



KATRINA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Orleans police and volunteers use boats to rescue residents from a flooded neighborhood on the east side of New Orleans in 2005.



HAITI

CLARENS RENOIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Haitians search a destroyed building on Jan. 13 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after a powerful earthquake.



DONATIONS

THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER

More than 1,000 stuffed animals, books, games, and other toys were donated by Toledo-area residents and collected by Huntington Bank for children who were survivors of Hurricane Katrina.



FUND-RAISING

THE BLADE/LORI KING

Students play catch during a Hoops 4 Haiti fund-raiser at Bennett Venture Academy in Toledo.



HELPING

DAVID YONKE

Jeff Neeper, left, of Toledo, and Greg Buhoveckey of Swanton repair the roof of Bonnie Boyce's Katrina-damaged home in Pascagoula, Miss.



CARING

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ISOH/IMPACT

Jenna Schroeder of Cincinnati, formerly of Perrysburg, helps in Haiti six days after the earthquake.

Giving from the heart

As donations for Haiti showed, northwest Ohioans respond to need

By RYAN E. SMITH
BLADE STAFF WRITER

For all the talk about the selfishness pervading today's me-first society, April Kellogg has more than 3 million arguments to the contrary. That's the value in dollars of supplies and services that have been donated so far, mostly by people in northwest Ohio, to Haitian relief efforts through ISOH/IMPACT, a Perrysburg-based charity for which Ms. Kellogg is a volunteer. "People living in this area have always responded really well to those in need," she said. "Americans give, and it's not just the wealthy. It's more of the general population. We have a lot of donations: \$10 checks, \$25 checks, \$50 checks. And those add up." Soon after the January earth-

quake devastated Haiti, drop-off sites for supplies popped up around town. Schools and churches held collection drives. A strip club even got in on the action with a fund-raiser. Nationally, too, Americans are giving, giving, and giving some more. Contributions across the country have added up to about \$1 billion, said Sandra Miniutti, vice president of New Jersey-based Charity Navigator, which rates the financial health of charities. This shouldn't come as a surprise. Americans gave \$2 billion in the wake of the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and \$6.5 billion after Hurricane Katrina. "We tend to be the most generous [in the world], in part because of the way our taxes are structured," Ms. Miniutti said. There's an emotional side to

GIVING AFTER DISASTERS

Here is how much people donated to the American Red Cross in the four weeks after each of the following catastrophes:

| | American Red Cross | Greater Toledo Area Chapter |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sept. 11 (2001) | \$441 million | unavailable |
| Indonesian Tsunami (2004) | \$239.5 million | \$155,539 |
| Hurricane Katrina (2005) | \$946.5 million | \$89,942 |
| Haitian Earthquake (2010) | \$333 million | \$143,970 |

SOURCE: AMERICAN RED CROSS GREATER TOLEDO AREA CHAPTER

it too, of course. Just ask Terry Gerken, an ISOH/IMPACT member who was part of a recent team that went to Haiti. There he saw "utter chaos" — buildings flattened like pancakes, talk of bodies entombed. "I was affected by the absolute despair of the Haitians losing family members and loved ones," the

Perrysburg Township man said. "It wasn't a family that wasn't affected." Images of this devastation in the media drive many people to donate. "I think particularly when they can show pictures, it's very compelling for people," said Daniel Borochoff, president of the Ameri-

can Institute of Philanthropy in Chicago. "It's a very emotional sort of reaction..." The problem, he continued, is that people often forget about the long-term rebuilding efforts that follow. But every little bit helps, both for those in need and for those making the contribution. "I think there really is an inherent need in each of us that wants to give from the heart," said Peggy Holewinski, financial development officer of the American Red Cross Greater Toledo Area Chapter. "By writing a check, they know they've made a small impact on a big problem."

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