

Haiti Earthquake Emergency Response



This photograph provided by Médecins Sans Frontières shows wounded people gathered at the office of the medical charity in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Wednesday.



Solidarity for Haiti Now!

Local 8751 is working with a broad array of Haitian community organizations, elected officials, community activists, clergy, unionists, women's organizations, and others to build a united response to come to the aid of our sisters and brothers suffering in Haiti. We began the effort with our emergency response meeting on Wednesday, January 13th hosted by the Local and International Union, Fanmi Lavalas; the Organization of Former Members of Mahanaim, Inc.; AFAB-KAFANM (Association of Haitian Women of Boston); Boston City Councilors Chuck Turner, Charles Yancey, Felix G. Arroyo, & Ayanna Pressley; Bishop Felipe Teixiera; International Action Center; FIST; and others.

The meeting was chaired by Frantz Mendes, President of USW Local 8751. Boston City Councilors expressed solidarity with the people of Haiti and those in the room with family and relatives in Haiti, and offered the resources of their offices to facilitate assistance in any way possible. USW District 4 Staff Rep. Joe Carlson read a letter from USW International President Leo Gerard expressing solidarity with the people of Haiti. The union has donated \$20,000 toward relief efforts, and those in the meeting pledged to seek more. A coordinator for Fanmi Lavalas Boston described the devastating conditions on the ground in Haiti and indicated Fanmi Lavalas will continue to work tirelessly in support of the Haitian people. Jonathan Regis of FIST discussed efforts to establish communications and coordination in the search for missing persons. The information he collected at the meeting has been forwarded to appropriate authorities including the Haitian Consulate and the State Department. If you wish to participate in this effort contact Jonathan at jonregis@gmail.com. USW 8751 will collect aid donations in the bus yards starting Tuesday, January 19. More information concerning donations, materials, and medical supply drives will be forthcoming. Emergency response organizing is taking place through Boston Public Schools; area colleges and universities; and many local churches.

Resources

SEIU 1199 Boston Haitian Crisis Center - a support; referral; counseling services; free phone calls to Haiti, use of internet, computers, fax machines. The Center is located at 150 Mt. Vernon, Dorchester, MA 877.409.1199. The Center is open 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Thursday thru Saturday. **The Caucus will be meeting 5:00 pm Friday, January 15th.** Call the above number for future meetings of the SEIU Haitian Caucus.

Partners in Health – Boston-based nonprofit that has worked in Haiti for 23 years and has setup field hospitals in Haiti to treat the injured. Partners is located at 888 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215 617.432.5256 <http://www.pih.org/>

T-Mobile USA has waived call charges for subscribers to and from Haiti from January 12, 2010, until January 31, 2010.

IFCO Pastors for Peace/Haitian Relief – In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, IFCO/Pastors for Peace is supporting Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees (HWHR), Lakou New York, and Movement for Dominican Haitian Women (MUDHA) in rapidly delivering humanitarian aid to the people of Haiti. They can be contacted at 418 West St. 145th St., New York, NY 10031 212.926.5757

For more information: 617 524-3507 - www.bostonschoolbusunion.org