

Integrated Bagging Systems donated gloves to Haiti and surrounding affected areas.

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Please, find a way to help

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Published: Jan 29th, 7:12 AM

It's been two weeks since an earthquake hit Haiti and residents, organizations, churches, synagogues and businesses have joined the relief effort.

We have seen a steady stream of residents who have braved the 19 steps to our second floor office to drop off food and clothing for the earthquake victims.

And, we thank every one of them. It is humbling to know how little we can really do to relieve the suffering of the Haitian people, but it has encouraging to see such generosity.

The Rotary Club of the Caldwell's has pledged \$10,000 in funds and has collected an additional \$5,700 in donations from clubs, individuals and corporations.

The donations will be used to buy specific supplies needed on the island.

Donations may be made payable to the Rotary Club of the Caldwell's Endowment, Box 98, Caldwell, N.J. 07006.

Collection of food and clothing remains a number one priority. According to Rotary President Kevin Hersh the club's first 2,000-pound shipment of food and clothing went off to Haiti Saturday, Jan. 23.

"It was sent with a lot of love," Hersh said.

The emphasis on the Rotary's call for donations has shifted to canned foods, especially with pop-top lids. Consider purchasing canned meals such as ravioli, spaghetti, stew, fruit and vegetables for donation.

Local drop off points for donations during regular business hours now include: Terzako Furs, 472 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, Konner Chevrolet, 950 Bloomfield Ave., W. Caldwell, Willing Hearts, 491 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, Ace Hardware (back door entrance) at 490 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell and The Progress located at 10 Brookside Ave. in Caldwell.

Visit www.caldwellrotary.org as well as www.Rotary.org/Haiti for the Rotary's latest news and information on how to help the earthquake victims.

Local business have also jumped in to help. Integrated Bagging Systems a division of Inteplast Group headquartered in Livingston donated 48,000 pair of non-surgical latex gloves for distribution in Haiti and surrounding affected areas.

Storage Station, located throughout NJ and into NY state, has offered to act as Wakefern Food Corp., on behalf of its ShopRite has pledged to donate \$250,000 to The American Red Cross to assist in the relief efforts for the earthquake victims in Haiti.

As mentioned last week, there are a number of ways to make donations to The American Red Cross.

Donations may be made by calling 1-800-RED CROSS, or by texting "Haiti" to 90999 to send a \$10 donation to the Red Cross.

West Essex residents may also visit the Northern New Jersey Chapter Web site for information on the relief efforts and to make donations at www.redcrossnj.org and designating gifts to the Haiti relief.

The Salvation Army has had a significant presence in Haiti since 1950. Just prior to the earthquake the organization operated schools, clinics, a hospital and children's programs in Port au Prince.

The Salvation Army has been very active in greeting and situating the 600 evacuees that arrived at McGuire Air Force Base last weekend.

To support the Salvation Army's Haiti Earthquake Relief effort visit www.salvationarmyusa.org or phone 1 (800) SAL-ARMY to make a donation.

Most supermarkets in the West Essex Area, including Jack's Foodtown in Caldwell, make it easy to donate \$1, \$5 or \$10 to the relief effort while paying for grocery purchases.

These are only some of the West Essex community's efforts to help in Haiti. We will keep you posted on more local efforts as we learn of them.

We hope you will consider donating or doing whatever you can to help the Haitian people.



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