

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Baltimore Area Prisons Donate to the American Red Cross of Central Maryland to Benefit Ongoing Haiti Relief Efforts

Division of Correction Staff and Inmates have collected more than \$4000 across Maryland

TOWSON, MD (April 6, 2010)---Following the January 12th earthquakes that devastated the Port-au-Prince area of Haiti, many Maryland Division of Correction institutions seized the opportunity to reach out to those in need. Three Baltimore area facilities, the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center, the Maryland Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center and the Metropolitan Transition Center (which includes the Baltimore City Correctional Center and Baltimore Pre-Release Unit), traveled to the American Red Cross of Central Maryland headquarters today to present \$2,310 donated by correctional staff. The contribution is part of more than \$4,000 collected across Maryland from staff and inmates of correctional institutions.

The American Red Cross has raised \$396 million for its Haiti relief and development efforts - 1.9 million people have already been helped by these donations through food, water, shelter, health services and other relief services. To date the Central Maryland Chapter has collected 2.5 million from local residents and businesses. The Red Cross expects to spend the remainder of donated money over the next three-to-five years to support families and communities as they recover from their devastating tragedy.

“We started this collection after hearing about the ruin and destruction in Haiti on the news,” stated Melissa Atkins of the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center, who coordinated collection on behalf of the institution. “Much like our daily efforts to rebuild the lives of offenders under our supervision with education, reentry and community outreach, our correctional staff did this because they are dedicated to helping others.”

Additional donations to the Red Cross were collected by the Maryland Correctional Institution – Jessup, the Maryland Correctional Training Center and the Maryland Correctional Institution – Hagerstown. Collections at these facilities also included donations from inmates who gave as little as \$1 out of their inmate bank accounts to support the cause. The Jessup Correctional Institution donated funds raised to CARE, a humanitarian organization that fights global poverty.