

## Queers Pitch in For Earthquake Relief for Peru

By Dennis McMillan

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The LGBT community is responding to the earthquake disaster in Peru when a magnitude 8 quake struck Peru on Wednesday, August 15, devastating the city of Ica and the port of Pisco. The death toll has risen to over 500, and thus far 1,600 have been reported injured. A quarter of Ica's buildings collapsed. Major highways have been destroyed. Hundreds of dead are lying in the street. The LGBT based international relief agency, Rainbow World Fund (RWF), has created an emergency fund to provide food, safe water, plastic for shelter, blankets, and basic medicines to survivors. RWF's disaster relief partner, CARE, is already on the ground providing aid.



**The Rainbow World Bus will be parked outside the Cafe Flore during the Peru benefit.**

Members of Krewe de Kinque, the San Francisco Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., and Rainbow World Fund ask people to please be part of the LGBT & friends community's response. One hundred percent of your donation will be used to provide life saving services. Go to [rainbowfund.org](http://rainbowfund.org) to donate (specify "Peru") or come to a South American party at Café Flore on Aug. 24. "Thank you for helping Rainbow World Fund bring LGBT people and resources together to heal our world," says Jeffrey Cotter, RWF Executive Director.

As Bay Times readers may recall, Krewe de Kinque teamed up with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence five days after the levees breached in New Orleans to hold a terrific Katrina Relief benefit at the Edge bar which raised more than \$18,000.

Also, this week's Darshan by The Sisters will be in conjunction with Krewe de Kinque and Rainbow World Fund. Nuns will be meeting at Café Flore at 8pm. After they gather buckets from Café Flore, they will walk to the Holocaust Triangle together, center themselves, and then march to the four corners of Castro to do a collection for the Peru Earthquake Relief Fund. "We've worked together in the past with both agencies, and this is yet another great opportunity to show what can happen when we team up with others in the community," says Sister Mary Timothy Simplicity. "We create change!" She added a message to philanthropic queers: "Give us your money, honey." The Darshan theme will be "World Community: How Far Can You Stretch to Give?" The Sisters say there will be a blessing of the dollars and cents as Jesus did with the loaves and fishes.

"We live on faults in the Bay Area and it just as easily could have been us faced with death, injuries, and loss of homes, jobs, and personal property due to a magnitude 8.0 quake," says Gary Virginia, co-founder of Krewe de Kinque.

There will be a big kickoff event at Café Flore on Friday, Aug. 24, 5p.m. to close, for a Brazilian-theme weekly party called "Tutti Fruitti Fridays." A three-piece band named Brazilian Flavor will be performing from 7-10p.m., and drag diva Birdie-Bob Watt will be the cocktail waitress. An outdoor Leblon Cachaca Caipirihna bar, (Brazil's famous cocktail made with muddled lime and sugar) will be on the patio, and free appetizer samples will be offered from 7-8p.m.

The café will be the perfect drop-off site for donations. Volunteers will have buckets labeled with signs that read "PERU Earthquake CARE Donations" outside of Café Flore and in the vicinity of this busy intersection for walkers, bicyclists, drivers, and commuters. They will accept cash and checks

made payable to Rainbow World Fund/CARE, and a representative from RWF will be there to process credit card donations. A donation jar will be placed behind the bar at Café Flore as well. They will use the café's safe as a depository for the cash (labeled, recorded, and in sealed envelopes) and total it once the event is over. The cash will go to CARE via the Rainbow World Fund, specifically labeled as generated from the LGBT community.

There is a natural connection to Peru and a Brazilian themed party due to geographic proximity, so organizers encourage dressing in festive attire (Carnival, beachwear, Carmen Miranda look-alikes, tropical shirts, feathers, etc.). But costumes are not mandatory. Really, all they want is your cold, hard cash for a very needy cause.

In July, a group of 15 RWF volunteers returned from a humanitarian aid journey to Guatemala. They delivered 1,800 pounds of medicine and school supplies along with monetary grants to an orphanage, a school, a medical clinic, and a micro-credit program.

"We are a great community, and I feel a belief in abundance and compassion can combine to make miracles happen," says Virginia. "Imagine the people from Peru receiving CARE support of critical needs earmarked from the LGBT community of San Francisco." He adds, "I know we can do it!" Please tell all your friends. And look for the colorful Rainbow World Bus parked in front of Café Flore.