

I'm sure you've all heard about the 7.0 Mw earthquake in Haiti. The death toll is the highest of any natural disaster in the past century. The Pan American Health Organization estimates it to be around 200,000. In all, the International Red Cross estimates approximately three million people affected by this disaster.

Staff and volunteers of World Vision Canada were among the first groups to arrive in the Haitian city of Port-Au-Prince. They are asking for our donations to help them help the earthquake survivors – many of whom are children. Their website -

<http://www.worldvision.ca> - explains that the federal government is matching Canadian donations to charities involved in Haitian relief efforts dollar for dollar.

"Federal International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says Ottawa will match contributions by individual Canadians to eligible charitable organizations in support of humanitarian and recovery efforts in Haiti."

To donate through World Vision you can text "WORLD" to 45678 to contribute \$5.00 using your cell phone. This is a one-time donation and it will be added to your phone bill.

<http://www.worldvision.ca/ContentArchives/content-stories/Pages/SocialMediatotheRescue.aspx>

World Vision is also asking for donations toward emergency kits containing tarps, blankets, soap, towels, personal hygiene items, cooking utensils, and other essentials. Each kit costs \$55

<http://www.worldvision.ca/give-a-gift/Pages/EarthquakeinHaiti.aspx>. I know for many of us, \$55 or \$110 is not affordable, so I propose raising funds in our department for the purchase of as many of these emergency kits as possible. I would be happy to volunteer for collecting your donations – any amount helps! - and will forward all money collected to World Vision for the purchase of Emergency Kits. Please contact me if you need more information about this.

Thanks,

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