



ONE FAMILY

One Family News

March 15, 2007

Helping Victims of the Pakistan Earthquake

The massive earthquake in Pakistan measured 7.6 on the Richter Scale, damaged 420,000 homes, killed more than 73,000 people and displaced millions of others. Many were living out in the open facing a brutal Winter which threatened to cause a humanitarian disaster. We felt very strongly that we had to help in some way even if it was just one container of relief supplies.

With the help of many volunteers, the shipment was packed into a 40 foot shipping container and sent to the SUNGHI Development Foundation which is coordinating relief efforts in Pakistan. It arrived in February 2006 at the refugee camp in District Mansera in the NWFP Province and was immediately distributed. The tents, sleeping bags and warm clothing are useful in this area all year around because at this altitude, the night time temperatures can be quite cool even during the Summer months.



Photo by Omar Vega
Oakland Tribune

Above - Linda Levitsky, Director of the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse and Mark Porter help organize a mountain of sleeping bags, bedding, tents, tarps, shoes, heavy socks and heavy coats that were collected in a drive called "Parkas for Pakistan"

Below - Volunteers setup pallets for loading into the container. Even the wood in the pallets will be put to use.



Revisiting Bosnia

It's hard to find an article in the news about conditions in Bosnia these days. The war is over, the government established, the UN created a flag and currency for them, so now Bosnia-Herzegovina is just another struggling country. Bosnia will always hold a soft spot in the hearts of One Family members. It was there that we first encountered the aftermath of war, people in refugee camps,

desperation and hopelessness. With the help of Channel 7 news in San Francisco, we were able to generate an outpouring of support which turned into many shipping containers full of humanitarian aid flowing from Northern California to little villages and refugee camps where the larger aid organizations overlooked.

Earlier this year we went back to Bosnia to check up on "our families" and to talk

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Rural Poverty Program Underway

You'll never forget the look they give you when you hand them a warm blanket, a jacket, a pair of shoes or some used clothing. Their expressions of happiness and gratitude are beyond description as they cradle your gift in their arms. Poverty like this is so common in third world countries. *One Family* has seen it first hand in the aftermath of the war in Bosnia and Croatia. This time, however, when we were giving out these warm blankets and jackets we weren't in a third world country. We were in our own country... right here in our own state!

One Family has long been aware of the difficult living conditions that farm workers are enduring right here in California ... almost on our doorstep. The title "Farm Worker" is synonymous with hard work, low income and impoverished living conditions. Eighty percent of the farm workers in California come from Mexico so it would be easy to dismiss their situation as something they chose to do. There is a lot of political debate about farm worker rights and their value with strong opinions on both sides of the issue.

We see the farm workers as hard working people who live near us and can use some help.

Last Fall One Family joined in a program with the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse and the California Wellness Foundation to provide some basic assistance to them. Since the county's recycling/reuse program provides a natural source of materials, our task became one

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The truck and employees of Pacific Rim Recycling follow a daily route that will eventually take them past every house in Central Contra Costa County twice a year.



When the truck is full it brings it's load to the recycling center in Benicia where it will be unloaded. The items are separated and distributed to non-profit organizations by employees of the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse.



Central Contra Costa Reuse Cleanup Days - *Helping to Fill The World's Needs Right From Your Doorstep*

It could be that the bike you put out by the curb last year is in Nicaragua where it was repaired and is being ridden by an orphan today, or your sleeping bag is in Afghanistan as part of an earthquake relief shipment, or your pair of jeans went to Mississippi to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Some of the items that were picked up from our local curbs actually did go to these places and many more locations to answer calls for help. Beneficiaries of this program are as widespread and varied as the things being collected.

This is the result of a partnership between the entities involved in this massive, highly effective recycling/reuse program. The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse and Pacific Rim Recycling developed this reuse program to reduce the flow of reusable discards into our Allied Waste landfills. It is being recognized as a model for other counties throughout our country to implement because of it's simplicity and effectiveness.

Each year the amount picked up has substantially grown. In 2005 the program picked up 1.4 million pounds. In 2006, they ran well ahead of that rate all year and finished with a total of 2.1 million pounds, picking up from 28,000 Central Contra Costa homes. This is an amazing 35% increase over the year before.

Over thirty agencies or non-profit organizations including *One Family* (see list on page 3) are receiving distributions from this program. All have made their requests itemizing the types of things they are looking for. This continuous flow of goods is a valuable source of supplies as these organizations struggle to make ends meet.

One Family is still working internationally supporting orphanages in the South American countries (see page 5) and has sent aid to earthquake victims in Pakistan (page 1). *One Family* also sent help to the victims of Hurricane Katrina (page 4) and is working with agencies in California that are assisting farm workers who are living here in poverty (see page 6). There is much to be done and having a supply line like this reuse program is a big help. It is a winning proposition for everyone. People are eliminating unwanted things from their homes by simply putting them at their curb, the flow of material into the land fills has been significantly reduced and needy people everywhere are being helped. It's almost too good to be true!

Agencies and Charities Benefiting from the Recycling Distributions

Central Contra Costa County

Alamo School YMCA Childcare Program
 Boy Scouts of America
 Benicia Vallejo Humane Society
 Canyon Education Foundation
 Concord Low Income
 CCC Children and Family Services
 Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition
 Cycles of Change
 Diablo Valley College Horticulture Dept
 Diablo Valley Montessori School
 House of Acts
 Gardens at Heather Farms
 One Family
 Our House
 Phoenix Program
 VESTIA
 Victory Outreach
 Youth Homes Incorporated

Alameda County

24 Hour Parent Teacher Children Shelter
 Afghan Center
 Emeryville Community Action Program
 Fred Finch Youth Center Vocational Program
 Generation Green
 Good News Bears
 Habitat for Humanity
 Piedmont Community Church
 Save the Children
 Women's Detention Advocacy Project
 Youth Program in Oakland

San Francisco County

World Impact

Other Counties

Human Development Corporation (in Dixon and Stockton)



As bicycles come off of the trucks they are stored in a section of the staging area. Agencies needing bikes sort through them and take what they need. Most are repaired and put back into use. Some are beyond repair and are used just for parts.

One Family takes these bikes for it's programs. Hundreds have been shipped to aid refugees in Bosnia and Afghanistan. Hundreds more have been sent to orphanages in six Central American countries along with repair parts, tools and repair instruction manuals. Programs have been setup to help them learn to repair bikes (see page 5). Many of the adult size bikes that were discarded here are now being used as a primary means of transportation for their new owners.



This load of 25 selected bicycles was picked up by One Family in October. The parts that are needed to repair them were purchased from a supplier in Hayward. In all, 140 bikes from the reuse program along with the parts and the tools necessary for repairing them were shipped and delivered to an orphanage in Honduras just before this past Christmas.

Besides bicycles, the recycling/reuse program is a source of children's clothing, shoes, sports equipment, computer equipment, bedding and towels. To those who on the receiving end, these "discards" are truly treasures.

Hurricane Katrina

One Family sent two shipments to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. We decided to bypass the normal relief organizations and go directly to the care givers after hearing how shipments were being delayed and clothing was piling up in warehouses. People were unnecessarily suffering due to breakdowns in distribution channels. Drawing from our experiences in Bosnia and Peru, we found two churches in Biloxi, Mississippi that were

right in the midst of the devastation and were trying to provide direct help to the victims.

With help from St. Vincent DePaul in Lane County Oregon, Pacific Rim Recycling, The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, a number of volunteers and with financial donations to help with shipping, One Family was able to collect, pack and ship quality relief aid very quickly.



Diapers, hygiene supplies, cleaning materials, bedding and clothing donated by generous people in Oregon helped fill this 53 foot truck

*St. Vincent de Paul Society
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
314 Jim Money Rd.
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: 228-388-1837 - Fax: 228-388-7069*

January 16, 2006

Dear One Family,

I apologize for taking so long to acknowledge your organization's incredible shipment of relief supplies to our parish. Unfortunately, the combination of Hurricane Relief, Christmas Toy Distribution, ongoing St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Assistance and my own attempts to have my home repaired have caused me to fall behind, especially in the area of correspondence.

Your shipment of supplies caused quite a stir in our community. Word quickly went out that we not only had relief supplies, but that we had some "really good stuff"! And that's exactly how I would describe your shipment-"REALLY GOOD STUFF". It was so wonderful to have so many linens, towels, diapers, baby supplies, sleeping bags, jackets, etc. to give to people who had lost everything in the storm. EVERYTHING you sent was needed and almost all of it has been distributed.

Here in South Mississippi recovery is happening at an excruciatingly slow pace. After the initial stage of racing to see that everyone had food, clothing, medicines and shelter, the recovery seems somewhat stalled. We seem to be dependent upon government grants, insurance settlements and contractors to all come together to make rebuilding possible. Meanwhile, many thousands of people are living in tiny FEMA trailers and some are even still living in tents. It's apparent that it will take us a long time to overcome this disaster.

Hundreds, or maybe even thousands, of volunteers are coming from across the country to help us to clean up and begin to rebuild homes. It has been incredible to watch the generosity of the people of our country towards those who have lost so much. The wonderful kindness and generosity of your organization has been very heartwarming and healing to our wounded spirits. As you know, sometimes just knowing that others care is the greatest blessing at times like this. Thanks to all of you for caring and for taking concrete steps to address the needs of the people of Biloxi.

God Bless You all for your Goodness.

Sincerely,

Mary Frances
Mary Frances Ford



As many years as we've been doing this, we still are amazed at the wonderful people who volunteer their time to help get these shipments loaded. It is such a pleasure to be associated with these generous individuals.



It takes a lot of hands...

Nicaragua



As the bikes are stacked, care is taken to ensure the pedals and handlebars fit into the adjoining bike so no damage is done during the trip. The final tally showed that 231 bikes, 200 new tires, 325 new tubes, 35 new bike wheels, a complete set of bicycle repair tools, several bags of basketballs, four baby strollers, five boxes of baby hygiene supplies and three computer systems all fit into this 40 foot container.

Employees from Pacific Rim Recycling and the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse help load bikes into the container. With each bike it is easy to imagine the happiness it will bring the child who will be riding it.



Bicycle Repair Centers

The bikes are repaired by the staff and students at the orphanage. All parts, tools for repairing the bikes (including an air compressor) and repair manuals are shipped. At one time One Family volunteers repaired all bikes before sending them. As you can imagine it was a very labor intensive, time consuming project and it made it difficult to plan shipment dates. We asked the administrators at the orphanages if they would be interested in setting up repair centers and use them to teach bicycle repair to the students. It's one more useful skill for these young people to develop. The program in Nicaragua has been a resounding success which has led to repair centers being started in Honduras and El Salvador. Over 500 bicycles from the county reuse program have been shipped to these countries in the past two years.

28 11 2006

Northern California Rural Poverty Program

(Continued from page 1)

of logistics. We identified locations in Dixon, Trinity County, Oakdale and Stockton as places to test this program. All have large farm worker populations and all are within reasonable driving distance.

While this program is still in its infancy, it has already had an impact. In just two months, November and December 2006, fifteen truck loads of blankets, sleeping bags and assorted new and used warm winter clothing were delivered to these Northern California locations. All of the donations have already been distributed to the needy. In Stockton alone, 5,000 pounds of bedding and clothing were distributed in less than a week.

The requests for help continue to come in with blankets, warm jackets and hygiene supplies at the top of the lists.

Stockton California



Incoming reusable items are sorted and packed into boxes for easier distribution. Here a shipment destined for Stockton is being organized on pallets at the Benicia facility.



Pacific Rim employees are loading a truckload of blankets and warm clothing in Benicia. This shipment was taken to Stockton and completely distributed in less than a week. More is needed and much of it will be provided through the county reuse program.

Trinity County Cali-

With *One Family* members living near Weaverville and always tuned into helping people in need, it was an easy decision to expand the Rural Poverty program to communities in Trinity County, California where a fourth of the population is living below the poverty line. There *One Family* members witnessed once again how important a warm blanket can be as people carried them away beaming as if they had just received a treasure.



One Family trucks are being loaded at the county reuse center. 175 warm jackets, 159 blankets, 26 sleeping bags, 48 pairs of shoes and several bags of clothing are destined for communities in Trinity County. The other truck is picking up bikes and children's shoes as part of a shipment being sent to an orphanage in Nicaragua.

Oakdale California

From: Karen O'Bannon
To: One Family
Subject: THANK YOU!!!

A belated, but HUGE THANK YOU for all of the clothes, sleeping bags, stuffed animals and sheets you sent our way!!! I can tell you that we have about one half of a box of clothes left.....everything was distributed this week!!! We had one mom who only owns one sweater.....a thin, zip up sweater. She was crying with gratefulness as she tried on one thing after another and they fit her perfectly!!! I have dozens of stories like that for everything that happened this week! We had a very busy, very rewarding week.....including finding housing for a homeless, single mother with a 13-year old son. We saved some of the coats that were in the boxes to give away as the weather cools off.....and will give away the stuffed animals on Thanksgiving.

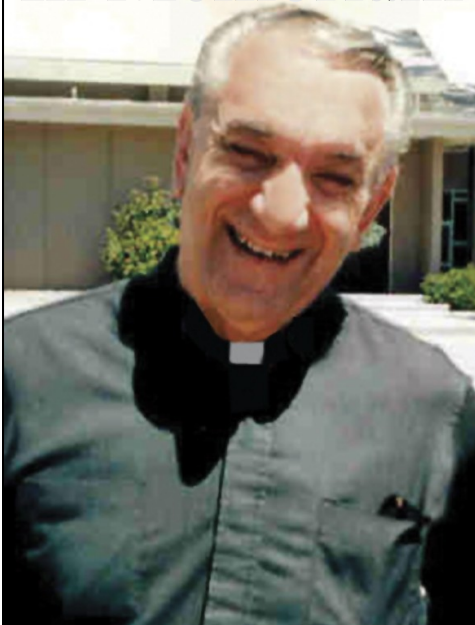
Thank you so much for donating to our facility. The smiles and tears of the people getting these clothes is something that touched us all. Again.....thank you!!!!

Karen O'Bannon, Director
Oak Valley Hospital Family Care Center
Oakdale, California



This church in Hayfork uses part of its rectory (the building in back) as a warehouse for collecting and distributing donations to help people in the local community. Churches of all denominations are working together to help those who are in need.

In Memoriam



Reverend Frank Colacicco

(September 22, 1930 - February 15, 2006)

Last year we lost another great priest and close friend. In 1997 Father Frank was retired and living in Danville. It was then that he learned about an orphanage in Nicaragua and decided to do something to help them. What started small turned into a major undertaking with many people contributing their time and talents. Father built and furnished a church on Ometepe Island, a chapel on the mainland, an amphitheatre for seating 600 people in Honduras and provided funds to help build a chapel in El Salvador.

Under Father's guidance several shipments a year full of clothing, supplies, toys, appliances and medical equipment were being sent to orphanages in five Central American countries. On one occasion Father received an urgent request for 100 baby beds because the government of Nicaragua was planning to bring 100 babies to the orphanage. Donations poured in and in a month and a half the beds were packed and on their way.

Father Frank had the foresight to setup a non-profit charitable organization that would keep the focus on "his children" long after he was gone. Father Frank's Kids was established in 2004.

While his work is continuing, Father is greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to work with him. *He will never be forgotten.*

Revisiting Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

with some of the people who are still actively working to help. We weren't surprised to find that progress is being made but very slowly. The country still has an unemployment rate of 48% in the Summer and 60% in the Winter. There just isn't an infrastructure to create jobs. Labor is willing but there is nothing to do. This sounds like stories we heard about our own depression era. For us it took the government to create jobs in the Civilian Conservation Corps. People were hired to fix roads, clean up streets and parks, etc. just to get them working and money flowing into the economy. As they spent their earnings more jobs were created. For this to work in Bosnia, they would have to have a cohesive government which they don't. The three factions still exist so suspicions run high.

It's sad to see that some of the refugee camps still exist and have now become "home" for those who are there. These are problems that are beyond the ability of One Family to solve. So we looked at what we could do, where we could help. We focused on the children who are still struggling, still victims of a war that ended 10 years ago. We visited an orphanage that is truly amazing. Not a big building full of half-clothed children as you would imagine in a "third-world" country, but individual "family" homes that were built with donations from all over the world. The homes are designed to house 8 children and two "parent" caregivers. All of the children go to school and eat in a common area. The space between the homes has grass and a large play area. The sound of children playing and laugh-

ing is the most beautiful music you could imagine. As we absorbed the sounds we realized that this is what we wanted for all those children we saw in our travels through this abused country, for all of those little faces we saw with tears in their eyes that we wanted to hug and assure it would be OK.

The orphanage also has a separate facility for young adults who are there because they need help breaking their addiction to

drugs. We had the opportunity to talk with some of them. Their stories are heart wrenching and it's obvious they are very appreciative to be there.

The builders of this orphanage are making a difference in a big way for these children. This is a very special place that will provide healing care for many years to come.

The orphanage is far from complete. Their immediate building needs are for a place to house large gatherings, for more "family" homes and for a chapel. Getting involved in this is an opportunity to make a contribution with a lasting return. Helping them is a different type of

undertaking for One Family since it doesn't involve sending shipping containers full of aid, but this may be the most rewarding project we've ever undertaken. We invite you to join us.

NOTE: It is appropriate that this article ends up on the same page as the article about Father Frank. He too found orphanages that were doing amazing things for abandoned children. He was touched by the children's voices as we were and he too felt a calling to lend a hand. What a model for us as we undertake this new project. We couldn't ask for a better guide.



The orphanage is designed to reproduce a family living environment for the children to help them recover quicker.



The school for the orphans is also available for the local community. Many families send their children there because of the loving care and it's high academic standards.

12 Years and Counting

Soon *One Family* will be celebrating it's 12th anniversary. Many of you who are receiving this newsletter have been with us since the beginning. Back then Channel 7 news was following our every move and reporting on our progress as we formed this organization to help the victims of the brutal war in the Balkans. Through your generosity we shipped and delivered over 100 tons of relief supplies. Little did we know back then that we'd also be sending containers to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Peru, Honduras and Nicaragua. There's no way we could have predicted how this effort would grow over the years. As you can see from the pages inside, we are still busy and even taking on a new project at an orphanage in Bosnia. As much as we've been through over these years, this project may be the one we will look back on as where we made the most significant contribution. Because this one will continue giving long after we are gone.

One Family is registered as a non-profit charitable organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

Our Wish List!

One Family continues to reach out to the limits of it's resources to give help where it is needed. The One Family logo represents it's founding belief that everyone in this world is a member of one family.

The following are some of the things we are continually looking for:

- Baby items** (*high chairs, strollers, etc.*)
- Disposable and cloth Diapers** (*all sizes*)
- Powdered Soap** *for washing clothes*
- Items for Personal Hygiene** (*like soaps, shampoos, tooth brushes, tooth paste*)
- Clothing and Shoes** (*All Sizes*)
- New Underwear and Socks** (*all sizes*)
- Sewing Machines** - *good working order*
- Knitting Supplies** - *Yarn & needles*
- Hand Tools** *for home and garden use*
- Houseware** *pots & pans, silverware, glassware in good condition*

School classroom supplies (*chalk & erasers, paper, scissors, pencils, etc*)

Computers *notebooks/laptops in working condition (Pentium I or newer processor)*

Musical Instruments

Bicycles *in good working order*

Sports Equipment (*soccer equipment, basketball equipment, ball gloves etc.*)

Toys (*Frisbees, balls, Barbie dolls, stuffed animals, tricycles, wagons, cars*)

Medical Equipment (*blood pressure, stethoscopes, wheel chairs, crutches, etc*)

Medical Supplies (*Bandages, etc.*)

Financial Assistance *for shipping and to purchase needed items.*

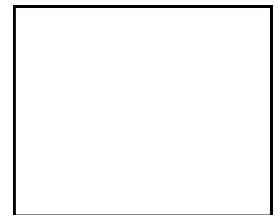
Financial Donations *to help with construction at Mother's Village in Bijakovici, Bosnia-Hercegovina*

Web Site News...

Soon you'll be able to download and print all of the One Family newsletters in their original format. They're being converted to Adobe Acrobat and will be put on our website. They are full of good memories. Look for them at: www.onefamily.org



One Family News



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