



Snohomish County

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NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CONTACT:**

**Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005
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**SNOHOMISH COUNTY EMPLOYEES OPEN HEARTS & WALLETS,
DONATE \$8 THOUSAND TO TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORTS**

Snohomish County employees opened their hearts and their wallets to donate \$8,092 to respond to devastation following the late December earthquakes and resulting tsunamis in South Asia.

Donations were spurred by a special opportunity endorsed by County Executive Aaron Reardon and Council Chair Gary Nelson. This allowed employees a one-time chance to contribute to the South Asia Response Fund established by United Way International and United Way of America. Donations came by check and by payroll deduction through the Snohomish County Employees Charitable Campaign.

A portion of the total came from extra efforts in the county's Human Services department and the Fleet Management division of Public Works.

For employees who already had pledged to this year's Charitable Campaign, Tsunami Relief Fund donations were in addition to their other pledges.

"It's just so gratifying to work with these public servants who are already so generous," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "When they saw the devastation, they gave more."

Ninety-eight percent of donations go directly to relief agencies aided by the South Asia Response Fund, which was established to deliver funds quickly to the affected areas to facilitate long-term efforts to rebuild lives, homes, businesses and communities. Current actions and rebuilding programs are underway in India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia and Thailand.

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