



American Red Cross

Saving Lives Giving Hope



Celebrating 92 Years of Service to Hawaii! **Red Cross Responds to Tragedies**

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

Fall 2009



Red Cross volunteer views damaged home in tsunami ravaged Am. Samoa



Volunteers construct tents for villagers who lost their homes



Volunteer assists injured resident



Volunteers on military transport sleep in open air shelters below



Soon after the tsunami struck, dozens of American Samoa Red Cross volunteers started providing assistance to victims in the affected areas. In the days following, 80 American Red Cross volunteers from across the U.S. (including 15 from Hawaii) were deployed and are now going village to village assisting people who may be without housing for months, and no electricity for over a year. At least 2,000 families from 70 villages in American Samoa have been affected,

At each village, volunteers construct “yurts” for families to sleep in - round tents erected on a family’s land after the American Samoa government has certified that the property has been cleared of debris and has adequate sanitation systems.

Red Cross volunteers are providing free coolers, cooking kits, tarps, cots, work gloves, flashlights, trash bags and comfort kits, and also distributing portable toilets provided by FEMA. The tents may be in use for some time because damaged or destroyed homes may take months to replace or repair. Half of American Samoa is without electricity and may require generator assistance for as long as 1-2 years.

So far, over 4,700 meals and snacks have been served. Nine pallets of local food items including 500 cases of spam, 100-50 lb. bags of rice, 1,000 cases of saimin, 50 cases of tea bags, and oatmeal, and 1,500 Jumpstart to Recovery kits containing blankets, hand-crank radio/flashlight/cell phone recharger, first aid kit, work gloves, face masks, bath-in-a-bag, and mesh laundry bag have also been shipped.

Red Cross volunteer nurses, mental health workers, and spiritual counselors are outreaching to families who have lost loved ones in the disaster to offer comfort, crisis counseling, and medical attention. Tim Serban, a volunteer with the Red Cross Spiritual Care Response Team, is following up with patients recently released from the hospital, especially those still in shock after losing a child. Serban’s team met with a pre-school teacher trying to help children process the grief and fear over the fact that students who don’t show up for class, may never be coming back to school. “Coming this Friday, we will be working with two families having funerals for their children, which means digging their own child’s grave, all of which are in the front yard of the family home,” said Serban.

Red Cross volunteers are serving 3-week deployments, sleeping in open air recreational centers, and thankful for a cold shower. Their office is a tent and two 40-foot cargo containers welded together side by side. Despite these hardship working and living conditions, they feel lucky to be able to make a difference.

To donate, go to www.redcross.org and choose the Disaster Relief Fund (for American Samoa) or International Response Fund (for Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, and western Samoa). Mahalo everyone, for your wonderful support for the cause of humanity!

Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO



Typhoon Ketsana leaves Philippines devastated

Philippines Red Cross distributes food

Indonesian Red Cross unloads relief supplies

Vietnam Red Cross on search and rescue mission

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Age	Rate	Age	Rate
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70	6.10%	85	8.90%
75	6.70%	90	10.50%

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For information and assistance, contact: Betty Mastrantonio at (808) 739-8108 or mastrantonio@hawaiiredcross.org.



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