

Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund Committee Report

Whatever is your duty; complete it as fully and perfectly as you possibly can. And when you have finished your own duty, go on to spare some of your own time and talent in service to the less fortunate, not for any reward whatsoever, but simply because it is the right thing to do - Dr. G.W Griffin, founder and Director, Starehe Boys' Centre

This Committee has met three times since last council and has made great headway. We have defined our purpose, found many different associations, clubs and faculties to collaborate with, recruited volunteers, identified charities we could potentially donate to, and have a running facebook and Google group and will soon have something on the website.

Purpose

To provide a framework for a more concerted response to the Haiti Earthquake by the entire McGill community

To pull efforts together with McGill faculty associations, clubs, organisations and individuals engaged in providing relief of any kind to those afflicted by the Haiti Earthquake

To engage in fundraising efforts that will provide relief to those affected by the earthquake in the short term and especially in the long term

To be a resource point for individuals, groups, clubs and faculty associations wishing to raise funds or provide relief of any other kind to those afflicted by the earthquake in Haiti

The committee will also:

- Avail resources to groups that will help in their fundraising efforts
- Maintain a list of volunteers willing to help faculty associations, clubs and groups in their fundraising efforts
- Maintain a facebook group to help in the collaborative efforts
- Provide advertising via facebook, the SSMU website and list-serve to groups engaged in fundraising
- Give faculty associations, clubs and groups autonomy in running their own fundraising efforts, with an option of pulling funds together in the “Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund”. If they so wish, the groups may earmark the raised funds or relief of any other kind for a particular charity

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Collaborating Groups and liaisons thus far:

Daniel– EUS
Corey – Law Students Association
Annie Ma – SUS, DWB Chinese Students Society,
Emile Briones – Music, SLASA
Tanya - BSN, NSBE, Oxfam
Michaela – MASS
Josh – CSS, Avenue Art Gallery
Eugene and Tom Fabian – Varsity Council
Sarah – FYC, IRC
Connie – AUS

Other Ideas

Track how much money has been raised by different McGill groups.

Have a plaque of some sort in the SSMU building recognizing all the groups that have been involved in fundraising efforts.

Concerns:

Precedent – extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. Provisions could be made for the striking of a SSMU Emergency Relief Fund Committee to coordinate future efforts.

Too much fundraising – We've been trying to support, as much as we can, ongoing fundraising efforts and to bring together different groups that would otherwise organise different events.

Charities - We have a couple of suggestions now and will decide on this at our next meeting.

Finally,

If you know of any one who would be willing to volunteer their time to help in tabling, baking, samosa sales, and the like, please ask them to send an email to mcgill4haiti@gmail.com.

If you would like to attend the meetings or be a liaison for a particular group, let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Abaki
Science Rep.