

Special Alert from Haitian Relief & Missions

January 17, 2010

HAITIAN RELIEF & MISSIONS RESPONDS TO DISASTER

In response to the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, Haitian Relief and Missions, a mission to Haiti based in Berlin, Ohio, is coordinating local response to the need.

Haitian Relief & Missions (HRM), is a non-profit, non-denominational mission organization active in Labaleine, Haiti since 1984. The mission operates a school with over 500 students, a clinic, and a sewing center, and is active in community aid projects. HRM operates under a board of directors, hailing from five states with the majority from the Holmes County area. Twelve HRM volunteers are currently on the ground in Haiti; half are from the Berlin area. HRM also owns and operates Share & Care Thrift Store in Berlin.

The board of HRM is coordinating efforts to send small house kits to Haiti on containers along with area volunteers to build them. Local storage barn builders, who are experienced in constructing these kinds of kits, are partnering with HRM to build house kits and prepare them for shipping as soon as possible to provide housing for Haitians who have lost their homes. JDM Structures, Alpine Structures, and Little Cottage Company are assisting in the effort. HRM is also in conversation with additional barn builders.

A special custom-designed 8' x 16' structure is being used. Additional items will be sent along with every house kit including, a folding kitchen table, various kitchen wares such as a kettle and silverware, plus mattresses for adults and pads for children along with other bedding linens. The structures are designed with one built-in bed and multiple "roll out" mattresses. The objective is that each kit once it's constructed along with the additional items will be "move in ready" for a Haitian family to live in. One shipping container has a capacity of about fifteen kits.

As funds become available, materials for the kits is being purchased at discounted rates and shipped via sea container.

"Our plan is to use local skilled volunteers to build the first 15 houses on site", says Steve Miller, HRM Board Chairman. "After that, our staff on the ground in Haiti will coordinate the construction of these houses using Haitian workers".

"Our American staff in Haiti will be involved in finding the appropriate recipients and coordinating the movement of the containers as soon as they are released from the port" states Miller. "We have been sending containers to Haiti for years, and that experience is very helpful in this effort".

"We currently have a doctor, two nurses, and five additional personnel along with HRM's Bobcat, assisting with Rescue efforts in Port-au-Prince. Our concern is, that once the rescue efforts wind down, where will these thousands live who lost their homes, especially those families with small children".

All donations will be used directly for materials and shipping of these house kits.

Donations can be mailed to: Haitian Relief & Missions, P.O. Box 433, Berlin, OH 44610, or dropped off in person at: Share & Care Thrift Store, 4663 U.S. 62, Berlin, OH 44610.

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