



News Release

Central Minnesota Community Foundation · 101 South Seventh Avenue, Suite 100 · St. Cloud MN 56301 · (320)253-4380

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Steve Joul, Central Minnesota Community Foundation, 253-4380
Barbara Carlson, Central Minnesota Community Foundation, 253-4380

Foundations Join Forces to Support Earthquake Relief Effort

The Central Minnesota Community Foundation has established the Help for Haiti Fund to support relief efforts underway in Haiti for the victims of the January 12th earthquake and has provided the first donation to the fund. A total of \$15,000 has been committed from CMCF and its affiliate foundation, the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation. The Foundation will also work with other local funders to generate donations.

The Foundations welcomes gifts from individuals and businesses in all three areas. Donors may designate one of the three following options; undesignated funds will be divided evenly among the three.

Project Haiti

Organized by a variety of individuals and organizations in the Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna/Aitkin area, Project Haiti has provided extraordinary support to the people of Pignon, Haiti—everything from improving sanitary bathroom facilities and improvements to the hospital to recruiting surgical teams to rotate through the facility. The Pignon hospital was not damaged, and started sending aid; supplies, doctors, staff etc down to the devastated area, only to find a steady stream of patients coming to Pignon to find help. Instantly the supplies and capabilities of Pignon became further stressed.

American Red Cross—Haiti Relief

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters. The American Red Cross is sending money, supplies and staff to Haiti to support relief efforts there after yesterday's earthquake. The American Red Cross has made available all of the relief supplies from its warehouse in Panama which would provide for basic needs for approximately

5,000 families. In addition, it is deploying a disaster management specialist to Haiti, and has additional disaster specialists on standby if needed.

Partners in Health

Founded in 1987, PIH has operations at nine sites in Haiti. At its root, their mission is both medical and humanitarian. PIH has hospitals and highly trained medical staff in place in Haiti. PIH is already mobilizing resources and preparing plans to bring medical assistance and supplies to areas that have been hardest hit. In an urgent email from Port-au-Prince, Louise Ivers, clinical director in Haiti, appealed for assistance from her colleagues in the Central Plateau: "Port-au-Prince is devastated, lot of deaths. SOS. SOS... Temporary field hospital by us at UNDP needs supplies, pain meds, bandages. Please help us."

Checks should be made out to CMCF/Help for Haiti and can be mailed to or dropped off at the Central Minnesota Community Foundation office at 101 South 7TH Ave. #100. St. Cloud, MN 56301. Credit card donations can be made online at www.communitygiving.org. If donors want to designate one of the options above, that should be added to the check or on-line form.

As more information emerges about conditions in Haiti and about relief efforts, the Foundation may add to its list of designated recipients.

Steve Joul, president of CMCF states "Our hearts go out to the people of Haiti at this very difficult time. This fund is one of the ways the generous people of central Minnesota can help those in need."