PRESS RELEASE
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MAYOR BALLARD, CONGRESSMAN CARSON, RED CROSS, SALVATION ARMY ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Greg Ballard, along with representatives from Congressman André Carson’s office, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers and various other service organizations joined today to encourage community support for Haiti relief efforts.

“Hoosiers have been quick, as they always are, to offer help for our neighbors in need. That immediate reaction to lend a hand, in any way we are able to do so, is characteristic of the generous nature found throughout our community, and it is by far our greatest strength,” said Mayor Ballard.

“The Salvation Army is not just a disaster responder in Haiti, but we have been part of that nation's infrastructure since 1950. We operate many of the schools in Haiti, a hospital, various medical clinics, and orphanages,” said Jeff Stanger, Development Director for The Salvation Army in Indiana. “Many native Haitians make up our staff and officers and have lost homes and loved ones as well. We welcome the support of Hoosiers as we stand side by side with the people of Haiti to overcome this devastating tragedy.”

Mayor Ballard added that the most critical need now is for funds donated to organizations that are reputable and will be good stewards of every dollar they receive. Local service organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have seen an outpouring of support from the public in response to the earthquake in Haiti. Local organizers and public safety officials are encouraging individuals to donate directly to these types of organizations to ensure they do not fall victim to scams.

“It is safest to donate to Haitian relief funds associated with a well known organization such as the Red Cross,” said Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Commander Lloyd Crowe. “As with past incidents this situation has the potential, unfortunately to illicit illegal activity by a few individuals or illegal organizations.”

For more information on how to get involved or to make a monetary donation, visit www.redcross.org, www.salvationarmyusa.org, or www.liveunited.org.