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SUNCOAST MEDICAL COMMUNITY UNITES TO HELP HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS COASTAL ORTHOPEDICS LEADS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT, 'HELP FOR HAITI'

Bradenton, FL. (January 27, 2010) – In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the Suncoast medical community has united to bring help to survivors by way of medical supplies and other goods of immediate need. Bradenton-based Coastal Orthopedics & Pain Management is orchestrating the local campaign called “Help for Haiti,” and the response from the medical community has already been overwhelming.

“We were informed of the need for very specific medical supplies. Things like saline, orthopedic equipment for fractures, suture kits, IV tubes... While some of our doctors are making plans to join the medical team in Haiti in the near future, we knew this was a need that could be immediately met,” said Paul Duck, CEO of Coastal Orthopedics. “Because the need is so vast, we reached out to others in our medical community and the response has been monumental,” Duck continued.

Individuals in the Suncoast area can help too. Besides medical supplies, there is an urgent need for cotton balls, soap, matches and candles, tarps and tablecloths, flashlights and batteries, and a variety of foods like canned items and protein snacks. Donations can be dropped off at any of three Coastal Orthopedics locations. Details, including lists of currently needed items and additional drop-off locations, can be found by visiting www.CoastalCares.com and clicking the “Help for Haiti” link.

The “Help for Haiti” relief effort was initiated when Venice-based Agape Flights, a non-profit, ministry that provides continuous and critical services to places including Haiti, approached retired doctor Keith Lassen, M.D. on their need for medical supplies. Dr. Lassen, a founding-physician of what is now Coastal Orthopedics & Pain Management, contacted his former colleagues for assistance. Coastal immediately provided over 5-thousand dollars in medical supplies. “It’s our understanding that those supplies have been flown over by Agape and are already being used in Haiti,” said Duck.

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About Coastal Orthopedics & Pain Management (www.coastalorthopedics.com)

Coastal Orthopedics & Pain Management has been serving the Bradenton-Manatee area for over thirty years. The company is comprised of a group of over 20 specialty and sub-specialty trained orthopedic surgeons and pain management physicians focusing on the care and treatment of the entire musculoskeletal system, including sports medicine, joint replacement, and pain management.