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UNITED WAY'S RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI *Astounding loss hits home*

On the evening of January 12, 2010, a major 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti. It is the most powerful quake to hit the impoverished country in more than 200 years. According to reports, destruction affected as much as 70 percent of the buildings in the area, with debris-filled roads making emergency response difficult. The Prime Minister reported on January 13th that hundreds of thousands of lives may have been lost.

The loss is truly astounding and even hits home within the United Way family. United Way Brasil Executive Director, Rogerio Arns, lost his mother in the earthquake. She was a pediatrician who was part of a humanitarian effort in Haiti.

New Orleans is all too familiar with disaster. Gary Ostroske, President and CEO of United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area, said, "As residents of Southeast Louisiana, we know firsthand the challenges that result from a large scale natural disaster. The rest of the world came to our aid following Hurricane Katrina, and now it's our time to return the favor."

United Way works to support long-term recovery efforts to rebuild lives and communities devastated by disaster and to address educational, financial and health-related challenges.

United Way is currently accepting monetary donations to help with the relief efforts in Haiti. You can make a donation in one of the following ways:

- By texting **HAITI** to 864833 (United)
- Online at United Way Worldwide: <https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwwwdisaster/donate>
- Or send checks to:
United Way Worldwide
P.O. Box 630568
Baltimore, MD 21263

United Way Worldwide members in the Caribbean region have mobilized their staff, volunteer leaders and resources in response to the disaster. Monetary donations are immediately needed for relief efforts, supplies and long-term recovery.

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