

LCI HELPING HAITI

EMERGENCY EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

48 Hour Challenge

16 January 2009

Dear LCI Students, Teachers and Staff,

We are sure you have all seen the shocking and disturbing photos of the devastation caused by the January 12, 2009 earthquake in Haiti. The estimates as of today are that 200,000 people have died (more than twice the population of Lethbridge) and 3 million are injured or homeless (almost the entire population of Alberta). Basic needs for such as food and water are in extremely short supply and the survivors are desperately awaiting international assistance.

Haiti was already the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, and one of the poorest in the world. It has been plagued in recent years by violence, drugs and gangs. Many Haitians at the best of times do not have access to education, health care, etc. Much of the decaying infrastructure has now been destroyed.

We would like to invite all members of the LCI Community to make a donation towards the relief effort. We are a large school community and our pooled resources could make a major impact in meeting the needs of these people who now have nothing. If everyone in our school of approximately 1600 people agreed to contribute just \$20, that would total \$32,000 in donations! Because of the approaching end of semester on Wednesday, January 20, our timeline for emergency response is very short. We challenge you all as members of our school to contribute what you can, with a suggested donation of \$20 or more, and let's see if we can collect \$10,000 over the next 2 days. The federal government is currently matching donations to registered charities, so this would have a \$20,000 impact.

In the wake of a disaster, it is critical that financial support be provided to legitimate and reputable organizations, preferably those already set up and active in the affected area. Funds collected from the 'LCI Helping Haiti' 48 Hour Challenge will be donated to UNICEF Canada. UNICEF has been in Haiti for over 60 years, is already "on the ground" and has vast expertise, which will help save lives.

Donations will be collected in Advisor Class on Tuesday, January 19 and Wednesday January 20, 2010. A table will also be set up in the main foyer of the school at lunchtimes on these days, and donations will also be accepted there by a group of volunteer students. Finally, the main office of the school will also accept donations outside of these times until Jan 20th.

Please help us meet our goal of \$10,000. Contributions may be by cash or cheque. Completion of the form attached to this note (not mandatory) will allow you to receive a tax receipt from UNICEF Canada. Any cheques should be made payable to UNICEF Canada.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kwan
"LCI Helping Haiti" organizer

Deb Yanota
LCI Acting Principal

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