

Most Worthy Grand Matron

January 20, 2010

Grand Jurisdictions of General Grand Chapter, O.E.S.
Subordinate Chapters of General Grand Chapter, O.E.S.



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Through the years of its existence, the General Grand Chapter has responded to the devastation caused by floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters. One of the foremost responsibilities of the Order of the Eastern Star is charity. Once again we are deeply saddened by the devastating effects of a natural disaster. On January 12, 2010, an earthquake of the 7.0 magnitude struck near the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. This earthquake has left people without the essentials of living – homes, food, clothing and drinking water – as well as the loss of life for over 200,000. Many disaster response efforts are underway, and according to a press release the total effects of the quake are unknown.

We, the members of the Order of the Eastern Star, locally and worldwide, are challenged to come to the aid of humanity once again. The General Grand Chapter Elected Officers have received numerous inquiries regarding the collection of donations by Subordinate Chapters and Grand Chapters and the distribution of these donations by General Grand Chapter. At a recent meeting of the Right Worthy Grand Trustees, a donation of \$10,000 from the Beatrix Sweet Fund, a permanent General Grand Chapter Benevolent Fund, was approved and sent to the Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund, a newly formed 501-C-3 organization.

At this time, the "GGC-OES Haiti Relief Fund for 2010" is being established to collect donations for distribution to recognized reputable 501(c)(3) nongovernmental and nonprofit organizations. Donations should be made payable to the General Grand Chapter, OES and mailed to the Right Worthy Grand Secretary, 1618 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009-2549.

Your donations will make a significant difference and provide relief to the citizens of Haiti. Donations to this Haitian Relief Fund may be listed on your Annual Report of Benevolent Donations. This is an urgent request for immediate relief for the thousands of victims of this disaster. Your response is prayerfully solicited.

Fraternally,

Mrs. Rennie Ofton, Most Worthy Grand Matron
General Grand Chapter, O.E.S.