

# Disaster Hits Home

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try that has been so ravaged will ever rebound.

"I can't see a future at the center of the chaos," he said.

Basic services, like groceries, are only available in the densely-populated Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital, according to Ben Ferere. From the reports he's heard from phone calls from friends and relatives and his uncle's Facebook

page, all the roads to the city have been decimated, with few ways in or out.

He fears that with so many desperate people clamoring for such scarce resources violence will surely break out. Of particular concern is his wheelchair bound mother and uncle, who survived the earthquake and are safe in Port-au-Prince.

"We don't have days, we have hours for something to happen," he said.



One of the lucky survivors rescued from a downed building during the Haiti earthquake

# Earthquake Claims Grad

The University of Portland is mourning the death of Molly Hightower, a 2009 graduate of the north Portland school who did not survive the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

The family of the 22-year-old victim from Port Orchard, Wash. was told that searchers found her body in the wreckage of the building where she lived. She had gone to Haiti in June to work with disabled children for "Friends of the Orphans."

"Our hearts reach out to Molly's parents and her family and friends," said University President Rev. E. William Beauchamp.

A Mass to celebrate Molly's life was held Saturday on the University of Portland campus. She majored in psychology, sociology, and French Studies, and studied in Paris in the summer of 2007. She was "a very gifted student of French and a wonderful person in every sense," according to mentor and professor of French Trudie Booth.

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# Food, Cash Needs Stay High

The Oregon Department of Human Services expects demand for food and cash assistance will stay at record levels through 2010 and will not peak until January 2011.

The need for food stamps, called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is predicted to surpass 750,000 Oregonians, more than 19 percent of the population. Demand for the Oregon Health Plan, long-term care for seniors, and other services are also predicted to increase.

The human services needs are being driven largely by the economy. With Oregon's unemployment rate at double digits for 11 months in a row, an increasing number of families are finding themselves in the ranks of the long-term unemployed.

"When people lose their jobs, they often lose not only their income, but also their own health insurance and their ability to help support their aging or vulnerable relatives," says Dr. Bruce

Goldberg, director of the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority.

There are currently 675,838 Oregonians counting on food stamps, an increase of 30 percent over last year and it is predicted to continue growing to a peak of 756,000 people in June 2011 before demand begins to decline. Demand for the Oregon Health Plan, long-term care, and cash assistance will also continue to increase.



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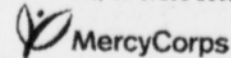
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