

NEWS RELEASE

Haiti: Top Priority for Medical Mission

Doctors Provide urgent medical care thanks to Hope Force International

Brentwood, TN February 2, 2010 – Three weeks after Haiti’s massive earthquake toppled buildings and buried countless victims, the Red Cross estimates three million people – a third of the country's population – need aid. Haitian authorities say close to 190,000 people may have died and the full death toll may never be realized. Amongst the outpouring of relief from around the world, a distinctive Tennessee-based nonprofit is making a profound impact.

Within a few days of the magnitude 7 quake, Hope Force International (HFI) had personnel on the ground, working with in-country partners to assess the most expedient means of utilizing available resources. In collaboration with World Relief, Hope Force is working with two Christian Hospitals in Haiti to serve the tens of thousands of people impacted by the earthquake. More than \$2.5 million of supplies are being made available to the Haitian people through Hope Force. A generous donation from Smith & Nephew, a leading orthopedic manufacturer in Memphis, is making up the majority of these shipments.

According to the organization’s founder, Jack Minton, “We now have two medical teams on the ground with supplies and resources, permitting them to bring much needed compassionate care to those who are suffering. Our staff members, volunteers and many supporters across the country have worked tirelessly to mobilize disaster response teams, relief supplies, medical equipment and finances that have propelled us into a full-scale relief effort in Haiti.”

In keeping with Hope Force’s commitment to reach the most remote communities affected by natural disasters, medical teams have already treated patients in the outlying regions of the country. Aid organizations are calling locations such as the Leogane area “Haiti’s Forgotten South” and report that there are villages where rescue teams only reached survivors two weeks after the earthquake. Townspeople say as many as 500 nuns, priests and students were crushed to death when the Sainte Rose de Lima School, a central point of the city, collapsed in the earthquake.

Anesthesia equipment and orthopedic supplies are in Port-au-Prince thanks to dedicated efforts from multiple partners in Haiti and the US. According to HFI Senior Vice President, Cherie Minton, “We all should be thankful for our partnership efforts that have paid off as we realize the impact our surgical equipment and supplies are having on the relief effort. We are a key supply source for this initiative. We are deeply grateful to our surgeons working tirelessly in Port-au-Prince and to our partners for their generous services toward our common goal of serving the precious people of Haiti.”

Hope Force personnel are participating in the regular UN disaster response coordination meetings. The need to purchase and send tents that can serve as patient recovery and volunteer housing is predominant. This urgent need is being felt by most every relief agency working amongst the devastation.

Aid agencies agree that one of the major gaps in disaster response is volunteer housing. Hope Force International is assembling the equipment and personnel to provide a workable Base Camp in Haiti. The project involves the purchase and deployment of durable tent

facilities for patient recovery and essential team operations. The initiative will expedite relief and recovery efforts by providing a central point for communication, coordination of work crews and a safe, stable environment for volunteer responders.

According to Hope Force's Jack Minton, "The mission of Hope Force is to equip willing responders and mobilize them onto pathways of service. The crisis in Haiti is a prime example of the need to have individuals from all walks of life trained to go into disaster situations. Comprehensive disaster management is based upon four distinct components: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Hope Force Response Teams embody technical skill, experience and commitment to these four fundamentals."

Hope Force International is a Christian response to the need that surrounds us at home and abroad, reaching out to those who experience suffering and loss. As a leading non-profit organization dedicated to disaster response, HFI is comprised of individuals who are dedicated to utilizing their expertise to inspire, equip and mobilize thousands of volunteers into areas of crisis around the world. Hope Force is rapidly approaching its goal of 1,000 active HFI Reservists ready to respond to crisis points around the country. Founded by Jack and Cherie Minton in 2003, Hope Force International endeavors to become a leading volunteer response force, bringing hope to those affected by crisis or disaster.

Contributions to the Hope Force International response in Haiti can be made at the website.

www.hopeforce.org

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