

January 15, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Haiti Needs Your Help Now!

We have all been devastated by the news of the earthquake in Haiti. The vivid images of destroyed buildings and people roaming the streets looking for loved ones fills our television sets. We are deeply saddened by the lost of lives in my beloved country. I know there are several people who have lost loved ones or have not heard from loved ones and we will continue to keep them in our prayers.

This is a time for reflection for us in the Haitian community as well as others. Life becomes more precious when you realize how easily it can be taken. We all have become consumed with things instead of people. We value things that can be replaced not realizing people cannot be. In time the buildings in Haiti will be rebuilt; hopefully stronger and better, but the lives lost cannot never be replaced nor forgotten.

Today, let us all make a vow to do what we can for the victims in Haiti. Donate whatever you can to support the efforts in Haiti. My Haitian people will dust this tragedy off their shoulders and fight to see another day. Let us pave the way and help make their journey better.

Let us show them, we have not forsaken or forgotten them. To donate to the victims of the earthquake see the information below.

World Vision, [Operation Hope for Haiti](#).

World Vision is distributing emergency survival kits--including food, water, blankets and tents to provide immediate aid to affected children and families

www.worldvision.org and checks payable to World Vision (with notation: Haiti Earthquake Relief) may be mailed to: World Vision, Attn: Lisa Torres, 1800 N. Bayshore Dr., Suite 3501, Miami, FL., 33132.

World Vision is one of the largest NGOs operating in Haiti with over 800 staff, partnering with over 200 communities focusing on agriculture, economic development, integrated education, and vulnerability reduction for families and communities. Their community interventions are based on a holistic model to promote long-term sustainability. World Vision is also one of the first responders to natural disasters in Haiti and around the world, providing hope and assistance to over 100 million people in nearly 100 countries.

UNICEF is seeking donations to the ongoing emergency relief efforts in Haiti and the Caribbean region through www.unicefusa.org/haitiquake or call 1-800-4UNICEF.

• **Operation Helping Hands**, a joint community project of The Miami Herald and United Way-Miami, will be collecting donations to support the relief effort in Haiti. To make a contribution, go to www.iwant2help.org

CNN has a website with information about many other organizations that you can contribute to that will help Haiti.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/impact/>

Keep Haiti in your prayers and thank you in advance for helping in any way you can.

Beatrice Louissaint, President
Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council