our own country.

The collection of goods: This is discouraged and will not be supported by the American Red Cross. The time needed to ship the items as well as the cost of the shipping itself far outweighs the benefits of collecting them. Additionally, certain in-kind donations are not always appropriate for cultural, political, economic or administrative reasons during international situations..

Monetary donations: These types of gifts provide a fluid means of addressing the needs at that moment in the best ways possible. As of 01/14/10, the American Red Cross has directed \$10 million of relief from our International Relief Fund to support our response efforts in Haiti. You can help with a donation of your own in any of the following ways:

- Physical checks, money orders or cash can be mailed to or dropped off at the local American Red Cross chapter (301 2nd Street South, Marshall, MN 56258.) Please call before dropping in 507-532-5565. Checks and money orders should be made payable to “The American Red Cross International Response Fund” and state “Haiti relief” in the memo line or somewhere on the check or money order.
- Physical checks or money orders can also be prepared as directed above and mailed to the American Red Cross National Headquarters, PO Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. **DO NOT SEND CASH!**
- Credit card donations can be made by calling 1-800-REDCROSS OR 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish)
- Credit card donations can be made on-line at www.redcross.org

Please note that donor intent will be honored in all cases and that 91-100% of total donations raised will go directly towards the relief efforts and that Administrative costs will be waived totally the local Prairiewinds chapter serving your area.

Corporate Contributions: Many large corporations are making substantial corporate gifts as partners of the American Red Cross of either goods, money or both. If we are made aware of any such gifts on a local level, we will let you know with authorization from the Corporation making the gift.

Fundraising: Churches, businesses, groups, etc. are encouraged to raise funds on behalf of the relief efforts in Haiti, and to mail a check or money order for the total funds raised to either of the two locations noted above.

Tracking of family members and loved ones: Due to the high number of people who have been displaced or killed, this will be a primary focus. Those looking for family members can start by going to www.lerc.org/familylink.

Volunteers: Due to the tenuous situation in Haiti, volunteers are not being recruited at this time for any positions including medical and translators. This may change at a later date. Only select response assistance groups are being allowed into the country. Currently, nine large groups of responders from the United States and around the world have been deployed to Haiti.

Should you have any questions about the content of this press release, please contact Colleen Grothem, Executive Director of the local American Red Cross – Prairiewinds Chapter at 507-532-5565.

- End -