

We are writing to thank you all for your support and prayers, and to update you on our team in Haiti and our plans for earthquake assistance.

We are relieved to report that all of the Haiti Marycare team has survived, but sad to announce that most of them lost family members and many also lost their homes. Abner Romelus, the director of our school in La Pleine, a slum of Port Au Prince, has survived along with those in his household; his sister, her children and several friends with children. Unfortunately, their house has collapsed and they are living outside in front of the collapsed structure. The teachers of the school have also all survived, but all are grieving for missing or killed family members.

As of the writing of this letter, there is no word yet on the school children since they were not in school at the time of the earthquake. Haiti Marycare's school staff is making home visits this week to offer any assistance available to the children and their families.

Our school in Port Au Prince was damaged but did not collapse. The surrounding walls have fallen down, creating a hazardous, but repairable situation. We hope to collect enough emergency funds to clear the grounds sufficiently to offer emergency sanctuary to wounded and homeless people. Additionally, the well on the school grounds that previously provided clean water to the surrounding neighborhood as well as the school, has also been damaged. Haiti Marycare has sent a portion of your generous donations to Abner to make repairs to the well and we hope to have it working soon. He estimates as soon as it is fixed, the well will serve 1,000 families a day.

The team in Port Au Prince has also been rescuing injured people and transporting them to hospitals and other emergency clinics. Jean Eric Massena, a physical therapist and key team member of Haiti Marycare, has traveled from the Dominican Republic to meet with the team in Cap Haitien and Jacquesyl and has now traveled to Port Au Prince to search for missing family and offer his medical services.

In northern Cap Haitien, Haiti Marycare has sent emergency relief money to doctors we support for medical supplies, particularly antibiotics, allowing them to continue with their work in the hospitals. As more injured people are being transported via helicopter and other means out of Port Au Prince, the need for medical supplies is great throughout Haiti. Haiti Marycare has medical supplies available from Medical Missionaries in Manassas, VA and has coordinated with CARE and pediatric nurse, Jennifer Mennow, to transport these supplies to Cap Haitien.

"It is the only port that is currently functioning and thankfully we have people on the ground that can receive these supplies and get them to clinics and hospitals where they are desperately needed," reports Haiti Marycare Medical Director, Mary Lou Larkin. "We also hope to transport a sea container of food", she adds. Coordination of the receipt and distribution of these supplies will be managed by the Director of Haiti Operations, Fr. Joseph Dorcin. Antibiotics such as clindamycin and penicillin as well as tetanus are still especially needed. Also critical are orthopedic supplies such as cast padding, plaster or fiberglass casting materials, slings, and splints for any body part.

If anyone is able to donate these types of supplies, please contact Mary Lou Larkin at 203-797-1893 or 203-733-6297.

Prior to the quake, Haiti Marycare's medical team had plans to go to Haiti February 8-21st to conduct an eye care clinic. "But now we may go sooner if our help is needed in other ways," says Haiti Marycare President Tom Larkin. "A riveting account of the devastation landed in my inbox the other day describing 'survivors playing rescuers, feeding people under debris, risking their lives to move concrete, people getting sick and dying because of despair, emotion and lack of care.' We have a lot of work ahead but right now we need to save lives with food, medical supplies, and manpower. We will also prepare our team in the north for the inevitable mass exodus of refugees to the rural areas where many may have come from or have families," notes Tom Larkin.

Also assisting will be team members in Jacquesyl, a main area of Haiti Marycare support that was unharmed by the disaster. "Large international disaster relief efforts are sending assistance but need help at the grassroots level from organizations like us," adds Haiti Marycare Secretary Sherman Cassidy Malone. "Especially at a dire time like this, our long-time association with the people and the region is a huge advantage. The suffering need immediate assistance from people like us who are uniquely familiar with their communities."

"Unlike many organizations, Haiti Marycare is run solely by volunteers. One hundred percent of donations go toward our efforts there and we make the most of every dollar sent," adds Mary Lou Larkin. "We hope people will consider this fact when deciding where to donate."

To donate online, please visit [Haiti Marycare](#) or mail donations to 55 King St., Danbury, CT 06811. Follow future news and updates on our Facebook Page: [Haiti Marycare Facebook](#)