



Friendship Force International: Responding to National and International Disasters

Statement adopted by FFI Board of Directors, March 2011.

One of the results of developing global friendships is the desire to help others in times of trouble. When natural disasters strike a region of the world, no matter how remote, Friendship Force members are eager to respond and they are encouraged to do so.

In the event of a natural disaster or other national crisis, Friendship Force members should contact their friends in the area to determine if they have been directly affected by the crisis and to provide whatever personal support they can in a time of difficulty. Clubs close to but not affected by the disaster may be able to provide direct support in the way of material goods or accommodation.

Friendship Force members wishing to make a donation to relieve the suffering in the area should contribute to a national or international relief agency such as the Red Cross/Red Crescent societies or other well-established organizations. These are easily located on the Internet and offer convenient online payment procedures.

Please Note: FFI is not a relief organization and does not have the means for evaluating and supporting direct humanitarian aid efforts in times of crisis. Furthermore, FFI's tax status with the US government is based on educational and cultural exchanges, not fundraising for disaster relief. Therefore, it is not possible for FFI to directly sponsor relief efforts or collect and distribute money for this purpose.

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