



Lee's Summit R-7 schools respond with generosity to Haiti earthquake victims

Lee's Summit R-7 School District students, staff members and families were quick to respond to the devastating earthquake in Haiti this winter. Schools are collecting money and supplies for a variety of charities, including Heart to Heart International, the American Red Cross and other relief funds.

Charitable activities have included fundraisers, collection of relief kits and special events. These activities are part of year-round character education initiatives at all R-7 schools that include community-service activities aimed at helping others while teaching children the value of generosity.

A few examples of the recent Haiti relief efforts at R-7 schools follow.

At the high school level, Lee's Summit High School's French Club organized a "Dollars for Haiti" fund drive for the Red Cross. Lee's Summit North High School Student Senate donated \$1,000 to the Red Cross and collected additional funds during lunch shifts. Combined with a matching donation from EF Tours, the total contribution from LSNHS was \$4,600. At Lee's Summit West High School, several student groups are coordinating collection of kit items, such as towels, soap and bandages for Heart to Heart International.

At Pleasant Lea Middle School, proceeds from the winter dance went to Haiti relief, and National Junior Honor Society is donating profits from a basketball tournament concession stand and other concessions to the Red Cross. Summit Lakes Middle School students raised close to \$3,000 for Heart to Heart International.

Longview Farm Elementary, Mason Elementary, Richardson Elementary, Prairie View, Summit Pointe and Woodland Elementary have been collecting care kits for Heart to Heart International. Cedar Creek Elementary sponsored a "Pennies for Haiti" fundraiser, donating proceeds to the American Red Cross. Underwood Elementary participated in the "Souper Bowl of Caring," collecting money for the Red Cross. Pleasant Lea Elementary donated money raised at its annual Pancakes for Parents fundraiser and also held a Hats for Haiti fund drive.

At Trailridge Elementary School, PTA is conducting a Penny Drive during February with funds going to Haiti relief. Highland Park Elementary's Character In Action (CIA) group also collected money and supplies for Haiti relief. At Hazel Grove Elementary, Student Council is coordinating a Sole4Souls project, collecting new or used shoes and sending them to Haiti. Sunset Valley staff members collected almost \$300 to go to Haiti relief, and Greenwood Elementary Student Council is hosting a "Hats for Haiti" fundraiser.