

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free The Children responds to crisis in Haiti

Toronto, ON (January 19, 2010) - After Haiti's 7.0 earthquake hit last Tuesday, Free The Children responded immediately by setting up an emergency relief fund and teaming up with Partners in Health (<http://www.pih.org/home.html>) who have been providing on-the-ground healthcare in Haiti for over 20 years. Together both organizations are providing emergency relief and medical supplies to get immediate, effective support to the hardest-hit communities.

Currently Partners in Health have over 700 health professionals in country and are supporting primary health care near Port-au-Prince. Free The Children are supporting their work by equipping them with donations to secure medical and relief supplies. Also, made possible through a partnership with World Medical Relief, Free The Children are purchasing medical supplies below cost. For every dollar, ten dollars of supplies are received. Craig Kielburger, Founder of Free The Children, and a team of staff arrived in Haiti a few days after the earthquake to work alongside Partners in Health to help in the distribution of medical supplies.

Free The Children has a long history of working in Haiti over the past decade. To date the charity has built nine schools providing education to over 1,000 youth. Part of the trip to Haiti will be assessing the damage of the schools built.

In terms of emergency aid funds raised for Partners in Health, 100 per cent of all donations will be sent directly to the projects and those in need as Free The Children is absorbing the costs associated with the administrative duties through contingency funds and staff who are also donating their time to help.

Once the need for immediate medical relief is over Free The Children will focus on longer term medical and education-based development programs for the country.

Donations are being accepted at www.freethechildren.com.

Follow Craig's accounts in Haiti:

youtube.com/freethechildrenintl

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ABOUT FREE THE CHILDREN

Free The Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in our innovative education and development programs in 45 countries. Founded in 1995 by international child rights activist Craig Kielburger, Free The Children has a proven track record of success. The organization has received the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (also known as the Children's Nobel Prize), the Human Rights Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, and has formed successful partnerships with leading school boards across North America. Visit www.freethechildren.com to learn more.