

The Last Word

Amidst the devastation, Philadelphia Insurance Cos.' CEO brings hope and supplies to Haitians reeling from the recent earthquake.

Mission of HOPE

In May, Jamie Maguire, chairman and chief executive officer of Philadelphia Insurance Cos., returned from a four-day volunteer mission to Haiti with a renewed spirit.

He said what he saw there was unlike anything he has ever experienced.

Maguire witnessed firsthand the devastating aftermath of the catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake that rocked Haiti on Jan. 12. The government estimates about 300,000 people died in the quake.

Following the earthquake, Maguire was moved by the hardship facing the Haitian people and wanted to make a difference by traveling to the country. "With good fortune comes responsibility, and we are committed to supporting them," he said.

Maguire was joined on the trip by Tom Foley, CEO of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross; and Tom Griffin, co-founder of the LAMP for Haiti Clinic, a nonsectarian humanitarian organization founded in 2006. They delivered clothes, tents, medical and other supplies such as soap and water to Haitian citizens, and helped care for the injured at the LAMP for Haiti's Wharf Soleil medical clinic in Cite Soleil, the poorest section of Port-au-Prince.

Part of Maguire's goal for the volunteer mission was to help the many children affected by the earthquake. Philadelphia Insurance Cos. has been a long-time supporter of various local children's charities, including The Cancer Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"The level of poverty and destruction in Port-au-Prince is mind-boggling," he said. Thousands of families are unclothed, living in unsanitary conditions and in makeshift huts covered by blue tarps, he said. "The presidential palace was flattened, and most of the buildings throughout the city are completely

leveled or substantially damaged. Haitians are trying to bring down buildings to begin reconstruction or sweeping the streets still littered with rubble."

Their main daily goal, he said: "Just getting food and water." In a journal entry, Maguire wrote about his amazement at how "five elderly women served meals of beans and rice to over 1,500 students daily.

"Two or three times a week, a water truck comes into the city and people scramble to fill their five-gallon jugs," he said. "Then, young women carry the jugs on their heads back to their tin huts or tarps."

However, despite the struggles, "there is a great sense of community and love among the people," he said. "Children have big, broad smiles on their faces and are so happy and full of life despite their depressing surroundings."

Maguire added, "Every morning, I look at my screen saver of a father holding his young daughter, standing in line to get into the medical clinic. It puts my life and problems into perspective."

Philadelphia Insurance, a member of Tokio Marine Group, has been a strong supporter of the Haitian earthquake victims. Three days after the temblor, the company, which designs, markets and underwrites commercial property/casualty and professional liability insurance, presented a \$50,000 donation on the CBS local media stations' "Operation Brotherly Love Help for Haiti" campaign.

That contribution was matched with a \$50,000 donation by The Maguire Foundation in partnership with Philadelphia Insurance. Between the two donations and contributions from 1,600 Philadelphia Insurance employees, the company has committed more than \$129,000 to the Haitian victims, Maguire said.

The company will continue to work with the American Red Cross, and Maguire said he hopes to visit Haiti again in the near future.

—Lori Chordas

Photos courtesy of Jamie Maguire



A HELPING HAND: Philadelphia Insurance Cos.' Chairman and CEO Jamie Maguire recently traveled to Haiti to deliver clothes, tents, medical and other supplies and to help care for Haitians injured by the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.