



THE COMMUNITY PAGE

Eastern Idaho pulls together to send relief to Katrina victims



Supplies donated by residents of Southeast Idaho were transported by Doug Andrus Distributors, ABF Trucking, and Idaho Supreme Potatoes, Inc. to distribution centers in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The worst natural disaster in America's history, Hurricane Katrina, has revealed again the amazing generosity and effectiveness of the nation's private charitable efforts. We are proving once again that this is the most generous nation on earth. From Hollywood starlets to elementary school-children; from cities large and small to rural areas from coast-to-coast; from busy housewives and corporate executives; whether cafeteria cooks or men and women on the assembly line; in churches, mosques, and synagogues; we are reaching deep into our pockets and giving.



Volunteers sorted clothing, toys, water, food, and other supplies as part of the Katrina disaster relief effort.

The steadfast nature and generosity of Eastern Idahoans during times of trial is legendary. One need look no further than the collapse of the Teton Dam and subsequent flooding. People from throughout the region raced in with food, shelter, donated labor, and other aid long before outside assistance appeared.

The generosity demonstrated by Eastern Idahoans for the victims of Katrina is inspiring and worthy of note, and yet any written recognition will omit hundreds, perhaps thousands, of acts of good will by our kind neighbors. Clothing, food, water, and other miscellaneous items required to sustain life were donated by many unnamed individuals. But delivery of vast quantities of relief requires logistical planning and support. For instance:

- GPOD of Idaho, Western Recycling, Volm Bag Company, Kingston Produce, IPAK, Intermountain Gas Company, Challenger Pallet Company, Wal-Mart, and Caterpillar Sales and Service donated containers of various kinds, industrial-sized totes, pallets, and forklifts to facilitate packaging and loading of tons of supplies.
- Melaleuca employees manned collection stations and prepared the 11 semi-truck loads of donated material for delivery. Additionally, Melaleuca paid for the cost of transportation for 6 loads with more trucks scheduled for departure.
- Doug Andrus Distributing provided equipment and paid the fuel costs for five of the several loads delivered.
- Doug Andrus Distributing drivers Veann "Van" Wesling and Cary Byington donated their time to haul two loads to the disaster area.
- ABF Trucking contributed the use of two semi pup trailers to carry donated materials to the impacted areas.

The contents, packed into the donated containers, and loaded and shrink-wrapped onto donated pallets, and lifted into the donated trucks with even more donated equipment and labor, come from closets, pantries, storage rooms, and store shelves found throughout the region.

- Tad Jenkins and Bish's R.V. collected donations and joined the nation-wide coordination of delivery being directed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) Welfare System Humanitarian Service Department.
- The Pocatello Youth Forum led several groups from the Pocatello area in making and donating 250 quilts and blankets specifically for the hurricane relief efforts.
- Gary Kirchner and Idaho Safari Club donated a gas powered generator.
- Idaho Supreme Potatoes, Inc. committed 9,000 pounds of processed potato products and transportation for additional supplies to the region.



A volunteer loads a trailer of donated goods that was shipped to the Gulf Coast to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

- Slusser Wholesale of Idaho Falls contributed 84 cases of Gatorade to ameliorate the hot, humid conditions for victims and aid workers alike.
- The Clark Ward of the Ririe LDS Stake delivered four pallets of water and several more pallets of donated items.
- The faculty, staff, and student body of Idaho Falls High School donated three pallets of bottled water.
- The Jefferson County Food Bank, North Bingham County Food Bank, Salem Second LDS Ward, Security Connections/SCI Records Management Employees, Salmon Eagles Aerie, and Salmon Elks Lodge collected five pick-up and two large trailer loads of donated items.
- Local News Channel 8 and radio station KLCE provided promotional activities highlighting community donation efforts.
- To date, Melaleuca employees and Marketing Executives have contributed \$460,000, which will be matched by Melaleuca, Inc. to total \$960,000.

Many more stories of sacrifice remain anonymous. Yet, given the scale of the tragedy and the compounding of its impacts by the occurrence of Hurricane Rita, much more remains to be done to aid victims and rebuild the region. Voluntary sacrifice is what makes philanthropy a virtuous act. Truly, this is charity as it was meant to be, individuals helping one another through love of neighbor.