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NEWS RELEASE

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WEST VIRGINIANS URGED TO HELP IN HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS

Charleston, W.Va. – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

As we prepare to honor Dr. King by serving on his holiday, we could consider taking those words to heart by supporting the people of Haiti in this time of great need.

Reports from the region have stated a tremendous loss of life, catastrophic damage to most buildings affecting a third of the population, and dire need for food, water and medical care.

Anyone wishing to donate or provide assistance in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that struck near Port au Prince on Jan 12, 2010, is asked to consider any of the following methods.

- According to the State Department, the best way to help the people of Haiti right now is to give money. To donate financially:
 - Visit [.whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) to make a donation.
 - Visit [.clintonbushhaitifund.org](http://clintonbushhaitifund.org) to make a donation.

- Visit interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti to make a donation.
 - Visit american.redcross.org/supporthaiti to make a donation.
 - Visit the US Department of State's blog at blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/help_haiti_disaster_relief_efforts.
 - Via Cell Phone – Text the word “HAITI” to 90999 to make a \$10 donation to the American Red Cross.
- The US Department of State has an email address - [@state.gov](mailto:state.gov) - for those who think they have something specific to donate, such as a large quantity of goods.
 - Center for International Disaster Information - CIDI has established a dedicated page to coordinate Haiti support at: www.cidi.org/incident/haiti-10a/. At this time, volunteer opportunities are extremely limited to people with specific skills. If you have the expertise needed, you can register your skills and experience for a possible volunteer opportunity at the Center for International Disaster Information's registration page, [.cidi.org/reg_off.htm](http://cidi.org/reg_off.htm). For individuals or organizations that wish to donate goods, visit [.cidi.org/input/dscmd.htm](http://cidi.org/input/dscmd.htm). To donate time, visit [.cidi.org/input/dstechas.htm](http://cidi.org/input/dstechas.htm).
 - Family Reunification – The International Committee of the Red Cross just opened its family/friends unification website, which allows both those in Haiti and those outside Haiti to list their contact information in hopes the other side checks the appropriate list. There is also an option for an active search should the sought-after person not appear on the list. Visit [.familylinks.icrc.org/WFL_HTI.NSF/DocIndex/locate_eng?opendocument](http://familylinks.icrc.org/WFL_HTI.NSF/DocIndex/locate_eng?opendocument) for more information.
 - Family Reunification – Individuals and organizations can call the US State Department Operations Center Helpline at 888-407-4747.
 - Circle of Health International – This organization will support Women's Health Issues in Haiti with a team of trained Women's Health Professional Caregivers: [.cohintl.org/05news/_newsletters/0110_haiti/index.html](http://cohintl.org/05news/_newsletters/0110_haiti/index.html).
 - Search and Rescue Teams and other Response Teams- Search and Rescue and other response teams are on hold right now. If they haven't been contacted by

FEMA, they are probably not needed at this point. Wait to be contacted by FEMA.

- Haitian-Americans in the United States – Temporary Protected Status will be granted to Haitian-Americans in the United States at this point, which will protect them from the possibility of deportation until further notice. More information will be available soon at [.whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).
- Media Inquiries – Members of the media can contact the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 202-821-1983 for more information.

For more information, please contact Volunteer West Virginia at (304) 558-0111 or visit [.volunteerwv.org](https://www.volunteerwv.org).

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