



Footprints of your generosity

June 2001.

KARNA Inc. stands for?

KARNA Inc.'s mission is to improve and advance the public good, the quality of life of those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized and encourage students who demonstrate all-round distinction and interest in socio-development needs."

To realize this mission KARNA Inc. shall seek to empower and build community capacity, and provide services for sustainable development. KARNA Inc. shall also work in partnership with other not-for-profit agencies, the Government, donors, community partners and the public

KARNA Inc. is a voluntary, not-for-profit, non-self-serving, non-governmental, non-partisan and independent organization involved in the promotion of social justice and development.

KARNA Board

Piyush Singh

Helen J. Young

Jon Lindbergh

3 other silent volunteers

Earthquake Relief: An Update

On January 26, 2001 at 8:46 am, nature's fury completely changed the lives of millions of people on the west coast of India in a manner people in other parts of the world could never imagine. While technological advances lead us to advances in every field, we all bow before the destructive forces of mother nature and are humbled to suffer its consequences.

In the state of Gujarat, India in a localized area around Bhuj, approximately 30,000 people lost their lives and about 200-300 thousand lost their homes and all their earthly possessions. The process of re-construction shall take a couple of years, but the trauma people have suffered would last much longer and the loss of near

and dear ones would never be made up. A healing touch to the people of Gujarat is the need of the hour.

The vast majority of the affected population did not have any life insurance cover. The structures and household belongings were not insured either.

In a spirit of volunteerism, 9000 miles away in Peoria, Illinois (USA), KARNA Inc. took the lead in gathering a network of private and caring citizens of the community. The community was inspired by an Indian sage's philosophy — 'serving humanity is serving God'.

KARNA Inc. volunteers were assisted by the Indian Association of Peoria (IAP) and the Indian Stu-

dents' Association (ISA) of Bradley University. Jointly they mobilized the commu-



Jan 26, 2001 Earthquake

nity and local voluntary support to provide relief and financial assistance to the unfortunate victims of the natural disaster of horrific dimensions. Hindu Heritage Center (HHC) was kind enough to provide a drop-off facility for material donations.



KARNA Assistance Box

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The School Project: Foundations of Future

KARNA Inc. is adopting a primary school in the state of Arunachal Pradesh in Eastern India. KARNA Inc. believes in supporting the development of our youth, who are the foundations for our future.

Arunachal is a state with

villages that are five to six days of footmarch to the nearest town in the best dry weather.

We would like to support the children get primary education so that:

•they can get educated

and free themselves from social subjugation

•the girls can get educated and ensure that women have equal social status, economic independence and scope to develop expertise in different fields

...p2

School project : cont'd

- They can lead their society from the evils of opium and “slash-and-burn” cultivation methods.

Given an opportunity these young children can blossom into our bright stars of the future. All they need is your help and assistance to take the first step—spend their long hours in school versus being a helping hand on the land from a tender age of 6.



Geographic location

We seek your help in giving them a ray of hope - donate generously. It is the goodness of people like you that

can make a difference to the life-style that they shall have in future. It is the difference that we can make—between a life of poverty or a life full of promise.



Current option



Foundation of future

Young people everywhere:

- Have aspirations and want to participate fully in the lives of their societies.
- Are key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation.
- Should live under conditions that encourage their imagination, ideals, energy and vision to flourish to the benefit of their societies.
- Are confronted by a paradox: to seek to be integrated into the existing society or to serve as a force to transform it.
- Are also a social and demographic group at risk with an uncertain future, even though they represent society's greatest hope.

Fund-Raising Special Thanks

“There are many ways of saying thanks, this one shall come from deep within the hearts of those who shall benefit from the generosity shown by all of you..”

The fund-raising would not have been possible without the special help that we received from the Peoria community. Citizens from all walks of life were not only generous in offering a helping hand, they kept the families of the victims in their prayers.

Richard of Oakwood Estates came up with the idea of crushing soda cans to generate funds for the drive. The group of people under Evelyn Mogler's supervision generated approximately \$500.



Oakwood Estates volunteers with Richard at the far right.

The “Quilting Ladies” of Faith Lutheran Church donated approximately 30 hand-made quilts as part of their contribution towards relief assistance.



The “Quilting Ladies” of Faith Lutheran Church

Micahel deManny of Methodist organized medical supplies from the area hospitals and provided the same for relief work.

The students of Bradley University under the guidance of their advisor Dr. Shyam Bhandari braved a night of



“Packing Specialists” at Bradley University

Special thanks to:

- Dr. Chittaranjan and Archita Reddy
- Jon and Sharon Michael
- Ramesh Venkatraman
- Sudha Thyagarajan
- Dr. KG Shah
- Sunday School at Apostolic Church
- Dr. Naval Kishore
- Sridhar Devasiagamani
- Mike and Cheryl Quine
- Dr. Shyam Bhandari

heavy snow with cold winds and helped pack 2700 lbs of relief material and load the same onto a truck.



Shipment at Air India Cargo facility

Earthquake : cont'd

Fund-raising Efforts

Fund-raising was done through publicity provided by local print, visual and audio media, direct mailers and door-to-door campaign.

A booth was setup in the local mall by the IAP. The ISA student volunteers went from room to room collecting donations, every nickel and dime, going towards a charitable cause. Direct mailers were sent to different people in the community.

A fund-raising luncheon was held at Weaver Ridge to educate people about the impact of the event as well as generate money through a silent auction of Indian artifacts. Mr. Greg Tiemeier, VP Client Development of Risk Management Solutions (RMS), a catastrophe modeling company, was the guest speaker at the luncheon. Mr. Tiemeier gave an update on the results of the study being conducted by engineers of RMS who had flown to Gujarat to assess the damage caused by the earthquake. His insight into the scientific details of the event was very educative and appreciated by everyone. A video of the actual devastation was also shown, highlighting the terrible tragedy which had overtaken the people of Gujarat. RLI Insurance Company, a local company specializing in earthquake insurance, was kind enough to sponsor the luncheon as community support effort.

These endeavors led to approx. \$27,000 being collected within a short span of 45 days. The volunteers also shipped approx. 2700 pounds of relief supplies which included medicines, sleeping bags, tents and clothing, utilizing free airlift services provided by Air India, the national carrier of India. Another shipment is being planned for early June



Fund Raising luncheon

Utilization of Funds

The first round of funding of \$20,000 was been sent to Vivekananda Kendra (VK), a not-for-profit organization whose volunteers have been in Gujarat since Jan 28 (two days after the earthquake). The funds are being utilized by their various teams to provide necessary support in the conduct of relief operations. Five teams, namely, Survey Team, Scrap Removal Team, Contact Team, Distribution Team and Doctors Team are involved in this noble effort.

The base camp for VK volunteers is Anjar, a town 15 miles from Bhuj. The VK team is concentrating on the integrated development of five villages (Khambara, Tappar, Zaru, Gadpadar and Varshamedi) with a combined population of approx. 20,000 people and approx. 3,000 affected families. About 200 volunteers and



Community relief efforts

50 specialist doctors are giving their time and energy to alleviate the misery of the unfortunate victims.

The nature of work undertaken by the various teams includes removal of material from the damaged houses, cleaning and renovation of the area, demolition of unsafe structures, clearing of roads so as to make them motorable, removing

the dead bodies, erecting tents, running communal kitchens, treating patients, building temporary sheds for schools, providing material and infrastructural support to the local artisans and craftsmen, and providing facilities to establish contacts with relatives/friends. Currently, the efforts were have been hampered by early rains followed by a threat of a hurricane (called a cyclone in India), however the spirit of the volunteers has not been dampened. The re-building efforts shall continue for at least another 2 years.

The need for assistance continues

There is still time for helping out. You could still make your contribution to KARNA Inc., marking it as 'Earthquake Relief'. The entire contribution is sent to our partners in India and 100% of it is utilized towards the relief work.

All donors so far have been mailed the tax-deduction receipt. In case you have misplaced the same, please feel free to call us for a duplicate copy.

Preliminary statistics of work-effort

Volunteers 200
Doctors/medical specialists 50
Renovation of 59 houses
Demolition of 137 houses
Cleaning of road in 10 villages
Removal of materials from 175 houses
Patients treated 2000
Medical camps 7 villages
Villages surveyed 45
Tents 259
Food quantity distributed 300,000 lbs

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KARNA INC.

Projecting yourself beyond your self



Please do your part !!

Donation Form

Yes , I would like to help in this noble cause:

I would like to contribute \$ _____ towards the following cause:

- Earthquake Relief
- Primary School sponsorship
- Other Charitable work

Name : _____

Address: _____

Ph : _____

E_mail : _____

You can also help by:

- Donating on-line at www.karna.org through a secure form.
- Doing your on-line shopping at leading retailers like Amazon, Land's End etc. (100+) at www.karna.org. A portion of your purchase price is donated by the retailer to KARNA. There is no extra cost to you.
- Have your gift matched through the matching gifts program at your company.

Please make the check to "KARNA Inc" and send your contribution to the address mentioned above. Contributions to KARNA Inc are tax deductible under IRS Section 501 (c) (3) to the extent permissible by law. Please consult your tax advisor for details. Registered under Illinois State Attorney General's office under the Solicitation for Charity Act (CO # 01-036,313) and Federal Tax -Exemption Tax ID Number 37-1388230. A receipt shall be sent to you immediately upon receipt of the donation.