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GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE WORKERS RALLY FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Washington, D.C.-After seeing and reading about the widespread devastation, human suffering and significant loss of life caused by the earthquake and resulting tsunami in South Asia, U.S. Government Printing Office workers have organized an emergency relief fund to help those touched by the disaster.

“Our employees saw the opportunity to help people in need and they jumped at the chance to pull together and make this happen. It is absolutely the right thing to do,” said Public Printer of the United States Bruce James. “We have some of the most caring, compassionate and generous employees and I wholeheartedly support them in this cause.”

GPO employee Larry Long, who lost his daughter four years ago, approached two of his coworkers in the Delivery Section with the relief fund idea. “What happened in South Asia broke my heart. Children were left without parents, parents without their children. I know the pain and heartbreak associated with losing one of your own, I just felt I had to do something to help,” said Long. “We can’t change what happened, but we can take part and make a difference.”

Long and two of his coworkers Walter Lancaster and Nathaniel Daniels then approached Public Printer James with the relief fund idea. James supported the idea and made a donation to get the fundraising going.

“It will take years for those affected by the disaster to recover from it, but today we can help by sacrificing a little and donating money in light of this emergency,” said Nathaniel Daniels. “If something comes from your heart, then only good can come of it.”

“When I learned of the horrifying stories about parents forced to leave their children behind, and of fathers and mothers crying because their children had been lost in the rushing waters, I could

not help but to think of my own two children and it brought me to tears,” Walter Lancaster said. “What has taken place as a result of the tsunami has emotionally touched me. I hope others will join us in this effort to help those impacted by the events.”

Posters and flyers were printed in-house and donation cans distributed to all GPO sections. The relief fund will continue until March. Donations will be given to U.S. Fund for UNICEF - Tsunami Relief.

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