



Austin  
Community  
Foundation

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## Haiti Earthquake

On January 12 at 5:00 pm Eastern time, a [7.0 magnitude earthquake](#) struck Haiti, 10 miles south of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Initial reports suggest widespread damage and casualties are feared to be over one hundred thousand people. Red Cross estimates that 3 million people, one third of Haiti's population, have been affected by the earthquake. Extensive search and rescue efforts are underway but, according to the [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#), there is very little access to many parts of Haiti because of debris and closed roads. Many government buildings in Port-au-Prince have been damaged or destroyed, including the National Palace and the U.N. Peacekeeper compound.

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## How You Can Help

The scale of destruction in Haiti is catastrophic. Should you like to make a donation we encourage you to **directly donate to relief organizations**, such as:

- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Medecins Sans Frontieres](#)
- [Rotary International](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [World Food Programme of the United Nations](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [GlobalGiving](#)
- More organizations can be found at [NetworkforGood](#)
- [The Disaster Center](#) provides a comprehensive list of international disaster relief agencies
- Anyone with a US cell phone can donate \$10 to the Red Cross by texting "Haiti" to 90999. This is a State Department Program which has reported raising 3 million.

## Related Resources

- [Whitehouse.gov](#) is the federal website with a great deal of information regarding the response efforts by our government
- [ReliefWeb](#) is the global hub for time-critical humanitarian information on Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters
- [Entrepreneurs Foundation \(EF\) Disaster Response Resource Guide](#) This toolkit is intended to guide corporations of any size in establishing a Disaster Response plan that reflects the values of that corporation and is aligned with the strengths of the business. Included is a

disaster response flow chart, evaluation scorecard, and response checklist. You'll also find the results of a 2008 Silicon Valley disaster study sponsored by Symantec and Synopsys.

- [U.S. Chamber's BCLC](#) lists company donations to recent disasters and provides a disaster alert map.

The [Council on Foundations](#) is another way to receive information on how you can help Haiti. You can visit their disaster grantmaking Web site at <http://www.cof.org/disasterresponse> for current information.

## How Your Company Can Help

Our local Entrepreneurs Foundation in Austin encourages you to share your ideas on how companies can help and look forward to suggested relief organizations, information, and resources. To share your information and hear what others have to say go to [EF Community](#).

Suggestions for your company:

- Make a corporate contribution and encourage employees to donate to relief organizations, listed above
- Match employee gifts. Some companies match employee contributions dollar for dollar, some companies match up to a certain amount (e.g. the company will match employee contributions up to \$10,000, making the total combined donation \$20,000).
- Consider allowing employees to donate Paid Time Off (PTO) or a day's salary.
- Conduct a fundraising campaign such as a bake sale or silent auction.
- Consider in-kind donations and providing volunteer opportunity information to your employees. As seen in other disasters, needs for in-kind donations and volunteers will become apparent during the recovery period, after the immediate crisis has passed. Watch for guidance from relief organizations on what type of volunteer and in-kind support is needed as when and how to donate goods such as clothing, food, and medical supplies.

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The Austin Community Foundation extends our deepest sympathies to all those affected by this disaster. We encourage anyone to assist by one of the ways stated above. If we can be of assistance, please know you can call on us.

**Sincerely,**

Ken Gladish

President & CEO