



On January 12, at 5:22pm local time, a series of earthquakes with magnitude 6.5 to 7.3 struck Haiti in the highly populated area of Department Ouest, 10 miles from Port-au-Prince.

- Current media reports indicate collapsed buildings including hospitals and government buildings, and that the earthquake was felt as far as Cuba.
- Haiti Red Cross staff on the ground report collapsed buildings in Port au Prince.
- As is typical in the immediate aftermath of an earthquake, the full extent of damage is unknown at this time. However, as with most earthquakes, we expect to see immediate needs for food, water, temporary shelter, medical services and emotional support.

TO GET HELP

For inquiries about relatives living and who have citizenship in Haiti, please be patient and call repeatedly until the lines clear or contact other family members who live nearby. Telephone, Internet and other communication lines are often disrupted in times of disaster.

The ICRC now has the Family Links website up and running for Haiti. Family members can go on and register names of missing relatives in Haiti. The address is: www.ICRC.org/FamilyLinks.

People trying to locate U.S. citizens living or traveling in Haiti should contact the U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Citizens Services, at **1-888-407-4747** or **202-647-5225**.

CNN ireport: [looking for loved ones in Haiti](#) - Are you searching for a family member or friend in Haiti? Upload his or her photo on CNN's ireport.

TO GIVE HELP

The Haitian- American community of Connecticut has partnered with the Save the Children and the American Red Cross to provide assistance to the suffering people of Haiti. <http://www.uhasociety.org/>



The United Haitian-American Society (a local 501c3 organization serving the Norwalk-Stamford-Bridgeport area) has set up a relief fund for victims of this disaster. Residents can donate to the **Haiti Relief fund of Fairfield County** by going to any Fairfield County Bank, People's or Webster branch and making a donation via check or money order. Financial donations can also be dropped off at the Mayors office in Norwalk City Hall (125 East Ave. Room 236). Checks can also be mailed to the United Haitian- American Society at 304 Main Ave, Box 414. Norwalk, CT 06851.

To donate directly to agencies:

Save the Children: www.savethechildren.org

Text to help:

By texting SAVE to 20222 a \$10 to Save the Children for Haiti earthquake victims. The donation will be charged to your mobile phone bill

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org.

Text to Help

By Texting HAITI to 90999 a \$10.00 donation will be sent to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts. The donation will be charged your mobile phone bill.

Americares: www.americares.org

UNICEF: www.unicefusa.org 1.800.FOR.KIDS (1.800.367.5437)

Doctors without Borders: www.doctorswithoutborders.org/

Other resources:

- CNN: [Impact Your World - Haiti resources](#)
- MSNBC: [Haiti Earthquake: How to Help](#)
- Huffington Post: [Haiti Earthquake Relief: How You Can Help](#)

Be a safe and smart donor:

Here are some tips from the FBI, [Scam.Busters](#) and the [Better Business Bureau](#) on how to make sure your money goes to people in need.

- Be skeptical if someone e-mails you or contacts you through social networking sites claiming to be a quake victim or a government or charity official and asks for donations, the FBI says. Also, the agency says, do not click on any links within those e-mails. And do not click on attached files labeled photos or video because they may contain viruses.
- It's OK to be suspicious. Ask for the name, phone number and address of the charity. The [American Institute of Philanthropy](#) says honest charities encourage you to know about them and respond to your questions. Also, request that they put the information in writing.
- However, do not give them your personal or financial information, because that may leave you vulnerable to identity theft.
- Don't be misled by a charity name that "sort of sounds familiar." Scammers may change one word in the title to trick you.
- Ask if the charity is registered with any organization and get the registration number. Check for the organization on Web sites such as the [Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance](#), or [Charity Navigator.org](#).
- Ask what percentage of the money you give actually reaches the needy. You also can designate how your donation is to be used.
- Don't ever donate cash. Make the check out to the name of the charity, not the person asking for money. And get a receipt with the name of the charity on it. Do NOT give your credit card number to telemarketers or use it on a Web site of a charity you have not checked out.
- If the person seeking your donation asks you to give more, that may be a sign that something is wrong. Legitimate charities are grateful, not demanding.

The Haitian Culture Club of Brien McMahon High School will host a benefit/potluck and Haitian Entertainment. (Please bring your favorite Haitian Dish or Beverage!) \$7 Adults, \$5 Students, \$3 Children. All proceeds will be donated to Save the Children and the American Red Cross. February 11, 2010, 6:30pm, at Brien McMahon High School CGS Auditorium, 300 Highland Ave

Benefit Concert January 22, 2010 at Bear & Grill 2000 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield CT at 9 pm to benefit the UHAS Haiti Relief Fund.

Move Your Heart For Haiti January 24, 2010 Fun Family Movement at Performance Dance 12 Fitch Street, Norwalk CT. Click here for details

Benefit Concert January 30, 2010 at the Fairfield Theatre Company 70 Sanford Street, in Fairfield, CT Doors open at 7 pm. Click here for details

All proceeds will go toward emergency and medical relief for the victims.