



Relief, Rehabilitation & Development

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RELIEF INTERNATIONAL NEEDS URGENT KID-POWER TO HELP CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

Los Angeles, CA - Want to provide hands-on emergency relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, but have neither money to give nor means to travel far? Then we have a job for you!

As schools everywhere unite to make room for the children displaced by the storm, Relief International (RI) – a leading Los Angeles-based humanitarian non-profit agency – is focused on providing immediate, direct assistance to affected children in the form of ‘Kids-Kits.’

“Everyday we hand out food, water, hygiene products and other necessary items to families in need,” reports Natasha Behbahany, Program Coordinator for Relief International in Baton Rouge. “But we have nothing to specifically give to the kids to meet their particular needs.”

Kids-Kits are backpacks filled with basic “survival” items such as school supplies, toys, games, books, hygiene objects and snacks. Many families recovering from Hurricane Katrina have lost everything and are unable to purchase such items, which children need both to restart their education and feel some sense of comfort.

But we need kid-power! Kids-Kits are made possible by organizations and local kids, ages 1 to 101, volunteering to assemble and donate the backpacks. RI takes it from there, picking them up and distributing them directly into the hands of children in affected areas. Visit www.kidkits.org.

Want to get involved? Here is how to get started:

- **Communication:** Organize your class, team or organization to start a Kids-Kits campaign. Distribute flyers, get people excited and let us know about it so we can spread the word!
- **Action:** Collect items and fill bags– any kind that will zip shut – with appropriate items (i.e. notes/letters, pens/pencils, crayons, coloring books, paper, notepads, toys, games, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs/brushes, sports bottles, paperback books, candy/snacks, non-perishable food items, postcard from your hometown). *Unacceptable items include: perishable food items, pocketknives, anything sharp or glass, heavy/thick books, backpacks with broken zippers, used school supplies, lighters/anything explosive.*
- **Storage:** Establish a drop-off location. With your permission, Relief International will promote your organization and drop off locations. Finished collecting and assembling backpacks? Contact Relief International to schedule a pick-up or to view our drop-off locations – we will ship them for you.

Relief International established Kids-Kits in conjunction with their tsunami relief efforts in Sri Lanka. Through Kid-Kits, Relief International provided hundreds of school-aged Sri Lankan children with necessary school supplies, required uniform shoes and other basic items. Building on that experience, Relief International has dispatched teams to assist with the Katrina disaster and is providing medical aid and distributing food and other necessities to the most vulnerable communities. Relief International is a non-profit, humanitarian agency with 501(c)3 status. All contributions are tax-deductible. IRS Tax ID#: 95-4300662

Relief International, (RI) is a humanitarian non-profit agency that provides emergency relief, rehabilitation, development assistance, and program services to vulnerable communities worldwide. RI focuses on bridging emergency relief to development through transitional, cross-sectoral and integrated programs including health, shelter, education, community development, agriculture, food, income-generation, and peace & tolerance promotion. RI is solely dedicated to reducing human suffering and is non-political and non-sectarian in its mission. Our relief team includes personnel from our Los Angeles office as well as international and national volunteers. RI was established in 1990 and is headquartered in Los Angeles, California, USA. Branch offices are located in the UK, Japan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Israel, the Palestinian Territories and other countries.

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