

For Immediate Release: 01/28/2010

Shelter for Haiti Tent Drive

through Blue Ridge Mountain Sports stores with assistance from Convoy of Hope.

Beginning January 27th, all *Blue Ridge Mountain Sports* locations began serving as drop-off points for the **Shelter for Haiti** tent drive. In an effort to provide critically needed shelter for victims of the January 12th earthquake that struck Haiti, Blue Ridge staff will be collecting tents in good working condition with all parts accounted for and any new tarps people are willing to donate.

All tents & tarps will be inspected and shipped to Convoy of Hope in Missouri, a 501(c)3 non-profit aid relief agency with staff working directly out of the Convoy of Hope warehouse outside of Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince. Since the earthquake, Convoy of Hope has shipped 12 shipping containers of badly needed food & supplies in addition to their staff providing medical aid to injured Haitians.

Following President Rene Preval's request for 200,000 tents, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports contacted Convoy of Hope among other aid agencies searching for an outlet to ship donated tents.

"Competition for the canvas homes has boiled into arguments and machete fights, a sign of the desperation felt by the hundreds of thousands of people without homes struggling for shelter in this wrecked city. Haiti's president has asked the world for 200,000 tents and says he will sleep in one himself." ¹

Next to food and medical supplies, shelter is the next primary concern as Haiti begins to see increased temperatures & rain moving into the spring months.

"Outside of the food area, the two prime worries are: one, medical services or medical equipment, and, two, shelter," said Lewis Lucke, U.S. special coordinator for relief and reconstruction." ¹

As an additional incentive, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports is offering 20% off all tents & tarps with the donation of an old tent or new tarp for Haitian aid relief. Thanks go to Mountain Hardware & MSR for their additional assistance. To find the nearest Blue Ridge Mountain Sports location, visit www.brms.com/insideBRMS.

For more information about the Shelter for Haiti tent drive, contact Kurt Peterson at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, 866-905-2767 x312 or kpeterson@brms.com.

For more information about Convoy of Hope, visit www.convoyofhope.org.

¹ Associated Press article, by Jonathan M. Katz and Ben Fox, 1/26/10

"Since 1972 Blue Ridge Mountain Sports has served as the outfitter for the Appalachian mountains from New Jersey to Virginia to Tennessee. Our greatest asset is a well-trained, friendly, and knowledgeable staff who focus on great customer service. We are proud to serve the communities around our stores."

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