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Contact: Bill Procopio
Corporate Communications
610-538-2279
bprocopio@phlyins.com

CEO Back from Mission to Haiti, Returns with Renewed Hope in the Human Spirit

Bala Cynwyd, PA, May 5, 2010 Philadelphia Insurance Companies' (PHLY) Chairman & CEO, Jamie Maguire has returned to Philadelphia following a four-day volunteer mission to Haiti. Jamie, Tom Foley, CEO of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross, and Tom Griffin, co-founder of the LAMP for Haiti Clinic, delivered clothes, tents, medical supplies and volunteered at a medical clinic in the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Immediately after the January 12th earthquake in Haiti, Jamie was moved by the hardship facing the Haitian people and determined to make a difference by traveling to the devastated country. On this relief mission that began April 29, Jamie helped care for the injured at the LAMP for Haiti's Wharf Soleil medical clinic located in Cite Soleil, the poorest section of Port-au-Prince. The clinic medical staff treat nearly 100 residents daily, administering basic medical aid and referrals to local hospitals where needed. Jamie also spent time with the children of Haiti, who often asked him to take their picture or play catch.

"'Hardship' takes on a completely new meaning here. Nevertheless, through all the struggles, the three million who reside sustain such a sense of community and such love for one another," said Jamie, an executive with 23 years of success in the insurance industry. "The fondest memories I will cherish are of the children so expressive, so happy, and so full of life despite their depressing surroundings. We can learn from them that true happiness comes from inside of each of us, and not from that which lies around us."

This journey first began just three days after the January earthquake, when Jamie presented the American Red Cross with a $50,000 donation from Philadelphia Insurance Companies on the CBS 3 "Operation Brotherly Love Help for Haiti" telethon. Since then Philadelphia Insurance Companies and its 1,600 employees have raised an additional $50,000.

"'Otherworldly' is the only word I can think of to describe what I've seen over the last four days," said Jamie, who’s also an Ironman competitor. "Devastation is everywhere, tents and tarps cover the nearby hillside as far as the eye could see, sheltering thousands. I'll always remember the indomitable spirit that's such an integral part of the Haitian people."

View Jamie's Photo Gallery | View Jamie's Video Footage

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To locate the office nearest you or for more information, visit us on the web at www.phly.com or contact Bill Procopio at 610-538-2279.
LAMP for Haiti is an apolitical, nonsectarian humanitarian organization, founded in 2006 by Thomas Griffin, Esq and James Morgan, MD. The LAMP Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to work together with the people of Haiti, to advocate for the respect and protection of basic human rights in the areas of greatest misery and poverty in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. To learn more about LAMP for Haiti, please visit www.LAMPforhaiti.org.

To learn more about the American Red Cross, please visit www.redcross.org.

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