



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

District 6000

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District Governor 2009-2010



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Dear Rotarians

I am sure everyone has seen and are continuing to see reports of the massive destruction in Haiti due to the recent earthquake. As days go by the reports seem to only get worse. Below is a quote taken from a relief organization that is working in Haiti.

*Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, already was reeling from the effects of a devastated economy, extensive poverty, poor infrastructure, and last year's floods, which wiped out crops and washed away roads and homes. The earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010, brought further damage to a country that already was suffering. Homes and major buildings have collapsed or tumbled down hillsides. The streets are filled with sounds and sights of grief and anguish, as survivors walk through rows of bodies pulled from the rubble of Port au Prince, the capital city of Haiti. Families choke the city's streets and open spaces, terrified to return to buildings that still might collapse from earlier damage or continued aftershocks.*

As Rotarians, we are feeling the pain of the Haitians when we witness this kind of massive loss. As an organization one is moved to action.

As result of discussing District 6000's options with Jim Riordan, our District 6000 Disaster Relief Chair from the Rotary Club of Waukee, we have identified two possible avenues of response.

1. **Meals From the Heartland** (Des Moines area) and **Kids Against Hunger** (Southeast Iowa, Brighton). These two sister organizations are involved with packaging dried food stuffs into sealed bags that are sent to countries that are in need of food for starving and undernourished people. Each sealed bag, when packaged, contains fortified rice-soy chicken flavored casserole with 7 dried vegetables and over 20 vitamins and minerals. The mixture was created by a team of food scientists to fight the affects of starvation. Each bag contains 13.8 oz of materials that will produce 6 one cup meals at the cost of 25 cents per meal. \$10.00 will feed 40 children, \$50.00 will feed 200 children. Rotarians can make contributions to pay for these meals that will be sent to Haiti to feed the people who are in need of nutritious meals.
2. **World Vision International.**  
World Vision and District 6000 are currently working together to provide Micro-credit for residents of Sri Lanka who are working hard to recover from the tsunami that destroyed their country. World Vision agreed to match the contributions from District 6000 at a one dollar to one dollar level, therefore every \$1000 dollars we contributed were matched by \$1000 from World Vision.

The exciting news is that World Vision has agreed to match any contributions sent to them from District 6000 for Haiti, again, at a one to one level. Because of this match, every \$1000 dollars contribution from District 6000 will be matched by \$1000 from World Vision.

World Vision has a long history of working alongside the people of Haiti. They have provided relief and long-term development assistance for 31 years. More than 52,000 children receive the benefits of child sponsorship through 20 community development programs supported by U.S. donors and donors worldwide. More than 320,000 people are being helped by World Vision programs that target education, health and sanitation, economic development, and advocacy for the poor. Other special programs target clean water, food security, sustainable agriculture, and HIV and AIDS. The World Vision staff in Haiti numbers more than 370 people, plus volunteers.

World Vision has experience responding to disasters in Haiti and worldwide. Last year, they responded to dozens of emergencies, including devastating floods that hit Haiti during hurricane season. Thanks to generous donors, World Vision was able to provide much-needed assistance to thousands of children and their families following the floods.

Donation to World Vision can help provide much needed assistance to people in Haiti who have been injured and lost homes and belongings in the earthquake.

Here are just a few examples of how your donation can make a difference:

- \$5,000 can provide Family Survival Kits to 50 families.
- \$13,000 can provide hygiene kits, containing items like soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products, to 300 families.
- \$32,500 can provide 10,000 families with water containers used to transport and store water.
- \$130,000 can provide up to 450 families with materials, such as tarps, wooden poles, and iron sheets, to build temporary and safe shelters.

If your club would like to join this relief effort in Haiti, you are encouraged to send your contributions to the District 6000 501(c)3 fund, Health and Education Fund Inc, (HEF) which is managed by FAMSCO. Simply send your check or checks, made out to **District 6000 Health and Education Fund Inc**, to Dick Kennedy, FAMSCO treasurer, and manager of the HEF fund. On the memo line include "Haiti Relief Fund". The address for Dick Kennedy is 1811 N. Dubuque Road, Iowa City, IA 52245.

If you prefer that the money goes to one of the two initiatives please specify which one you prefer. If a preference is not made the money will be distributed between these two initiatives.

Thank you for your commitment to the needy in Haiti.