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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STUDENTS RAISE OVER \$13,000 FOR HAITI RELIEF**

*Local Orange County-based non-profit organization calls on student volunteers to aid in efforts to raise donations for Haiti Relief.*

Yorba Linda, CA - Student volunteers from across the United States and Canada have been called upon to support Haiti Relief efforts. International Student Volunteers, Inc. (ISV) is reaching out to present and former student volunteers for donations to be given directly to the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

As of January 28, 2010, 415 of ISV's students have contributed \$13,097 in donations; all of which have been sent directly to the Red Cross. ISV students donations have ranged anywhere from \$5.00 to the highest amount being \$500. The number of donors continues to rise daily as ISV students learn how they can help support the Haitian people during this terrible tragedy.

"The amount of support we have received from our alumni is nothing but incredible, whether it be a donation of \$5.00 or \$500.00... we are thrilled to see students showing their support in this time of need." says Randy Sykes, the organization's Founder and International Director. "We know students are hard-pressed for money at the best of times but ISV students from across the USA and Canada are giving all they can".

ISV is a California-based non-profit organization that provides international volunteer and travel programs for college students, over the age of 18, from across the U.S. and Canada.

In additions to donations, ISV students give of their time and talents through participation in volunteer projects in Haiti's neighboring nation - the Dominican Republic, which has also been greatly impacted by the disaster. Students from the University of Idaho were volunteering with ISV on a social community development volunteer project called Rancho Campeche when the 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti on Tuesday Jan. 12, 2010. The volunteer group, now returned home, is safe and well and has spent the past two weeks building houses for homeless families and helping construct a community centre and playground for children.

"People all over the Dominican Republic left their houses and buildings and congregated in the streets in fear," explains Andrea Vogel ISV's Dominican Republic Program Director. "Everyone felt an uneasiness and nausea as strong tremors came and went."

In an email sent to ISV's global staff Thursday Jan. 14, 2010, Vogel reflects on the tragedy. "This was stronger than usual but no one could have imagined the amount of destruction and chaos just over a hundred fifty miles away in the capital of our sister nation," says Vogel. "It is heart-breaking to know that people are suffering on the same soil we are standing on and that thousands are still trapped under the rubble."

The ISV participants from the University of Idaho spent the last few days of their volunteer project focusing their efforts on providing aid to communities that need the most help. The students spent time gathering food, medicine, clothes for donations and volunteering at local donation posts set up all over Santo Domingo.

ISV is doing all it can to reach out and spread the word for Haiti relief. ISV alumni and others can make a donation for Haiti relief on ISV's website [www.isvonline.org](http://www.isvonline.org). ISV sends 100 percent of all donations directly to the Red Cross.

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“Every donation and every effort counts,” says Sykes. “ISV’s volunteers learn hands-on that no matter how small or minute an effort, the impact of that action is life-changing on a global scale.”

With programs in over 12 countries across six continents, every year ISV’s participants make a significant difference in the world by contributing more than 250,000 hours of volunteer work abroad in the areas of conservation and community development. ISV annually sends over 4000 students to volunteer in projects ranging from sea turtle and elephant conservation, to at-risk children’s rescue and education, to habitat regeneration and school/house building programs in developing nations. ISV is a USA based non-profit organization committed to providing educational volunteer experiences for university aged students around the world.

Participants on this year’s ISV programs will set out to reach ISV’s two millionth hour of volunteer work world-wide. To apply to volunteer with ISV this summer 2010 please visit [www.isvonline.org](http://www.isvonline.org).

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