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**San Diego School Collects Over 20 Tons Of Supplies For Haiti Earthquake Victims**

*In just five days, San Diego Jewish Academy has collected over 20 tons of supplies for Haiti earthquake victims and has partnered with international aid organization, Latet, for distribution in Haiti.*

**San Diego, Calif. – January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010** – On January 24<sup>th</sup>, San Diego Jewish Academy (SDJA) commenced SDJA Cares: Project Haiti, an event to gather supplies for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Five days later, the K-12 school has raised over 20 tons of supplies and partnered with international aid organization, Latet, who has over 13 years of disaster relief experience and 22 delegations worldwide.

“The surprising thing is that SDJA Cares: Project Haiti isn’t even over yet. We are still collecting supplies until 3:30 pm today and hope to get 30 tons,” said Dr. Jeffery Davis, SDJA Cares: Project Haiti organizer and school principal. “We have been asking specifically for medical supplies because that is what the Haitian people need most at the moment.”

Davis estimates the school has collected \$80,000 to \$100,000 worth of medical supplies. “We have received everything from IV pumps to breathing apparatuses, but are most in need of simple medical supplies like pain relievers, topical antiseptics and surgical gloves,” continued Davis.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am, the school will begin packing and loading over 1,000 boxes onto semi trailers in preparation for delivery to Haiti. Latet, who was in Haiti 36 hours after the earthquake occurred, will then distribute the supplies on the ground to the areas of Haiti most in need.

The most unique aspect of SDJA Cares: Project Haiti is that the school is not collecting monetary donations. The school organized a similar event for Katrina victims five years ago and gained valuable experience in the logistics required for disaster relief. “Our experience with Katrina and the fact that SDJA’s curriculum teaches *Tikkun Olam*, which in Hebrew means repairing the world, provided us with a unique opportunity to teach our students outside of the classroom and help the people of Haiti,” said Davis.

The school will be collecting supplies until 3:30 pm on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and has set up drop off points throughout San Diego. For a complete list of needed supplies and drop off point locations, visit [www.sdjacares.com](http://www.sdjacares.com).

**About SDJA:**

San Diego Jewish Academy, one of the country’s premier K-12 Jewish day schools, challenges students to achieve their full academic potential and become individuals of strong moral and ethical character, while inspiring them to make Judaism a vital and relevant aspect of their lives.

For more information on San Diego Jewish Academy, visit [www.sdja.com](http://www.sdja.com).

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Photo Caption: SDJA students Marc Bielas, Daniela Jinich and Noam Baltinester load and pack boxes of supplies headed to Haiti.