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RESCUE TASK FORCE

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September, 2005

Dear Friends,

An emergency within the emergency has come up and Andrea is now back in Louisiana with another Rescue Task Force (RTF) team.

We had thought to get a newsletter with pictures to you this week. It will now be another week or so.

To the many that have sent donations by checks and via our web site – THANK YOU and God Bless you. We have received them and they have enabled us to touch many lives – and hearts. And, you have enabled local volunteers to help their stricken neighbors. Like the newsletter, we had thought to get your receipts out this week. Please be patient and understand that your Administrative Staff and Field Emergency Response Staff are one-in-the-same. Because of this we are often unable to tell you about what we are doing while we are busy doing the job. This creates admin problems, but this is one of the ways that RTF keeps the overhead so low.

We are tired, yet energized by your support to your RTF in so many ways; the prayers, donations and encouraging words lift us as we work under heart wrenching and stressful conditions. It has been, and will continue to be, very hazardous. Hazardous, not only to our team's health and safety (the news reports are real) but also to our emotional health. The sight and smell of dead American bodies floating on once busy city streets is haunting. Your support sustains all of us.

We are also sustained by the gratitude of those you enable RTF to help. Debby, a shelter organizer was literally moved to tears at the sight of the help. Two men we helped with food and water in Saint Bernard Parish whispered: "You have wings."

Please, if you have not been getting the email updates and have access to email please send us your address so that we can keep you updated on what YOU ARE ACCOMPLISHING. It has not been physically possible to process a newsletter but we are able to occasionally get out email messages. Erik Stieringer, our webmaster posts them to the web site for you.

Part of your aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina via Rescue Task Force has included truck loads of:

All sizes in men's, woman's, and children's underwear and socks, hundreds of diapers; all sizes from preemie to 5T, pacifiers, sippy cups, bibs, formula, baby food, baby toys, blankets, over 100 lbs. of coffee, sugar, creamer, water, Gatorade, crackers, tuna, cookies, paper plates, paper bowls, paper towels, tuna, cheerios and over 1,000 air mattresses **Also, First Aid for the heart;** Hot wheels, Barbies, Candy land, and other games. And, Bibles.

This is just the beginning. New calls for help are coming in: The team that left for Louisiana this week received a call for help to assist several hundred U.S. Coast Guardsmen whose base and homes were destroyed in Alexandria by the hurricane. They have food (MREs – Meals Ready to Eat) but are in dire need of personal hygiene items

Separated from their homeless families they fly and boat all day and then return to an ill equipped shelter late in the night without cots, pillows or blankets. We replied to their call; “Help is on the way, Coasties... The RTF team is coming, will arrive Monday night.”

The team will also be answering a call that came in Sunday night asking for help at the Tippido, La. evacuation center which is about an hour drive from our Base Camp in Houma. 1,000 suddenly homeless people need, and we will purchase and deliver: Diapers, baby formula, shampoo and hygiene supplies. Tippido... “We are on the way – will be there Tuesday morning.”

This center, like most that we have seen is a Community Center converted into a refugee camp. A thousand plus people living two feet apart on cots, air mattresses or sleeping bags laid out of the floor. There is no privacy. The noise is the worst part. One will see a sick, elderly man laying on a cot with kids running all around him screaming, playing, and screaming – crying. The echo is horrific. It is a cold and industrial environment. Thousands of people coping with sharing two toilets. When we come, just knowing that someone cares makes such a difference.

Details of YOUR Rescue Task Force’s activities will be following soon. In the meantime, your support can be tracked on our web site at www.rescuetaskforce.org Pictures of the first team’s activity are now posted.

Again, Thank You for your support and thank you in advance for your patience while we process the paperwork. (Remember: The Titanic was built by professionals, the Ark by volunteers...)

In all of the chaos and attention to this horrible disaster, please know that your other RTF projects are on track. Construction of the fourth regional medical clinic facility deep in the jungles of Honduras is ‘on track’. The new clinic construction and the hospital rehabilitation / reconstruction project and the building of playgrounds in Sri Lanka for Tsunami victims are all progressing on schedule and the work in Afghanistan is expanding and touching yet more girls and adult women.

Around the world, around the clock, Rescue Task Force is making a difference - Saving Lives and Changing Lives.

When we look into the eyes of hurting children in Honduras, see our volunteer doctors save another life, when we lift a sick child into our RTF boat that will take her days away to a hospital; when we hear tribal elders say, “Thank God the American’s are here”, we see God’s plan for us put into action. We thank HIM that he has blessed us with the privilege of being used by Him to touch so many hurting parts of his body. And now, especially this... We are so humbled to be able to be such a conduit of so much help of Americans helping Americans. Thank You for being the Rescue Task Force.

Yours In Service,

Gary, Wendell and Andrea