

Members' Journal: Haiti February 15, 2010

In the wake of the Haiti Earthquake, Somerville Chamber of Commerce members are mobilizing to help bring relief both to Haiti and to our Haitian co-workers, friends, families, and neighbors here in Somerville. The following are updates that members have provided.

Arrowstreet, Inc. – Sean Selby

Arrowstreet, an architectural firm, along with its employees has made a donation to Habitat for Humanity to help with the cleanup and rebuilding efforts in Haiti. Shelter from the elements is a basic human need. Through donations to Habitat, we're able to quickly provide Haitians with transitional shelter, while helping to provide more permanent homes that will be designed with hurricane and earthquake-resistant features.

Bonney Automotive and Arlex Yellow Cab – Ron Bonney

Arlex Yellow Cab Association works directly with 82 Haitian lessees
Ron Bonney has participated in Haiti Earthquake response meetings with Somerville City government, Somerville Housing Authority, and Bunker Hill Community College. Bonney Automotive has donated to the American Red Cross.

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) – Barry Hilts (Linda Cundiff, Community Affairs Department)

Cambridge Health Alliance's community includes, staff, patients, and community members

CHA Arts Night Haiti Fundraiser

Friday, January 29th, 2010, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cambridge Hospital Campus, 1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Learning Center

Includes a performance by the Children's Theater Company and CHA artists. Auction of art will be held.

CHA Mental Health Hotline

For members of the community directly impacted by the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, CHA has established a mental health hotline at 617-665-3980

Community

CHA has hosted or collaborated at community forums by providing mental health providers and interpreters for forums held in our primary service area (Somerville, Cambridge, Malden, Everett, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop). CHA will be hosting additional community support groups over the coming weeks at CHA sites. Information about the dates/times of these support groups will be posted on our website:

www.challiance.org. CHA's Community Affairs Department is in close contact with each of the communities we serve.

The Community Affairs Department is also working closely with each of our communities in ensuring that the schools know which CHA health centers to call if they felt that a child in their school may be in need of mental health services. A symptom guide has been shared with teachers and a resource for parents on what to look for in their

child (also been translated into Haitian Creole) has been provided to school departments (see attached).

Staff

As a significant number of our staff are from Haiti or are Haiti-American, many resources have been made available to them including employee assistance, support groups, as well as a mechanism for other employees to donate earned time or paid time off to employees directly affected by the earthquake. In addition, CHA has created an internal webpage dedicated to resources and information related to earthquake. For the week following the earthquake, daily communications were sent to all staff. CHA's Human Resources department is also tracking the number of our employees directly impacted by the earthquake and the number of loved ones that they have lost in the earthquake.

CPCU Credit Union – Rui Domingos

CPCU Credit Union serves a large Haitian community and also has a Haitian employee. Since the devastating earthquake hit Haiti, CPCU has put together an effort to collect money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development efforts. Both the Somerville and Cambridge branches are equipped with signage on their Coinstream machines encouraging members to donate 10% of their exchange to the effort. In addition, canisters are available for those not using Coinstream. CPCU will match total donations collected.

East Cambridge Savings Bank – Gilda M. Nogueira

East Cambridge Savings Bank serves a large Haitian population and employs several individuals from Haiti and others with family in Haiti. In response to the Haiti Earthquake and the many families affected by the recent destruction, including employees, customers and neighbors, East Cambridge Savings Bank made a \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, Haiti Relief Fund. Additionally, the Bank has set up a collection fund at all branch locations for employees, customers, and friends interested in making monetary donations to ongoing efforts of the American Red Cross. In just two weeks, over \$3,000 in donations have been collected and forwarded to the American Red Cross. Employees have also coordinated a collections drive at all branch locations for medical and personal care items. All supplies from this collection effort will be forwarded to the Somerville Haitian Coalition. The Bank continues to outreach to community groups to learn of any additional ways it may service the many families affected by the Haiti Earthquake. Anyone wishing to make a donation to be forwarded to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, Haiti Relief Fund may do so at the Bank's Highland Office branch, 285 Highland Avenue, or at any of the Bank's other branches.

Edward Jones – Rod Laurenz

Edward Jones has donated \$50,000 to the Red Cross, and is encouraging affiliates to also do so. Because of the logistical challenges of getting aid delivered, we decided channel our donations through the Red Cross.

Green & Yellow Cab – Cindy Horan

In honor of our drivers, friends and their families, we will be presenting a check for \$1000.00 at the Haiti Benefit Concert at the Somerville Theatre. We have also contributed to the American Red Cross International Relief Fund both personally and corporately.

Holiday Inn – Jim Harvey

25% of the hotel staff are from Haiti. One staff member was vacationing in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. The Holiday Inn served as a drop off center for the Fondation Grandir organization for the three days following the earthquake. Fondation Grandir collected food, clothing and first aid supplies to be shipped to Haiti. Somerville Haitian Coalition will host a fund raiser at the Holiday Inn on Friday February 26, 2010. The event is scheduled from 6PM to 9:30 PM. There will be a variety of live music and other entertainment. Additional details will be provided as the date approaches

Precinct & The Independent – Ken Kelly

On Wednesday February 3rd, Precinct <http://www.precinctbar.com/> will host 11 live bands, there will be a \$15 cover all which will be donated to the Red Cross together with all the proceeds from a silent auction... Mayor Curtatone, the Somerville Arts Council, Somerville Community Access Television and The Independent will be hosting “An evening of Haitian Film & Video” <http://access-scat.org/news/stories/evening-haitian-film-video-a-fundraiser-haitian-relief> at The SCAT building 90 Union Square and The Independent 75 Union Square, from 7-9PM on Thursday February 4th. This event had been planed prior to the disaster. The event will now also be a fundraiser, proceeds to Partners In Health Haiti...The Independent will also donate the profits from the sale of two cocktails through the month of February.

Somerville Theatre – Ian Judge

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Tufts University President Lawrence Bacow, in partnership with the Somerville Chamber of Commerce and Somerville Local First announced today that the City will host a Benefit Concert at the Somerville Theatre on Thursday, February 18th to raise funds to support the ongoing Haiti Earthquake relief efforts. Event will include musicians, comedians, auction prizes. For more information, please contact Jackie Rossetti at 617-625-6600 x2614, or JRossetti@somervillema.gov.

Tufts University – Barbara Rubel, Community Relations Department

Tufts’ Haitian community includes faculty members, staff, and students

To Haiti with Love: A Benefit Concert from Tufts

Sunday, February 14, 1pm-3pm

Cohen Auditorium

Tickets \$10 (children under twelve \$5) - Open to the community

Please join Tufts students, faculty, staff, and members of the community in a fun and diverse concert of music from around the world to benefit relief efforts in Haiti.

Performers will include student soloists, bands, a cappella groups, faculty members from the Department of Music, and special guests.

Hockey For Haiti

Sunday, January 31, 7pm

Veterans Arena, Somerville

Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children - Open to the community

The Tufts University Club Hockey team will face-off against, league rival, Rhode Island College at Veterans Arena in Somerville. The Tufts Hockey Club will donate half of the proceeds to the United Way World Wide Disaster Relief Fund. Raffle tickets will also be sold, with the grand prize being 2 tickets to an upcoming Boston Bruins home game

The Fletcher School

Fletcher students in conjunction with Ushahidi.com, is leading a crisis mapping operation (<http://haiti.ushahidi.com>) based at The Fletcher School. Information sent through text messages, emails, and submissions via their website needs to be processed and documented on their live map. These submissions help inform first responders in Haiti. See also <http://www.firstgiving.com/fletcherforhaiti>

School of Medicine

On January 20, a team of Tufts physicians headed to Haiti.

Fundraiser for Haiti (Boston campus)

Friday, January 29, 7:30 – 9:00 P.M

Merritt Auditorium, 1 Kneeland Street, 7th Fl. Boston, MA 02115

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door - Open to the community

The Tufts University School of Dental Medicine Periodontology Department invites you to a Live Benefit Concert to support the victims impacted by the earthquake that struck Haiti. All donations will be collected through the Suzanne and Leon O. Baptiste Foundation.

Cousens Gym

In response to the tragedy and in support of the many Tufts staff who have been personally effected the department of Public Safety is collecting new and gently used clothing. This is being collected in Cousens Gym, 161 College Avenue, Medford.

Soles for Souls

Two students have partnered with Soles for Souls (<http://www.soles4souls.org>) to collect shoes, sandals and flip flops. For more information contact tuftsshoesforhaiti@gmail.com.

Again, please visit <http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/haiti> for more updates about how the Tufts community is getting involved.

Chamber members may add their relief activities by emailing smackey@somervillechamber.org