



Your Opportunity ...

The U.S. peanut industry is responding quickly to the crisis in Haiti resulting from the January 12th earthquake. The industry, along with other Georgia partners and agricultural groups, has formed a coalition to show their concern and to offer their support by sending truckloads of peanut butter to the people of Haiti. Peanut butter is the perfect food since it does not have to be refrigerated, does not require cooking, and delivers a nutritional punch that is life-sustaining.

The project, Peanut Butter for Haiti, was initiated by Barton Rice, executive director of Early County 2055, a Blakely, Ga., non-profit organization, who stepped forward with the first financial pledge to deliver peanut butter to Haiti. The project expanded when Lisa Collins of Early County 2055, contacted several peanut organization leaders to obtain advice on the best way to purchase the peanut butter and have it shipped to Haiti. Golden Peanut Company, Birdsong Peanuts and the Georgia Peanut Commission immediately met the pledge from Early County and the project was off. Early Trucking and Southern Ag Carriers immediately offered to donate the transportation for the peanut butter

In less than three weeks, the project has raised \$107,000 in cash donations used to purchase peanut butter at cost, in addition to the approximately \$200,000 worth of donated peanut butter. (The coalition has purchased peanut butter at cost from Kroger, ConAgra, and Ralcorp and has received peanut butter donated by The J.M. Smucker Company and John B Sanfilippo & Sons.) The coalition also purchased \$8,000 worth of "Family Peanut Boxes" containing peanut products and bottled water from the National Peanut Buying Points Association to go to Haiti.

Seven days after the earthquake, two truckloads of peanut butter (almost 75,000 lbs) were delivered to Norfolk, Va. and loaded on a military ship, the USS Sacagawea, bound for Haiti, and are being distributed on the ground by "Operation Blessing", a charity based in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Four days later, 2 more truckloads were delivered to Miami for transfer to Haiti by airfreight and barge through "Catholic Relief Services" and "Food for the Poor".

A fifth load of peanut butter is now in Miami awaiting shipment aboard a Carnival Cruise ship for "Operation Blessing". The sixth truckload was purchased when the coalition was contacted by "Feed the Children," who urgently need peanut butter to distribute since their warehouse in Haiti was destroyed in the earthquake and all their supplies were lost. That load was shipped on February 8, 2010.

We will continue to raise funds for this project through the end of National Peanut Month (March 2010). Organizations can participate by sending tax deductible contributions to:

**EC 2055 - PB for Haiti
P.O. Box 725, Blakely, GA 39823**

Make checks payable to: "Early County 2055" and note "PB for Haiti."

For more information, contact

Sally Tabb Wells at stabb@birdsong-peanuts.com or 229-400-1121
Lisa Collins at EC2055 lcollins@earlycounty2055.com or 229-724-7558