

Haiti

The earthquake in Haiti has left many of us wondering, “**How can I help?**” Right now, Haiti needs experts—doctors, nurses, search and rescue teams, and support personnel—who have experience and training in emergency relief. Haiti also needs material resources of water, food, and medicine. The best way to help is to contribute to the organizations that can provide these human and material resources. As time progresses, there may be a need for expertise or support for reconstruction, including areas such as engineering, community development, construction, and resource management. This will require on-going financial support, and continued awareness of the issues and needs of the country.

The Year of Service encourages you to learn more about the issues, the complex history, and the vibrant culture of Haiti. Use the library resources to find credible sources <http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/library>. Read analysis and reports from the United Nations <http://www.un.org/en/> and UNESCO <http://portal.unesco.org/en/>. Talk with your professors.

“If ever there were a time for the international community to show solidarity, it is now. I issue this appeal to all sectors of society – governments, foundations and other donors, individuals. Haiti needs immediate, massive and well-integrated relief aid.”—Irina Bokova, Director General UNESCO

Media Resources:

BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

National Public Radio (NPR) <http://www.npr.org>

CNN Impact Your World (information about reputable charities & volunteer opportunities) <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/impact/>

C-SPAN for video of press conference and updates from Capital Hill <http://www.c-span.org/>

Organizations applying 100% of donated funds to direct relief for Haiti

Clinton Foundation: “The William J. Clinton Foundation focuses on worldwide issues that demand urgent action, solutions, and measurable results”. Donate at <http://www.clintonfoundation.org/haitiearthquake/>

UNICEF: “UNICEF provides children with health care, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency relief, and more.” Donate at https://secure.unicefusa.org/site/Donation2?df_id=6680&6680.donation=form1

Mona Foundation: Mona Foundation supports “Grassroots social-economic development projects” two of which are in Haiti. They are applying current funds to help children affected by the earthquake. Donate at <http://www.monafoundation.org/contribute.htm>

Other Organizations Helping Haiti: All of these agencies are effective and, importantly, already have been working in Haiti.

Americares: Delivering medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world. <http://www.americares.org/>

Doctors Without Borders: “Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization working in more than 60 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe.” 87% of donated funds are applied directly toward relief efforts. Learn more and donate at <http://doctorswithoutborders.org/>

International Red Cross/Red Crescent: “Assistance from the IFRC has started to arrive in Haiti. Several Emergency Response Units (ERU) have been deployed with staff coming from Red Cross Red Crescent societies all over the world.” 93.5% of the donations will go toward relief. Learn more and donate at <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/haiti/index.asp>

Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC): DEC is a centralizing committee in the UK that galvanizes charities in a time of crisis in order to coordinate and expedite responses. Funds donated to DEC will reach the charities and service agencies that can best respond to the crisis. At least 95% of funds are applied directly to the relief effort. Learn more and donate at <http://www.dec.org.uk/>

Mercy Corps: 89% of funds are applied to the relief efforts. Learn how they are helping with Haiti Earthquake Relief at <http://www.mercycorps.org/>

Save the Children: “Save the Children needs your support to help us meet the most critical needs of children and families affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Your donation will help us provide urgently needed medical attention, safe drinking water, and other necessities.” 92% of funds are applied to the relief efforts. Learn more and donate at <http://www.savethechildren.org/>

Salvation Army: “Support the work of The Salvation Army in Haiti now by [donating online](#). 100% of your donation will go directly to the suffering of Haiti.” Learn more and donate at <http://www.salvationarmyhaiti.org/>