

Proposed Effort to Provide Tents to the People of Haiti

Presented to the communities of the University of Notre Dame and the Boy Scouts of America.

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Introduction

Two weeks after the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti, many people are still suffering greatly. Recent news and the information that over 1 million Haitians are homeless has made it apparent that temporary shelter is greatly needed, with the country asking for 200,000 family sized tents.

While a single individual has limited power to aid in this effort, the focused national voice of the University of Notre Dame and the Boy Scouts of America can quickly and effectively deliver the necessary temporary shelter required in this period after the initial emergency response but before large-scale rebuilding can occur.

Each organization is uniquely able to provide tangible aid in this effort:

The University of Notre Dame, with its established presence in Haiti is not only intimately familiar with the country, but speaks from a unique position of moral authority on the issue. Notre Dame has already raised over \$250,000 for the relief effort, and this is an opportunity to make that support very tangible and specifically focused.

The Boy Scouts of America is owns, and can quickly access the needed tents to provide temporary shelter for the people of Haiti. Its nationally reaching, service-oriented voice would be a powerful force in securing the needed tents and transportation.

The following articles give some more information about the shelter requirements and current situation in Haiti:

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_16026/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VWhEXJrW

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_16022/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HvCAwGTA

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/breaking-news/story/1446466.html>

<http://haitidisaster.nd.edu/>

Presented below is a general plan with some ideas for ways in which these organizations can focus their prominence and the efforts of their members in providing temporary shelter for the people of Haiti. It also clearly demonstrates that the project scope is very manageable if the parties who control companies with large transportation ability can be convinced to join forces for the good of the people of Haiti.

Procurement

The Boy Scouts of America has 300 councils. If they average 100 troops per council, and each troop donated 5 tents, 150,000 tents could be found quickly.

Additionally, a significant number of tents could readily be obtained through donations from the members of the Boy Scouts of America, many of whom have one or many extra tents that are not regularly used.

Beyond this, donations could be solicited from members of the community at large who have tents not in use.

Transportation

Transporting these tents to several points in the U.S. for eventual delivery to Haiti is the next step. The key to the successful transportation of tents once they collected is the powerful national message that can be delivered by the University of Notre Dame and the Boy Scouts of America communities. With encouragement by these organizations, companies that already have national transportation systems in place could be contacted to provide a relatively small amount of the extra room on their vehicles to transport the tents to the southeast United States to await final delivery to Haiti. Organizations with such transportation systems that might be approached include:

- UPS
- Walmart
- Fed-Ex
- Swift Transportation
- Roadway Express

If the tents could be moved to the southeast U.S. they could then be moved by air, ship or barge to Haiti.

The tents should be packed such that they could be palletized. The large cardboard boxes put on pallets as containers are called Gaylords. The Gaylords are 35" x 42" and 36" high. If the tents were rolled to be 8" x 18" they could be set in layers of six by two, with 12 tents per layer, and stacked seven (tents squish) layers high, giving 84 tents per Gaylord. Two rows of 13 pallets could be lined up in a 40 foot truck, and stacked two high, giving a total of 52 pallets per truck. At 10 pounds per tent, the total net weight per truck is 43,680 pounds. This would allow the entire 150,000 tents to be moved in 35 truckloads.

Gaylords are heavily used by the plastics injection molding industry. In Paso Robles, California, small town of 30,000 people and two scout troops, there are three molding shops. In an hour, one could get about 30 Gaylords and move them to a local Walmart or other location to be shipped. Additionally, supermarkets often get produce delivered in Gaylords and would likely have an extra supply. If Gaylords and pallets were moved to Walmart and Walmart were to

agree to move the filled Gaylords to Florida as their trucks move across the country, the tents could be consolidated in a central location within a few weeks.

Moving the tents to Haiti would be either by air or water. Moving the items by air could be difficult because of the limited landing space at the Port-au-Prince airport (one operational runway) but may be possible. If the military were to get involved, the weight of 150,000 tents could be handled by a total of nine C-17 transport aircraft, and these would not need to land if the non-fragile tents were either dropped by parachute or delivered with a low-altitude parachute extraction system (LAPES).

If the tents were to go by sea, one ship or barge could easily take the entire load. Like using the trucking companies, using cruise lines such as Royal Caribbean, or Carnival Cruise makes use of the infrastructure already operating in the theater of operation and thus allows for quick, cheap donated transport.

This is no big feat. This is absolutely doable. If the University of Notre Dame and the Boy Scouts of America use their national influence and the contacts of their members to solicit the required transportation services, they will be found readily.

Conclusion

The University of Notre Dame and the Boy Scouts of America find themselves in a unique position to provide immediate, tangible aid to the people of Haiti. Their combined national voice has the power to mobilize many individuals and organizations to provide temporary shelter which is much needed by the over 1 million left homeless by the recent earthquake.

This issue is extremely time-critical. The wet season is about to start in Haiti and temporary shelter is urgently needed quickly. These organizations must act with focused intensity to bring the required shelter to the people of Haiti as soon as possible.