Message from the President

March 2007

Dear Friends:

Rescue Task Force is starting the year with some exciting changes. In the past, much of the work we do has gone unnoticed by a large part of the community. We hope to change that as we move forward to continue support for our existing programs and as we make sure we are ready to respond when the next disaster strikes.

It has been very challenging to raise the funds we need while running missions at home and abroad. To help me address this issue, the Rescue Task Force Board of Directors has been reinvigorated and will be working on gaining more corporate sponsorships. We are thrilled and excited that Jim Richey has agreed to devote so much time to RTF to assist us with public relations and with getting out the RTF message. As in the past, Andrea and I will continue to run the missions and most facets of Rescue Task Force’s administration.

While it is essential for Rescue Task Force to expand its corporate donor base if it is to continue into the future, it is essential that your wonderful and generous, personal volunteer efforts and financial support continue for RTF to continue its work. I hope you know how much we appreciate your volunteer efforts and your financial support. Your valued support of our projects is essential in our effort to help those who cannot help themselves. You are the heart and soul of Rescue Task Force. We cannot do it without you.

80% of our funding comes from individual donors like you.

Here are highlights of some of the projects that your generosity is accomplishing: You are helping to save the lives of children in the jungles of Central America. You are helping people in crisis when natural and man-made disasters deal them a critical blow. You are helping women in battered countries learn to read and gain self-confidence. You are showing how much you care about our injured troops by participating in the Build a Backpack program. You are making a difference in the quality of life for thousands of people around the world around the clock.

It is my hope and prayer that you will continue to be an active member of the Rescue Task Force family and that you will understand why gaining new donations is so important. Your gifts and donations are deeply appreciated by us, and by all the wonderful and so very grateful people we serve.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Yours In Service,

Gary Becks
President/Founder
ORBA and the Rescue Task Force Challenge

Those attending the Off Road Business Association (ORBA) SUPERSHOW at the Barona Convention Center March 24th & 25th participated in a super show of their own, and set an example for everyone familiar with Rescue Task Force (RTF). After visiting the RTF booth, provided at no charge by ORBA show organizer Jan McGarvie, attendees contributed nearly $3,000 to the Happy Hearts for Hurting Heroes Build a Backpack program.

The donations came in all sizes. Some donated dollar. Some gave five or ten bucks. Some tossed twenty-dollar bills into the boot sitting on RTF’s table where the contents of the backpacks were neatly laid out. Others took the time to write a check. RTF Executive Officer Andrea Stone and RTF volunteers manned the booth all weekend.

I can not believe the generosity of the people here. Most of them had never heard of Rescue Task Force before they visited our booth, said Stone.

However, RTF faces challenging times. The challenge is today, said RTF President and Founder Gary Becks. Funds raised at the ORBA SUPERSHOW are a nice step toward our goal of raising one-million dollars for the Build a Backpack program. But, we still need to raise money to operate on a day-to-day basis, he said.

Please help us now. We are asking everyone in our RTF family and everyone who reads this to take a minute to make a donation whether it is large or small. Everything counts, said Stone.

RTF Brightens Lives at Balboa Naval Medical Center

The number 13 might conjure up bad omens for some. But, Rescue Task Force (RTF) seized the day on Feb. 13, 2007, to brighten the lives of some very special people in uniform. RTF delivered to Balboa Naval Medical Center the 1st 20 of 2007’s projected 200 backpacks full of goodies to help make Happy Hearts for Hurting Heroes.

The RTF program is designed to meet the immediate needs of those who arrive at the military hospital. RTF Executive Officer Andrea Stone said the backpacks cost more than $550 each, and these are no ordinary backpacks either. They come complete with items that include Game Boys, games, music, gift certificates, clothing, and mobile phones.

A 22-yr-old Marine Corps Lance Corporal from Michigan said when he arrived he only had a few things, just some clothing and military issued sanitary items. The Lance Corporal said he was pretty stoked when he got his backpack. I know when I was sitting in my hospital bed, that kept me busy for awhile with the CD players, cards, and cell phones, he said. It was nice to know people cared that much.

As for those receiving the backpacks, the Corporal summed it up. Thank You, A big thank you. I don’t have enough words really to appreciate how grateful we are. And for those thinking about donating to the efforts of RTF, Do it! the Corporal said.
RTF Brings Clean Water to Jungle Villages in Honduras

Rescue Task Force President Gary Becks and RTF Volunteer Dan Conaway are currently in the jungles of Honduras fighting water-born parasites in remote villages. The parasites continuously threaten the health and the lives of thousands of people, especially the children. Becks and Conaway’s mission is to establish the cost of building a manufacturing plant that will make portable clay pot water filtration systems.

“One of the primary effects of water-born parasites is malnutrition,” said Becks. “Malnutrition causes a host of other problems ranging from acute diarrhea to brain damage and death,” he said. RTF has no money for this project. Your financial help is needed to launch this lifesaving program.

Construction of a New Health Clinic in Honduras to Start this Summer

Construction of a new health clinic in Warunta on the Moskito Coast of Honduras starts this July. Villagers have volunteered to make cement blocks and to build the facility on land donated for this purpose. However, RTF needs your help. $85,000 is needed to complete the facility and to stock it with medical supplies. Along with your donation, please send a picture of yourself and your family. Your picture will be laminated and hung in the clinic so that patients will know who is helping to improve the quality of their lives.

Please help save my life and the lives of thousands of other children with a new health clinic.
RTF Needs Your Support

Rescue Task Force is asking for your donations, your pictures, your e-mail addresses so we can contact you about volunteer opportunities, your prayers, and your support. Your contributions will help

- Build a facility to make portable water purification systems for remote jungle villages in Honduras
- Support projects in Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos
- Build and equip a new medical clinic on the Moskito Coast of Honduras
- Distribute wheelchairs to the handicapped in El Salvador
- Support RTF day-to-day operations
- Support the Happy Hearts for Hurting Heroes Build a Backpack program

So much of our work is done in faith that the funds will follow the cries for help and the prayers on bent knees pleading for guidance. Your gift, large or small, will make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for people around the world, will be used to save the lives of thousands of helpless children, and will support our wounded troops to let them know they are not forgotten.

Thank you & God Bless you for caring, and sharing.

Whoever said money does not buy happiness? Every dollar counts for a child in the jungle that is infested with worms, a teenager without a wheelchair that needs to be carried or crawl on paralyzed legs made raw from dragging, a son or daughter that is hospitalized by a severe war injury, extreme burns, missing limbs, or lethal bullet wounds, with nothing but a flimsy gown for comfort. For so many... your money does buy happiness. You can measure it in smiles that are worth millions.

*Special thanks to Jim Ritchey for his help with media coverage and photography.*