

Haiti Relief Effort

Lakewood High School P.A.L.S. (Pupil Assisted Learning Services) is an elective class that focuses on community service, careers, character development and service-learning. There are approximately 150 students in the program, and when national or global disasters occur, students are willing and able to spearhead relief efforts.

P.A.L.S. students involve the entire school community, as well as parents and members of the Lakewood community in their projects. When the news of the earthquake reached us, students poured in and immediately wanted to know what they could do to help. Through the help of their coordinators, Toni Ponti and Mary Starace, they were able to collect enough supplies within 5 days to fill work vans, (supplied by a parent-volunteer) SUV's, and carloads of supplies. Students not only collected supplies, but sorted, boxed, labeled and delivered the items to the drop-off location. P.A.L.S. partnered with an organization called Step of Faith Ministry, founded by the owner of H and R Welding, Bricktown, NJ. This ministry has been providing an outreach to the people of Haiti for over 15 years, and has the contacts to effectively get items into the country, as well as get them distributed in a timely fashion.

The P.A.L.S. students were able to meet the founder and owner and talked with him as well as his volunteers about the work that he does; students agreed that this was a moment that made them realize that they really can help make a difference. Relief efforts will be on-going through the LHS P.A.L.S. program, and students are planning on making more trips to the drop-off site, as well as volunteer to help out at the drop-off site for a few hours on a weekend by taking donations and helping to load the trailers.

For more information, call the P.A.L.S. office at 732.901.5724

Step of Faith Ministry Disaster Response Team of America Donated Items Needed

+ bottled water + clothing + canned & dry food + basic first aid items + blankets + diapers, formula & other baby supplies + pediatric nutritional supplements + toilet paper + empty containers for water storage + soap and other hygiene products + water purification tablets + tarpaulins and tents



January 27, 2010