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News Index

- Features
- Local News
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Sports
- Top Stories
- Nation
- Financial
- Health
- Archives

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Top Stories

Plea to local citizens: Help tsunami victims: State Department agency asks for hygiene kits

By Pat Hambrick
Contributing writer
The Daily Citizen
Saturday, January 22, 2005 11:32 PM CST

One person can indeed make a difference a world away. White County residents are being asked once again to prove it.

Rebecca Ullman of the Community Humanitarian Assistance Program at Counterpart International has asked individuals in White County for help getting personal hygiene items to at least 700 people now living in refugee camps in Sri Lanka after their homes were destroyed by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

In an e-mail plea Wednesday to John Kachelman Jr. of Judsonia, who is the national coordinator for humanitarian aid to tsunami victims, Ullman said there is an immediate need for one-gallon zip lock bags filled with personal hygiene items.

Ullman's email asked, "Do you think you can put together 700? That would be two camps of grateful people. Also, we have been told that there are more women than men in the camps and so are looking for about 400



Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year?

Yes, I make them every year, and I'm usually pretty good at keeping them.

Yes, I make them every year, but I'm not very good at keeping them.

Yes, this is my first year to make resolutions.

Yes (other)

No, I don't make resolutions because I can't keep them.

No, I don't make resolutions because I don't believe in that sort of thing.

No, I didn't make any resolutions because I couldn't think of anything to resolve to do.

No (other)

women's kits and 300 men's kits."

Kachelman is asking individuals, clubs, school and church groups to help fill this need. He estimates that the cost per kit will be about \$20.

Ullman said, "The items should be placed in one gallon Ziploc bags. We thought it would be nice touch if each person making a bag also wrote their name (and hometown/state?) on the bag in permanent marker, just so the recipients know that each one came from an individual.

"It would be great if you can get your people started on the collection. As you let us know how many kits you think you can do and the time frame in which you can do it, we will put together the transportation picture."

Ullman said it would probably be a combination of donated ground transportation, handling and airfreight and the use of money collected by Counterpart to aid the relief efforts.

The kits will be distributed through an organization in Sri Lanka to people currently living in refugee camps.

Note that the men's kits include flashlights and batteries because there is currently no electricity. Ullman's lists of items to be included in each bag follow.

Men's Emergency Kit:

- Handheld Flashlight (with batteries)
- Antibacterial ointment (Neosporin)
- Box of Band-Aid containing 30 or more.
- Roll of gauze bandage.
- Roll of first aid tape.
- Hand towel.
- Pair of scissors.

Women's Emergency Kit:

- Two pair of women's underpants.
- Package of feminine hygiene pads.
- Antibacterial ointment (Neosporin).
- Box of Band-Aids containing 30 or more.
- Roll of gauze bandage.
- Roll of first-aid tape.
- Hand towel.

Ullman said, "As always, sigh, more is better when it comes to financial donations. Donations towards ground transportation in the USA to the load site is very welcome. Just so your donors know, 100 percent of any money donated will go directly to purchasing kits and/or transporting them. Counterpart is covering all administrative costs."

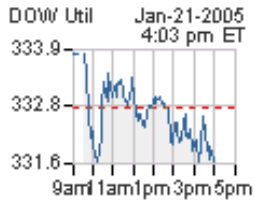
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Bozeman, 20, with Support Group 536, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, clears debris from a Sri Lanka schoolhouse destroyed by the Dec. 26 Asian tsunami. Bozeman, a Searcy native, is one of the more than 18,000 U.S. military personnel mobilized with ships, aircraft and forward-deployed land units to provide assistance via Combined Support Groups in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. (U.S. Navy photo)

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Index	Last Trade	Change
NASDAQ	2034.27	-11.81 ↓
DOW	10392.99	-78.48 ↓
AMEX	1414.58	8.82 ↑
Russ 2000	611.08	-1.26 ↓
SP 500	1167.87	-7.54 ↓
NYSE	6996.56	-13.91 ↓
DOW Util	331.70	-1.11 ↓

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Ullman also indicated that there would be a need for school kits in the near future.

This is a chance for White County residents to offer one-on-one aid to people whose families, homes and means of livelihood were destroyed in a matter of minutes.

Kachelman said that individuals or groups who want to put together person hygiene kits should contact him so that he can let Counterpoint know the number of kits he will be able to provide, as well as the time frame.

His cell phone number is (901) 626-4538.

Kachelman is currently overseeing preparations to load four 40-foot containers of furniture, medical supplies and other basics that will be shipped to orphanages in the Republic of Georgia and has just completed coordinating a nationwide shipment of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka.

He expects to be asked to coordinate another shipment to the area soon.

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