

*[Our parish thanks to the Archdiocesan Office for Cultural Diversity for compiling these resources.]*

### **Resources available to Massachusetts residents**

TPS ( temporary protected Status) Clinics/Information Sessions we are aware of:

**Friday, January 22 and Saturday, January 23 from 10:00 to 5:00 at the Haitian Multi Service Center on Colombia Road in Dorchester** there will be a free TPS application clinic sponsored by Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities has also set up a hotline for individuals seeking more information about the clinic – the phone number is 617 464 8004.

Additionally, Mayor Menino announced yesterday that the **City of Boston's resource center** to assist local families affected by the recent earthquakes in Haiti will extend its operation through next week, with the potential to remain open after that time based on need. Opened last Thursday at SEIU Local 1199 in the wake of the disaster, today the resource center will relocate to the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library in order to better serve members of Boston's Haitian community still seeking updates and information about the earthquake and ongoing relief efforts.

Translators, crisis counselors, computers, and phone lines to accommodate international calls will continue to be available at the center. The Mayor's Office of New Bostonians is also coordinating with immigration attorneys that will be available to answer questions, similar to the current immigration clinics sponsored by this office. A combination of staff from city agencies such as the Boston Public Health Commission and volunteers from SEIU Local 1199 will continue to operate the resource center out of its new location.

**Beginning TODAY, the relocated resource center, operating out of the Mattapan Branch Library at 1350 Blue Hill Avenue, will maintain the following hours:**

Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 22: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 23: 12 noon – 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 24: Closed

Monday, January 25 – Friday, January 29: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 30: 12 noon -5 p.m.

Individuals may continue to contact the resource center by phone at (617) 284-1199. Those interested in volunteering at the center are encouraged to contact the Boston Public Health Commission by emailing [haitisupport@bphc.org](mailto:haitisupport@bphc.org).

For more information about the City of Boston's Haiti assistance efforts and other ways to get involved in the recovery, please visit [www.CityofBoston.gov](http://www.CityofBoston.gov) and refer to "Haiti Support" on the City's homepage.

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### **Do you need help locating family members in Haiti?**

The State Department Operations Center has set up the following number for individuals seeking information about family members living in Haiti: 1-888-407-4747. Press zero (0) to speak to a customer service representative.

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You can also visit the [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\) Family Links](http://www.icrc.org/familylinks) website to accelerate the process of restoring contact between separated family members. At this stage, the website offers the possibility for persons in Haiti and abroad to publish the names of relatives with whom they are striving to restore contact. It will progressively incorporate information offering responses to those queries. The website address is: [www.icrc.org/familylinks](http://www.icrc.org/familylinks)

**Are you looking for a way to help?**

Call the [Mass 2-1-1](http://www.mass.gov/211) office for up to date information about the relief efforts and how you can help. Dial 211 from your phone. This service is available 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. If you are unable to access the 2-1-1 system due to your internal phone system, a toll-free number is available: 1-877-211- MASS (6277).

The immediate need is for money that can be used by an established relief organization to best aid victims of the earthquake. Visit [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) to get a list of credible responding organizations for international emergencies.

**Do you need additional information?**

Visit the [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency website](http://www.mass.gov/mema) for the latest updates from the federal and international emergency response organizations: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

You can follow MEMA's updates on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/MassEMA): <http://twitter.com/MassEMA> and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MassEMA) by searching for the "Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency."

The MEMA website, Twitter account and Facebook pages will all provide the latest information available.

If you are a [local or state elected official](#) and need more information?

A call center has been set up at the MEMA office to help get you the information you need and there are two designated phone numbers that you may use: 1-508-820-2006, 1-508-820-2075.

**Do you need additional assistance?**

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, along with local elected officials, SEIU Local 1199, area hospitals and health centers, city department, and community organizations has opened a [Referral and Support Center](#) at the SEIU Local 1199 Bayside Office Center located at 150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester (next to the JFK redline station).

The Center is operating [9am until 9pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday](#), and will offer phone lines and computer access to help in locating family and friends in Haiti. Translators will be available along with counseling support and assistance linking to needed services.

If you are affiliated with a community organization or faith based organization wishing to connect people with [mental health services](#) in the [Boston region](#), please contact the region's Emergency Manager with the Department of Mental Health, Louise Carcioni, at 617-626-9272. If you are in the [Southeast area](#), please contact Carl Cooperider at 508-977-3160.