

January 2010

An Open Letter to the Sonoma Valley Community:

Haiti suffered the worst catastrophe in its history last week. We have all seen the heartbreaking scenes of buildings in rubble, hospitals collapsed and helpless children, elderly and animals lying injured or dead in the street.

Haiti is a shockingly poor nation but it is rich in human spirit. In this time of urgent need, we, the executive directors of the below signed Sonoma Valley nonprofits, urge everyone in our community to participate in the rescue and rebuilding efforts for this battered nation's tragic circumstance. The Red Cross has established a simple method for anyone with a mobile phone to donate much needed funds. Simply text the word "Haiti" to #90999 and you will be billed a \$10 donation to the Red Cross for Haiti relief efforts on your next. Nothing could be simpler.

So often, as local nonprofits, we turn to our loyal Sonoma Valley supporters to fund the important work we do in the local community. The tragedy in Haiti, however, is so immense that we are compelled to reach out to all of our loyal supporters and encourage you to give generously in this time of crisis.

Helping Haiti can help us all be reminded of our incredible interconnectedness as human beings and of the fragility of life. Community spirit, local and global, can triumph over crisis.

In appreciation,

Desiree Stinson, Pets Lifeline

Dave Pier, Boys and Girls Club

Annie Bacon, Seeds of Learning

Richard Dale, Ecology Center

Stephen Dale, Lu Luz

Fran Meininger, Sonoma Valley Education Foundation

Kathy Swett, Sonoma Community Center

Kathy Witkowicki, Sonoma Mentoring

Patricia Talbot, Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce

Wendy Peterson, Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau

Cynthia Scarborough, Vintage House