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Area groups coordinating aid

By Rebecca Layne
The Winchester Star

Winchester — The earthquake in Haiti not only sent shock waves through Port-au-Prince, but also overseas to relief organizations.

"We've been flooded with phone calls from individuals locally and across the nation who want to help," said Rand Walton, director of communications for Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere).

"It just shows what big hearts are out there in the health-care community," he said.

The international nonprofit organization, based in Millwood, provides health care and humanitarian assistance. It will soon send a staff member to Port-au-Prince to review the situation and determine the health-care needs.

The organization will also ship more than \$170,000 worth of medical supplies — such as bandages, tape, and wound dressings — as early as this weekend.

"We're still in the process of collecting antibiotics from corporate partners, which will follow in the next week," Walton said.

Project HOPE will also send medications for diabetes, cancer, and other diseases.

A second group of Project HOPE team members will leave in a week or two to determine the types of long-term help needed — such as medical treatments and the training of Haitian health-care personnel.

*

Winchester-based REACH, which has adopted an orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti, will also participate in relief efforts.

REACH plans to send more mission groups in the next three to four months to help build orphanages in place of those that collapsed.



Project HOPE staff members Ruth Madison (from left), Doug Lane, and Matt Peterson discuss the organization's relief efforts in Haiti in the wake of Tuesday's devastating earthquake. The organization is sending more than \$170,000 worth of medical supplies as early as this weekend, with more aid to follow. (Photo by Scott Mason)





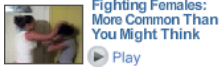
Aid Starts Tricking Into Quake-Stricken Haiti

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January 2010

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- 1/19 [Business and Breakfast](#)
- 1/29 [Live Benefit Performance featuring Revival and UnWounded](#)
- 1/30 [Greenwood Vol. Fire & Rescue Co. Honorary Fire Chief Contest](#)

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“The demand for housing is going to grow,” said Donald Stevens, REACH founder.

He was told by Father Marc Boisvert, founder of the Haitian orphanage that REACH sponsors, to expect a large influx of children into Les Cayes from Port-au-Prince.

“We’ll send more missions because the need is definitely there.” said Stevens, who is recruiting volunteers.

*

Eline Will, the wife of Strasburg resident Keith Will, is a native of Haiti and lives in Montrouis — 45 miles from Port-au-Prince.

Will said his wife e-mailed him to tell him that she was in good condition, despite buildings shaking and a house collapsing in Montrouis.

He said he plans to start an earthquake relief fund through his Life Connection Mission in Germantown, Md., but the efforts are just beginning.

“It’s early, yet,” Will said. “I think people are still brushing off their pants and seeing what they need to do.”

— **Contact Rebecca Layne at**
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