



Haiti

in
recovery



OGR, John Scalia seeking donors for Hearses-to-Haiti aid project

OGR and member John Vincent Scalia, founder of John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals in Staten Island, N.Y., have teamed up to promote Scalia's nationwide campaign to encourage OGR funeral homes to donate used hearses, vans and other items to aid the people of Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Scalia is well-positioned to head up the effort. For the last four years he has been donating his used hearses to church parishes for use as both hearses and ambulances through the not-for-profit group Hope for a Healthier Humanity (HHH).

"These vehicles are packed with medical supplies and driven into an over-the-water container which is further filled with medical supplies," Scalia said. He explained that the medical supplies are delivered to care providers while the vehicles are placed into service as either hearses or ambulances. "Before the earthquake, there were only three ambulances in the entire city of Port-au-Prince," he said.

HHH is coordinating its Haiti relief with its long-standing partners, the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System and International Relief and Development as well as Catholic Health Association. Together with its partners HHH will ship 12 containers of medicine and supplies in the next week or two. "The Hearses-for-Haiti project would be an important part of this relief effort," Scalia said.

As a 501(c)3 public charity, donations to HHH are tax-deductible.

HHH also recognizes that this relief effort will be a long process, and it is committed to continuing its shipment for the months to come. Scalia said, "The people of Haiti will need hearses and emergency vehicles for many months to come."

Scalia, who will administer and operate the Hearses-for-Haiti project, is working to have truck drivers agree to donate empty trailer space on return trips from various locations throughout the nation. "Transport to Haiti would be handled by Hope for a Healthier Humanity through its shipping operations," he said. OGR encourages you to give vehicles you plan to replace in the next few months.

In 2008, HHH shipped more than \$1.6 million in donated medical, dental and health-related supplies and equipment to Haiti and 11 countries throughout South and Central America and the Caribbean, and additionally hand-carried more than \$1 million in medicines, according to its most recent annual report. **I**

Donate to Hearses-for-Haiti

(718) 948-2401

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