

Thursday, April 15, 2010

That Other Earthquake

While a devastated Haiti continues to comprehend and overcome the damage of January's 7.0 earthquake, Haitians in San Diego struggle to feel connected and contributing. More than 212,000 people were instantly killed, with another 300,000 suffering dangerous injuries, 100,000 losing homes and the country's infrastructure damaged to the point of offering little or no assistance to the 3 million people in need of emergency aid. About the same population of the City of San Diego, imagine our city with no water, shelter, food, medical help, or sanitation. Where do you start?

A number of Manchester Grand Hyatt employees with Haitian ties and family members, one of whom perished in the earthquake immediately began donating funds and were acknowledged in the lunch room's "Donation Wall of Fame." But they wanted to do more. The Manchester Grand Hyatt responded by sponsoring all costs for the Hyatt 5K Fun Run/Walk for Haiti to benefit the American Red Cross Haiti Disaster Relief fund. On Sunday, March 28, 135 runners and walkers participated in the event, which started on the boardwalk in front of Sally's restaurant and continued through Embarcadero Park.

"To the fellow associates at the hotel whose families were directly affected by this disaster, please know that all our efforts were for you and the people of Haiti. We will never forget the events that occurred on January 12," said Nathaniel Rhodes, the hotel's manager of Learning & Development.

For more information on contributing to the Red Cross Haiti Disaster Relief fund, please call 1-800 HELP NOW.

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