



# HUNGARIAN RELIEF FUND

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## **Governor Pataki Calls on Americans to Contribute to Humanitarian Fund for Hungarians Displaced by Toxic Flood** *Answers the Call of Hungarian Prime Minister to Coordinate Fundraising Efforts in the United States*

(New York, NY) Former New York Governor George E. Pataki joined Ambassador Károly Dán, New York Consul General, today at the Consulate General of Hungary to launch U.S.-based fundraising efforts to assist Hungarians who have lost their homes as a result of last week's tragic flood of toxic red sludge. Governor Pataki is spearheading these efforts at the request of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and will work with the government of Hungary to raise money from Hungarian-American citizens, groups and the American people as a whole.

Governor Pataki said, "The situation in Hungary is grave and its people need our help. Last week more than 200 million gallons of toxic red mud flooded into several towns, killing and injuring many and leaving hundreds more homeless. It destroyed entire towns, burned people through their clothes and caused tens of millions of dollars in private property damage," Pataki continued. "Time and again, from the recent floods in Pakistan to last year's earthquake in Haiti to the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and countless other tragedies, the American people have demonstrated their compassion and sense of responsibility by rising to the occasion and helping our fellow global citizens in times of need. This is one of those times, and we urge the American people to answer the call once more on behalf of the people of Hungary."

Ambassador Károly Dán, Consul General of Hungary in New York said, "On behalf of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and the people of Hungary, I thank Governor Pataki for leading this critical effort and working with our government to raise desperately needed funds. As a respected figure in the Hungarian-American community and a leader who has led recovery efforts from terrible disasters, Governor Pataki is an ideal leader for this effort and we look forward to working with him closely."

Last Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the wall of a reservoir at an alumina plant in northwest Hungary collapsed, unleashing a flood of toxic red sludge that has killed 8 and injured more than 120 people. Several towns are virtually destroyed and hundreds of residents have been displaced, probably never to return home. While its full long-term impact is not yet clear, the event represents a human and environmental disaster affecting not only the immediate region but the larger ecosystem as well.

The government of Hungary has established a Hungarian Relief Fund for the purpose of aiding the victims of this tragedy. Contributions to the fund will be used to help displaced residents move into available homes elsewhere in Hungary or new homes in reconstructed portions of the villages that were

destroyed. Contributions earmarked for the “Hungarian Relief Fund” may be directed to any of the following organizations:

- The American Hungarian Federation ([www.americanhungarianfederation.org](http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org))
- Hungarian-American Coalition ([www.hacusa.org](http://www.hacusa.org))
- Catholic Relief Services ([www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org))

Further information will be available at [www.magyarkarmentoalap.hu](http://www.magyarkarmentoalap.hu) and [www.hungaryrelieffund.org](http://www.hungaryrelieffund.org)

Contributions may also be sent directly to the bank account of the Hungarian Relief Fund recently established by the Hungarian Government at the OTP Bank in Budapest:

Magyar Kármentő Alap  
SWIFT: OTPVHUHB  
IBAN HU28 11794022 - 22222222 – 00000000

## **Hungarian Relief Fund Contributor Information:**

Contributions earmarked for the “Hungarian Relief Fund” may be directed to any of the following organizations:

- The American Hungarian Federation ([www.americanhungarianfederation.org](http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org))  
AHF Disaster Relief Fund  
National Headquarters  
750 National Press Bldg  
Washington, DC 20045  
tel (202) 737-0127  
fax (202) 737-8406
  
- Hungarian-American Coalition ([www.hacusa.org](http://www.hacusa.org))  
Red Sludge Disaster Relief Fund  
1120 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 280  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 296-9505
  
- Catholic Relief Services ([www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org))  
Hungarian Relief Fund  
P.O. Box 17090  
Baltimore, MD 21203  
(888) 277-7575  
**Donate by Phone**  
Call 1-800-736-3467 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time.

Contributions may also be sent directly to the bank account of the Hungarian Relief Fund recently established at the OTP Bank in Budapest:

### Beneficiary

Magyar Kármentő Alap  
SWIFT: OTPVHUBB  
IBAN HU28 11794022 - 22222222 – 00000000  
Account with institution: OTP Bank Plc, Hungary

### Additional information for USD remittances:

Intermediary Bank (USD Correspondent) :  
Name: JPMorgan Chase NA, New York, NY  
Fed ABA: 021000021  
SWIFT BIC: CHASUS33

Further information will be available at [www.magyar karmentoalap.hu](http://www.magyar karmentoalap.hu) and [www.hungaryrelieffund.org](http://www.hungaryrelieffund.org)