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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For further information contact:

David Bennett  
Executive Director  
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne  
260-426-4083

### **Community Foundation Provides Grant to Help the Haitian People**

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne announced today that it is making a \$10,000 gift to Doctors Without Borders/ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) to help the survivors of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. “Doctors Without Borders was chosen because it already has a presence in Haiti,” commented David Bennett, executive director of the Community Foundation. “Our goal was to get the gift to those in need as quickly as possible and feel this is one of many organizations we could have selected.”

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization working in more than 60 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe. They have worked in Haiti for 19 years, most recently operating in three hospitals in Port-au-Prince.

The Community Foundation has also added links to its Web site [www.cfgfw.org](http://www.cfgfw.org) for people to donate directly to organizations that are helping the Haitian people. Christine Meek, senior program officer for the Community Foundation, suggested that individuals who are interested in giving to help the victims of this tragedy make sure that the organization is a bona fide nonprofit that meets or exceeds charitable organization best practices. Meek said, “We have looked at a number of organizations and the effectiveness of their programs. We encourage others to follow this practice or to call us for information about a charity.”

The Community Foundation has a history of responding to natural disasters including:

- In 2005, \$50,000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for relief efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina in a matching program; \$1,000 to the National Humane Society for animal rescue efforts, and \$10,000 to the local chapter of the American Red Cross to assist with persons displaced by the hurricane,
- In 2008, \$10,000 to Foundation for the People of Burma for the Cyclone Nargis Relief Efforts in Burma, and
- In late 2008, \$10,000 to the local chapter of the American Red Cross to help with the cost of housing persons displaced by the ice storm.

Established in 1956, the **Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne** is a public, charitable foundation serving Allen County for more than fifty years. The Community Foundation had assets of nearly \$100 million at December 31, 2009, and awarded more than \$5 million in charitable grants and scholarships in that year.

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