

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislator Paul Joins Medical Mission To Haiti

Haitian-American Nurses' Association Hopes To Bring Relief As Haiti Continues To Suffer Devastating Impacts Of Hurricane Matthew

New City, NY (Nov. 10, 2016) – The Haitian people continue to recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Matthew and now local Rockland nurses are heading to the nation on a medical relief mission.

A group of 13 local residents, including Legislator Aney Paul, a certified nurse practitioner, will fly out of JFK Airport early Friday and head to Haiti's capital city of Port-Au-Prince.

From there, the nurses will visit three communities over the course of six days to administer any medical care possible, Paul said.

The mission has been organized by the Haitian American Nurses' Association of Rockland County, which has been working to collect medicine, first aid supplies and items for children such as formula, baby food, diapers and onesies. They will bring the medicine – which is mostly available as over-the-counter items – in their carry-on bags. Other efforts are underway regarding large-scale deliveries of antibiotics.

“I am going to try to help people who really need it right now,” Paul said. “Parts of Haiti have been destroyed – homes and businesses blown away by the very strong hurricane winds or swept away by the ocean. Medical care can be difficult because of the destruction and because some communities are difficult to reach. This is a way to try to bring some relief to those who are struggling.”

Many residents of Haitian descent live in Rockland, and many have relatives living in Haiti, including those impacted by the storm. Local activists have been working on relief efforts.

Hurricane Matthew was a Category 4 storm when it hit the peninsula on Oct. 4. Haiti already grapples with immense poverty and was still recovering from a massive 2010 earthquake when the storm hit.

As many as 1,000 people were killed and 1.4 million were left in need of humanitarian assistance, according to published reports. Much of the nation's southwestern region was destroyed and a cholera outbreak is suspected of sickening about 1,200 people there, with an estimated 3,500 cases countrywide since the storm hit.

Last month, Rockland County Legislators voted 14-0 to back a resolution that allows the donation of surplus equipment and supplies from the closed Summit Park Hospital & Nursing Care Center for Haiti relief efforts. The county will work with local agencies to coordinate the donation, requiring a detailed plan outlining how the materials will be shipped to Haiti and dispersed once they arrive.

HOW TO HELP:

Many agencies and organizations are collecting medicine, first-aid supplies, clothing, and money to assist those impacted by Hurricane Matthew, many of whom lost their homes, businesses and everything they owned.

Local Organizations

Haitian American Nurses Association

Call: 845-641-6672

Email: ROCKLANDHANA@Yahoo.com

Rockland County Haiti Relief

Call: 845-425-4623 or 845-709-3084

Visit: www.rocklandcountyhaitirelief.org

Email: rchrc@live.com

Konbit Neg Lakay

Call: 845-425-4623

Visit: <http://www.konbitneglakay.com/home.aspx>

Nyack Center

Call: 845-358-2600

Visit: <http://www.nyackcenter.org/>

Email: info@nyackcenter.org

Other Organizations

UNICEF: unicefusa.org/Matthew or 1-800-FOR-KIDS.

International Red Cross: ifrc.org/en/get-involved/donate/

Salvation Army: salar.my/Matthew

Salesian Missions: salesianmissions.org/ways-to-help/donate

Mercy Corps: mercycorps.org/donate/humanitarian-response-fund

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