

Giving Advice from Beth Gazley, Assistant Professor at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs:

This is the website I relied on to prepare my remarks for the campus-community forum:

http://informationincontext.typepad.com/good_intentions_are_not_e/2010/01/suggestions-for-donors-in-choosing-ngos-to-donate-to-after-a-disaster.html

Also see a very useful 1/21 New York Times article. As you'll see, this reporter also relied on the above website:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/21/us/21charity.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Don't rely solely on Charity Navigator or other watchdog organizations and "rating" websites. They use a very narrow set of criteria to judge charity effectiveness. The site I mentioned, www.guidestar.org can help a donor investigate an agency's financial status. I am happy to help anyone navigate the material they find there.

Don't start a new nonprofit to help Haiti. It's a waste of time and effort when there are existing organizations doing the same work.

Don't try to go to Haiti -- Unless you are a trained disaster relief worker or medical professional with an existing relationship and an invitation. I got a few questions about this at the forum last night. Haiti doesn't need untrained volunteers right now, they need the ports open for professionals and for relief supplies. The best way for anyone to use his or her volunteer efforts is here in the US raising money and organizing their social network.

Giving without getting ripped off

From the FBI website: "Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines."

- Do not open or click links contained within unsolicited email.
- Do not provide your personal or financial information to contribution solicitors.
- Contribute only to well-established organizations, and only through their official website or phone number.
- Beware of individuals who claim to be officials or victims of the earthquake, especially when they ask for donations via email or social networking sites.
- Before opening emailed attachments or photographs claiming to be related to Haiti or the earthquake, ensure that you know the sender and that the attachments have been scanned by virus software.

Read more at Suite101: Donate to Legitimate Haiti Earthquake Charities: Contribute to Haitian Earthquake Relief Effort and Avoid Scams
http://povertyworlddevelopment.suite101.com/article.cfm/donate_to_legitimate_haiti_earthquake_relief#ixzz0dLjqDDQR

Post-Earthquake Action Steps for Haiti from the Ford Foundation Fellows Listserv

People have been asking:

1) Where to contribute

a) Most reliable organizations seemingly best able to provide immediate assistance

These top 4 have people already on the ground and already tending to victims:

i. Having spoken to people on the ground, these two below are serving as a shelter for impacted survivors, providing food and water, but their reserves (normally for several hundred orphans and staff) will not last very long:

Go Free Ministries (www.gofreeministries.org<<http://www.gofreeministries.org>>)

- Click on 'donate' to give by Paypal or credit card

- Mail: Go Free Ministries Intl. PO BOX 163108, Fort Worth, TX 76161-3108.

- Email inquiries to: gmain@gfmionline.org<<mailto:gmain%40gfmionline.org>> (you can direct it to go specifically to Hurricane relief efforts)

Hope Foundation International Ministries, Inc.

2822 54th Ave. South #229, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

ii. Partners in Health

www.pih.org/inforesources/news/Haiti_Earthquake.html<http://www.pih.org/inforesources/news/Haiti_Earthquake.html> or mail Partners In Health, P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578

iii. Doctors Without Borders

www.doctorswithoutborders.org<<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org>>, or toll-free at 1-888-392-0392 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

USA Headquarters 333 7th Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001-5004.

b) Good for longer term support

i. Food for the Poor: <http://www.foodforthe poor.org/>

ii. The Lambi Fund: <http://www.lambifund.org/>

iii. World Vision: <http://www.worldvision.org/>

c) Unsure of time-table to get aid on the ground

i. YeleHaiti

<http://www.yele.org/> (Wyclef's org)

ii. Red Cross (although unclear how to direct the funds to specifically Haiti):

http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main&s_subsrc=RCO_ResponseStateSection

iii. For more complete lists of options, see:

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/kindness/post/2010/01/how-to-help-victims-of-the-haiti-earthquake/1>

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34835478/ns/world_news-haiti_earthquake/

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Haitian-Earthquake-Relief/288681741232>

d) Clothing Donations

<http://www.hopehaitifoundation.org/>

e) Donate Relief Goods

<http://matadorchange.com/haiti-earthquake-update-donations-list/>

2) VOLUNTEER

i. Plans are coming together for a trip of Matador volunteers to go to Haiti to assist in earthquake recovery and relief. <http://matadorchange.com/> ; NOAH is also gearing up to head to Haiti.

ii. Hope for Haiti is looking for medical personnel & donations:
<http://hopeforhaiti.com/volunteering.php>

iii. So is: nationalnursesunited.com<<http://nationalnursesunited.com>>