

PRESS RELEASE

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UNIVERSAL LOVE FOUNDATION INVITES LOCAL COMMUNITY TO FILL BACKPACKS FOR HAITI'S YOUNGEST EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

With the devastating effects of Haiti's massive earthquake mounting daily, the Conejo Valley-based Universal Love Foundation (ULF) is focusing its attention on bringing comfort to Haiti's youngest victims by filling backpacks for children ages 1 to 18.

The "Have a Heart for Haiti" drive will run from now through Friday, February 12, to coincide with Valentines Day. The community is encouraged to fill backpacks with age-appropriate essentials such as blankets, socks, shoes, sandals or slippers, a stuffed animal or small toys, writing or coloring implements and paper, and non-perishable food items. Letters or Valentine cards may be enclosed in the backpacks, to let the children know personally that someone cares. A return address may be included if desired, to encourage a response from the recipient and perhaps to even develop a "pen-pal" relationship. During the week after Valentine's Day the backpacks will be sent to Haiti via an international service organization. Schools, churches and temples, and individual children and families are invited to participate in this program.

"Our Haitian neighbors need so much right now, and Universal Love Foundation wants to do what it can to ease the pain for the country's most vulnerable citizens, its children," explained ULF founder and director, Manzar Amini. "Many of them have lost everything, and these backpacks will give them something of their own once again."

Backpacks may be dropped off at Universal Love Foundation's "House of Hope" Grief and Loss Center, located at 28720 Canwood Street, Suite 104, Agoura Hills on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. from now through Friday, February 12. Special delivery arrangements may be made by calling 805-231-3618.

Tax-deductible donations are also being accepted, and will be applied toward the purchase of backpacks and supplies. Checks should be made out to Universal Love Foundation with "Haiti Relief" designated in the memo, and sent to Universal Love Foundation, 760 Calle Plano, Camarillo, CA 93012.

Universal Love Foundation is dedicated to enabling struggling single parents to become self-sufficient and lead productive lives. The local, non-profit service organization was founded in 2000 by Mrs. Amini, who became aware of the great number of hard-working, yet disadvantaged single parents that were in need of assistance to support their families. It provides local access to family care services of which many single parents may not normally be aware, or for which they might not usually qualify.

The organization also runs the ULF House of Hope Grief and Loss Center in Agoura Hills as a place of counseling and refuge for families who have suffered loss in their lives. Regardless of race, creed, religion or political affiliation, ULF provides a strong support system so that single parents can provide for themselves and their children, building a better future of self-reliance and strength.

For further information visit www.UniversalLoveFoundation.org., or call 818-231-3618.

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