

PRESS RELEASE



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STUDENT UNION RAISES MONEY FOR HAITI DISASTER APPEAL

Yeovil College's Student Union (YCSU) has raised £150 for the Piers Simon Appeal, which aims to provide support to victims of disasters worldwide.

Students Chris Brenton, Jon Reid, Amy Studley, Bryn Hall, Vicki Ragwort, Jack Hardaker and David Withers began collecting money for the charity following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. They took collection buckets around the College and received donations from staff, students and visitors.

YCSU Committee member Chloë Brownhill (17) of Chilthorne Domer came up with the idea for the fundraising. She said *"I felt really shocked by what happened in Haiti and just wanted to do something, even if it wasn't much. We collected money around the College and at College events. We also included some money from previous events we've run as a union."*

Charity founder and former Yeovil College student Luke Simon came to the College to accept the money raised. He gave a presentation on the charity and its work, including current projects such as 'School in a Bag', where just £10 buys a rucksack with basic school supplies giving underprivileged children the chance of an education.

Mr Simon said *"I'm absolutely over the moon, the Student Union has done a really good job. It's great that young people want to get involved and are aware enough to want to help when terrible things like the Haiti earthquake happen. The students have said that they hope to get involved in other ways too. With charity work, it's very much like the 'School in a Bag' project - a little goes a long way. It's nice if we can teach young people how charities work, then hopefully they will continue to want to help in the future."*

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Notes to Editors

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The Piers Simon Appeal is a UK registered charity that aims to provide support to victims of disasters worldwide. It was launched as a donation appeal to generate funds for Koh Phi Phi at the memorial service of Piers Simon, who lost his life in the tsunami which ravaged the island on 26 December 2004. The response was overwhelming and allowed the family-run organisation to pursue it further. A board of six trustees was formed and charitable status was gained in May 2005. The Piers Simon Appeal has helped disaster victims in seven different countries working alongside makeshift and established charities. To date, the charity has raised over a quarter of a million pounds. 100% of the money donated is spent on our mission. For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.pierssimonappeal.org.

Photograph shows members of the Yeovil College Student Union with charity founder Luke Simon.