



January 10, 2020

To whom it may concern:

As you know, our community in southcentral Puerto Rico has suffered devastating losses due to the earthquake that occurred on January 7, 2020. Numerous aftershocks are still felt each day, and there is no indication of this subsiding in the near future.

We have been coordinating since day one with local hospitals, the Office of Emergency Management for Ponce, and local Department of Health Officials to provide much needed assistance to the communities we serve. The most affected regions of Puerto Rico encompass the municipality of Ponce, as well as 7 other towns in southern Puerto Rico, with an impacted population of close to 700,000. Many have lost their homes, and have set up makeshift campsites in parking lots and empty land. Our staff and students are actively providing physical and mental health services to our community, and will continue to do so indefinitely, as long as there is a need for assistance. Many of our students have also been displaced, and sixteen of our staff members lost their homes. We have set up counseling services on campus, and are working towards obtaining safe housing conditions for all.

In order to assist with relief efforts, the Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc. DBA Ponce Research Institute (PRI) will be collecting donations on behalf of the earthquake relief efforts, consistent with the organization's mission as a charitable, educational, scientific 501 (c)(3) Public Charity. All donations will be used towards providing direct assistance to our students, staff and relief efforts in the region.

If you wish to contribute, please use the following methods:

VISA or Mastercard: call 787-840-2575 ext. 4807 and state that the funds are for the PRI Donations account.

Checks payable to:

Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc.
Attention: Accounts Receivable
PO Box 7004
Ponce, PR 00732-7004

Electronic Deposit:

Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc.
Bank Name: Oriental Bank
Routing Number: 221571415
Account Number: 8016607399
Remittance email: zarroyo@psm.edu

Best regards,

Kenira Thompson, PhD
President, Ponce Research Institute
Vice-President of Research,
Ponce Health Sciences University