

Planes From Haiti Arrive In Central Fla.

Earthquake Evacuees Taken To Orlando Area

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SANFORD, Fla. -- Airplanes carrying evacuees from earthquake-ravaged Haiti are expected to continue arriving at Sanford Orlando International Airport this week.

A U.S. Air Force cargo plane carrying U.S. citizens landed at the airport early Monday afternoon. Flights from Haiti first began arriving in Central Florida on Saturday, and the airport has been designated as the landing area for all C-17 aircraft associated with transporting earthquake victims.

After deboarding, the passengers must clear customs before meeting with members of the Florida Department of Children and Families and the American Red Cross, who provide them with food and help them make flight arrangements.

Because they are U.S. citizens, they're eligible for an on-site loan to assist with travel plans, DCF officials said.

Most of the 1,900 passengers already flown into Sanford have been bussed to Orlando International Airport, which offers more flights to other parts of the country.

American Red Cross volunteers from the Mid-Florida region are staffing both airports around the clock as earthquake evacuees continue to return from Haiti. Teams of volunteers will be permanently stationed at both airports, working in eight-hour shifts, as long as needed.

Red Cross volunteers have distributed food, water, diapers, blankets, baby formula, stuffed animals and comfort kits to the victims.

As of Monday, the Red Cross has provided 1,000 snacks for evacuees and 500 comfort kits with soap, toothbrushes and other personal items. Nurses have cared for 14 patients needing medical attention, the Red Cross said.

How To Help

Keiser University–Orlando

The student government of Keiser University–Orlando is collecting donations for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. You can make drop off the donations at:

Harvest Time International, Inc.
225 N. Kennel Road
Sanford, FL 32771

Watch Local 6 News for more on this story.