



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 330, Silver Spring, MD 20910 • Phone: (301) 589-3200 • Fax: (301) 589-3223

January 15, 2010

Dear NBNA Members,

We have all heard and seen the devastating reports of the horrific earthquake that has taken Haiti to ruins, a nation that is already one of the poorest in the world. Thousands have died and are missing and presumed dead. Those remaining have lost everything. We have NBNA members who have family and friends who are directly impacted by this tragedy.

Our prayers go out to the citizens of Haiti, our members and their families who have been impacted by the catastrophic earthquake that has devastated Haiti. The U.S. government has organized search and rescue teams and we know that medical care is limited. Assistance is deeply needed.

Thank you for the many phone calls, emails and texts I have received as well as the national office expressing your compassion and concern for our brothers and sisters across the waters. It is times like this that make me proud to be a member of the NBNA to know that our members are eager to mobilize resources to care for others. Many of you have asked what you can do to assist those impacted by the earthquake. You can assist in this effort by donating to a variety of reputable organizations such as the American Red Cross, The International Medical Corps and CARE, one of the world's largest private international humanitarian relief organizations. They all have the infrastructure in place for making donations and are committed to helping the citizens of Haiti as part of their overall mission.

Many of you have received disaster training and are considering traveling to Haiti to assist in medical relief. To you I say proceed safely and make sure you know who you will be working with and have safe living quarters. If you decide to travel to Haiti, please send your name, full contact information, including cell number to the NBNA National Office to Millicent@nbna.org. We would like to keep apprised of NBNA members' efforts in this great humanitarian need.

We have been in communication with the Congressional Black Caucus and for those nurses interested in volunteering this is the information we have received. You may contact May Marconet at The International Medical Corps, a global, humanitarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training, relief and development programs. She may be reached at mmarconet@IMCworldwide.org.

You can contact your legislators and urge them to send rapid aid to save lives in Haiti.

President Barack Obama is coordinating efforts to bring immediate relief to the citizens of Haiti. In a conference call with the White House Office of Engagement, officials urged those who want to help to work in concert to channel our efforts to maximize resources.

Again, if you are considering traveling to Haiti to volunteer please do so in a safe manner. The President has urged Americans to coordinate efforts through the White House, due to the

volatility of the situation. Log on to www.whitehouse.gov for information on how you can be of assistance.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in responding to the needs of the people in Haiti, our members, their families, friends and loved ones in Haiti. Please continue to pray for their safety and well being.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Toney

Debra A. Toney, PhD, RN, FAAN
National President