

More local volunteers deploying to Orlando, Miami *Red Cross service delivery continues to increase in Haiti*

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 — Four more American Red Cross Lee County Chapter volunteers have been deployed to assist Red Cross efforts in Orlando and Miami. Ann Boehm and Ferol Page are both trained in staffing and are assisting with repatriation efforts. Boehm is currently in Orlando and Page is in Miami. Edwin Santiago and Maria Bartram are being deployed today to Miami to serve as Spanish translators.

The repatriation of U.S. Citizens in Haiti began nearly two weeks ago and as the number of cases increases, so has the need for Red Cross assistance. Homestead, Miami, Sanford and Orlando are processing the bulk of these cases with increasing activity in Ft. Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Ft. Pearce

In coordination FLDCF (Florida Department of Children and Families), which is charge in the repatriation efforts, Red Cross workers are helping with transportation and lodging as well as assessing the individual needs of these citizens.

Red Cross Services in Haiti:

Relief supplies are arriving more frequently and in larger quantities, and, although some bottlenecks still remain, aid is reaching the survivors in the capital city and outlying areas.

- So far, more than 38 flights carrying Red Cross aid have arrived in Haiti. Additional planes, ships and trucks carrying Red Cross humanitarian assistance are expected every day.
- Shelter remains an urgent need on the ground. Together with relief partners, the Red Cross is working to provide support for host families sheltering the displaced. This immediate relief also includes providing family-sized tents and kits with tarps, ropes and tools to construct shelter. At the same time, we are developing a strategy to meet long-term housing reconstruction needs.
- The American Red Cross and its partners are distributing other relief items, such as hygiene kits, blankets and water containers, for more than 1,000 families (5,000 people) each day – with plans to increase this each day.
- Approximately 3 million pre-packaged meals from the American Red Cross have left Miami via ship and will arrive later this week in Haiti.
- On Friday, nearly 70 American Red Cross Creole-speaking volunteers joined the USNS Comfort offshore in Haiti. While aboard, they are serving as interpreters for patients receiving medical care from the U.S. military.

You can help the victims of countless crises, like the recent earthquake in Haiti, around the world each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other support to help those in need. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation by mailing your donation with the designation to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or to your local American Red Cross chapter. Donations to the International Response Fund can be made by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish) or online at www.redcross.org