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**February 1, 2010**  
**Press Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COMMUNITY FORUM ON HAITIAN EARTHQUATE RESPONSE**

This past Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Edward G. Connolly Center, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Jr. held an open forum to provide information on Everett's response to the devastation in Haiti. With a crowd of over 200 residents the Mayor hopes that this will be a start to what will be a long term effort to fuel relief to the Haitian Community both in Everett and abroad.

"This is not an issue that can be resolved overnight," states Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr, "my first commitment is helping our residents who live in Everett start the healing process. If it's through organized meetings like tonight, fundraising, or providing a means to counseling, we need to help our neighbors get through this tragedy."

The City is working collaboratively with Tri-Cap and the Multi-City Haitian Relief Task Force to raise funds, and secure donations of medical supplies. One important highlight of the night was the announcement by Mrs. StacyDeMaria of a local Haitian Relief Fund. Everett residents can donate locally through Everett Credit Union, and proceeds will go to relief efforts in Everett and abroad.

Bishop Robert G. Brown moderated the forum, which included informational speakers from the Governors Office, Congressman Markey's Office, the Red Cross and many local organizations. Although the event keyed in on important information, the night was filled with inspirational readings, song and dance, performed by Sister Myreille Daniels, Hobart Yates, Marcia Brown, and students from the Dance Ministry at North Shore Evangelical Church.

Community members were given the opportunity to ask questions for each of the speakers before and after the informational session.

**Speakers included:**

Heidi Porter (Director of Public Health)  
Mayor Carlo DeMaria  
Richard Chacon (Director for the Office of Refugees and Immigrants)  
Jean-Joseph Leandre (Haitian Vice Consul)  
Beatrice Joseph Stiven (Haitian Vice Consul)  
Keith Stefanelli (Assoc. Director of Planning and Preparedness for Red Cross Disaster Relief)  
Denis Riordan (Director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services)  
Sarang Serakht (MIRA coalition Federal Policy Director)  
Maggie McClory (Constituent Services Director for Congressman Edward Markey)  
Pedro Barbosa (Psychologist and Assoc. Director for Cambridge Health Alliance)  
Carol Plotkin (System Director of Behavioral Health Services with Halmark Health)  
Philip Bronder-Giroux (Tri-City Community Action Program)  
Stacy DeMaria

**Readings were performed by:**

Bishop Robert G. Brown  
Sister Myreille Daniels

**Music performed by:**

Hobart Yates  
Marcia Brown

**Dance performed by:**

Lorraine from the Dance Ministry at North Shore Evangelical Church

Below is a list of available resources, as well as information on how to donate to the Everett Haitian Relief Fund.

**Resources:**

Red Cross Disaster Relief  
1 800 564 1234  
To reconnect with friends and family:  
[ICRC.org/familylinks](http://ICRC.org/familylinks)

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
[miracoalition.org](http://miracoalition.org)  
Sarang Sekhvat- Federal Policy Director  
617 350 5480 ext 212

Haitian Mental Health Line  
617 665 3980  
Mon-Fri Bilingual Support

<http://tricityhaitianrelief.blogspot.com/>

Maggie McClory  
Constituent Services Director  
Office of Congressman Edward J. Markey  
5 High Street, Suite 101  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155  
781-396-2900 phone  
781-396-3220 fax  
[maggie.mcclory@mail.house.gov](mailto:maggie.mcclory@mail.house.gov)

**Donations can be made to:**

The Everett Haitian Relief Fund  
c/o Everett Credit Union  
650 Broadway  
Everett, MA 02149

Or a check, made out to The Everett Haitian Relief Fund, can be dropped off at the Mayor's Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Everett City Hall, 484 Broadway.

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For additional information please contact Matt Laidlaw, Director of Communications, City of Everett.

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