

Shipping a little hope

Warehouse brims with donations destined for tsunami victims in south Asia

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The Compassionate Resource Warehouse continues to bustle with activity in the wake of recent Asian tsunami. "We're very busy - we're just flying," said Dell Marie Wergeland, director of the Esquimalt-based non-profit agency that collects and donates containers of various supplies for the impoverished developing world. On Thursday afternoon, dozens of volunteers packed into the organization's warehouse on Devonshire Road, sorting and packing clothing, blankets, medical supplies and other donations destined for the Maldives.

That shipment left Victoria yesterday, and now volunteers begin work on a shipment destined for India.

Global Cargo Services in Surrey offered free shipping for the India-bound container, but only if volunteers can have the container filled and ready by the weekend. "Then we'll be doing one for Sri Lanka," Wergeland said.

Wergeland praised Greater Victoria residents for their generosity and kindness, apparent not only by the large amount of donated supplies gathered from throughout the Capital Region but also from the comments of people making the donations.

"What I'm hearing is that people are just so glad to do something themselves," Wergeland said. People have been donating items that they don't particularly need or they have doubles of, she said.

"They feel like they're actually doing something to help someone over there in a tangible way, which is a little bit different than just cash. They feel like they're giving part of themselves," The Compassionate Resource Warehouse is essentially a project made possible by the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. While an agency of its own, the Compassionate Resource Warehouse affiliates with the Church of Nazarene, since the church - which has a presence in 148 countries - provides assistance in getting relief shipments to those who need it in those countries.

The group also partners with other relief agencies such as Universal Aid, thus ensuring delivery of relief shipments to areas recovering from war or natural disasters. The agency sends much of its relief shipments out in 13-metre-long containers.

Medical supplies, hospital linen, clothing, household linen, school supplies are among the items collected by the organization for victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"People have been fabulous," Wergeland said.

. More of such supplies are needed to help the survivors in the tsunami-stricken regions of South and Southeast Asia where more than 150,000 people have died as a result of the disaster.

The Esquimalt-based agency has garnered help from a number of local businesses as well. McDonald's Restaurants will match the donation of all new toys and school supplies dropped-off at any McDonalds in Greater Victoria, and will also donate \$1 for every deli sandwich sold in Greater Victoria on Jan. 22 and 23.

Donated supplies may be dropped off at the following locations across Greater Victoria: Dodd's Furniture (715 Finlayson St.), Target Storage (747 Princess St.), Mayfair Mall, Church of the Nazarene (4277 Quadra St.) and the Langford Fire Department. For more information, call 381-4483.

Earthquake victims aided by local relief agency Mark Browne Esquimalt News, November 23, 2005 Earthquake victims in Pakistan are continuing to get some help, thanks to the Compassionate Resource Warehouse. During the last two weeks, the Esquimalt-based humanitarian agency sent two container loads of supplies to the country that was hit by an earthquake in October. The last load of supplies was shipped off to Pakistan last Friday. Household linens, winter clothing, basic first aid supplies and school supplies are among the items sent to the country, said Dell Wergeland, director of the Compassionate Resource Warehouse. "We're just trying to replace some of the things that they've lost," she said. As winter is on its way, Wergeland said there is an emphasis on sending supplies - particularly winter clothing - to the earthquake victims. "The people in Victoria have responded incredibly well to Pakistan," she said. Many people have donated traditional clothing worn by people in Pakistan, she noted. "It's been amazing... It's just so wonderful that they're getting some of their traditional clothing." The agency (located on Devonshire Road in Esquimalt) has also been busy sending relief shipments to other countries in the developing world. "We did one for Ethiopia, one for the floods in Guatemala and we did one for the floods in Europe," Wergeland said. Another two shipments of school supplies and desks are slated to be sent to Malawi during the next two weeks. The supplies for that country will help six schools for orphans suffering from AIDS. "So we're pretty busy," Wergeland added. Plans are in the works to send supplies to the Congo sometime in December. The volunteer-run organization could always use more donations of various supplies. Personal hygiene items, stuffed toys, nails and screws and tools are needed, Wergeland said. Upcoming projects the agency is involved in involve carpentry and mechanical workshops for boys in the developing world, she pointed out. "They are trying to teach them a trade. So if people have extra screws, nails, hand tools and nuts and bolts ... we would love to get a good supply," Wergeland said. When the tsunami hit south and south-eastern Asia in late December 2004, the Compassionate Resource Warehouse came through with supplies for the victims of that disaster. The Compassionate Resource Warehouse is essentially a project that was made possible by the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. While the latter is an agency of its own it is affiliated with the Church of Nazarene as the church - which has a presence in 150 countries - provides assistance in getting relief shipments to those who need it in those countries. At the same time, the Compassionate Resource Warehouse has partnerships with other relief agencies such as Universal Aid in order to get relief shipments to where they are needed. The agency sends much of its relief shipments out in forty-foot long containers. For information on how to

make donations, call the Compassionate Resource Warehouse at 381-4483, she noted. "It's been amazing... It's just so wonderful that they're getting some of their traditional clothing." The agency located on Devonshire Road in Esquimalt has also been busy sending relief shipments to other countries in the developing world. "We did one for Ethiopia, one for the floods in Guatemala and we did one for the floods in Europe," Wergeland said. Another two shipments of school supplies and desks are slated to be sent to Malawi during the next two weeks. The supplies for that country will help six schools for orphans suffering from AIDS. "So we're pretty busy," Wergeland added. Plans are in the works to send supplies to the Congo sometime in December. The volunteer-run organization could always use more donations of various supplies. Personal hygiene items, stuffed toys, nails and screws and tools are needed, Wergeland said. Upcoming projects the agency is involved in involve carpentry and mechanical workshops for boys in the developing world, she pointed out. "They're trying to teach them a trade. So if people have extra screws, nails, hand tools and nuts and bolts ... we would love to get a good supply," Wergeland said. When the tsunami hit south and southeastern Asia in late December 2004 the Compassionate Resource Warehouse came through with supplies for the victims of that disaster. The Compassionate Resource Warehouse is essentially a project that was made possible by the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. While the latter is an agency of its own it is affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene as the church - which has a presence in 135 countries - provides assistance in getting relief shipments to those who need it in those countries. At the same time, the Compassionate Resource Warehouse has partnerships with other relief agencies such as Universal Aid in order to get relief shipments to where they are needed. The agency sends much of its relief shipments out in forty-foot long containers. For information on how to make donations, call the Compassionate Resource Warehouse at 381-4483.
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