

Niarchos Foundation Makes Large Donation For Haiti Disaster Relief

BOSTON - The Board of Directors of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has responded to the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti by approving a large grant aimed at providing immediate support and humanitarian aid to the quake's thousands of victims.

The Foundation has offered \$500,000 to the victims of the earthquake through the organizations Oxfam (\$200,000), Doctors Without Borders - USA (\$150,000) and International Rescue Committee (IRC, \$150,000). These well known nonprofit groups have deployed emergency response teams to Haiti, and are already assisting survivors by providing emergency medical care and other essential services.



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Andreas C. Dracopoulos, co-president of the Niarchos Foundation.

Niarchos Foundation Co-President & Member of the Board Andreas C. Dracopoulos told The National Herald that the Foundation wishes to offer to the people of Haiti its condolences and support, noting: "We feel proud that we can help our fellow men in our own way who are going through such a huge catastrophe. Our focus, of course, is centered on our motherland, Greece, but at the same time, we are an international philanthropic foundation that is always ready to offer assistance to

our fellow men, whenever we can."

At press time, the donation of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to help Haiti's earthquake victims was the largest by any Greek organization.

Since its inception in 1996, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has provided total grant commitments of U.S. \$1,146,000,000 through more than 1,737 grants to not-for-profit organizations in 88 nations around the world. Thus far, the Foundation's emergency relief grants amount to \$5,322,023.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation supports charitable activities in four primary areas: arts and culture, education, health and medicine and social welfare. It funds nonprofit organizations throughout the world.

The Foundation places particular emphasis on endeavors that address education, social welfare and health issues for underserved populations, with special attention given to programs for children and the elderly. It also selectively supports programs both within and outside of Greece that promote, maintain, and preserve Hellenic heritage and culture.

Foundation grants include, as appropriate, funds for operating and program support as well as funds for select capital projects and endowments.

The Foundation has made substantial contributions in support of Hellenic Paideia

(education) through the support of many Greek American day schools, including those of the churches of St. Demetrios in Astoria, St. Nicholas in Flushing, Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral in Manhattan, Zoodohos Pege in the Bronx and Holy Trinity in Lowell, Massachusetts. It is largely through the generosity of a grant by the Niarchos Foundation to the historic Hellenic American School of Lowell's Holy Trinity Community that the institution will become a middle school at the start of the next academic year in September of 2010.

The Foundation has also contributed to the camp of the Metropolis of Boston. A brand new cabin was built for children with special needs. The Niarchos Foundation has also supported the Philoxenia House in Boston, where seriously ill people of all ages who come to Boston's hospitals for medical treatment find room and board, free of charge. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals.

According to the Foundation's Web site, Stavros Spyros Niarchos was born July 3, 1909 in Athens. His parents, Spyros Niarchos and Eugenia Coumandaros, both came from small villages near Sparta in southern Greece. He studied law at the University of Athens and began working in his family's grain business in 1929 and ultimately transformed it into a shipping empire. Although known predominantly for his shipping business, Niarchos's diversified financial activities were at the core of global industry from the time he formed the Niarchos Group in 1939, until his death in April 1996.

The Organizations the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Supports:

Oxfam was established in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, which was created to address the needs of war refugees and displaced people. Today, Oxfam works internationally to address the needs of people living in poverty through long-term programs focusing on education, health, economic development and human rights. The organization also undertakes projects in areas plagued by conflict and natural disasters.

Doctors Without Borders was founded in 1971 by a group of French physicians who believed that the right to medical aid transcends national borders. Its mission is to provide medical and humanitarian relief to the victims of war, disease, and natural or man-made disaster, without regard to race, nationality, political beliefs or religion. The organization received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) was founded in 1933. The IRC is a global leader in emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict and oppression. The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. The organization is currently working on the ground in 42 countries around the world.

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