

Ways to assist the People of Haiti

Each and every newscast and frequently through social media we see and hear about the devastation and resulting health problems that are once again happening in the southern part of Haiti. Three District 7010 clubs (Barrie, Kapuskasing and my club Peterborough Kawartha) that I am aware of have done work in Haiti. Kapuskasing works in the North of Haiti; Barrie in Port-au-Prince, the capital city and my club in the Jacmel area in the south east. I have 4 suggestions as to ways your Club or you as individual Rotarians can assist.

1. Rotary District 7020 is composed of 80 clubs in ten different countries and territories including Haiti and Jamaica. This year's District Governor Haresh Ramchandani, of the Montego Bay East Club in Jamaica, has circulated a statement and video about how we as Rotarians can help. Some of you will remember the Montego Bay area Wheelchair Distribution we did in 2007. Haresh was one of the Montego Bay East Rotarians we worked together with. In his message to Rotarians, he recently said the following:

"... A Hurricane Matthew Disaster Committee headed by District Disaster Chair Jacqueline Heyliger, a disaster planning professional based in the US Virgin Islands, and a number of district leaders have met, assessed the needs currently coming out of Haiti, and have decided on 2 components:

One – An Immediate Response for Direct Relief needs and

Two - a more medium to long term approach."

As Rotarians, especially those of us outside the area and District, we generally work on medium to longer term projects. Governor Haresh then continues by saying: "If you wish to help in the more medium to long term effort, you can contribute to the **District 7020 Disaster Fund** on the **District 7020 ClubRunner** site and specify how wish to have the funds are to be used. We have also setup a **Donor Advised Fund at The Rotary Foundation** and we are pursuing a Global Grant based on the needs that the Rotarians in Haiti are evaluating currently."

2. A second suggestion is **Shelter Box**. After the 2010 earthquake there were thousands tents and supplies deployed to Haiti. Shelter Box is an excellent short term solution. Their contact information is as follows:

THEIR WEBSITE IS **[HTTP://SHELTERBOXCANADA.ORG/DONATE.PHP](http://shelterboxcanada.org/donate.php)**

DONATE BY PHONE **Toll-free: 1-855-875-4661**

DONATE BY MAIL 159 Jane Street, Office 2, Toronto, ON M6S 3Y8

USE THEIR individual and group donation forms to include with your donation.

Charitable registration number: 84628 3208 RR0001

3. A third suggestion is related to my Kawartha Club's work in **Jacmel and surrounding area**. Jacmel was affected but not quite as much as in Les Cayes, Jeremie and Aquin in south west Haiti, where the eye of the storm hit. Peterborough-Kawartha has been actively involved in Jacmel since 2007 when we went there to do hands on work in an orphanage. (We have since been down another 7 times). During that 2007 trip and in 2009 we made contact with the RC of Jacmel and with them we did 3 matching grants. We also continue to work with the **Faith and Love orphanage and rural/mountainous School in Marbial**. This year we are doing 3 small projects with the founder of the orphanage Marlaine Alix who was a speaker at our 2014 Val 'Or District conference. Marlaine has sent some information about the girl's home being badly flooded and that it may need parts reconstructed. The roofs on both the boys and girls homes were also damaged. Apparently the children were helping do some patching and cleaning up the grounds. At the Marbial School (about 15 kms in the mountains) the principal was taking an inventory of all the school and community families. I understand that specific needs have yet been identified. Donations can be made directly to Faith and Love Orphanage and/or the School in Marbial through our Club (dawn@straka.ca) or through

Marci Taylor at Faith & Love Children's Ministry
4519 222A Street, Langley, BC V2Z 1B2

Marci's Phone: 604-530-8485 or email: marci@flcm.ca

Marci is able to issue Tax Receipts

4. A fourth suggestion is the **Canadian Red Cross**. Their website **Hurricane Matthew Appeal** clearly describes how to donate.

This information has been compiled at the suggestion of DG Margaret Walton. For further or updated information please contact **Dawn Straka**, Director District 7010 Service Projects at 705-295-6375 or dawn@straka.ca.