

## Some tsunami relief focuses on fishing

### Unitarian donations to go toward repair or purchase of equipment so fishermen can resume trade

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The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which has raised more than \$400,000 for tsunami relief from congregations across the country, is focusing on "the restoration of livelihoods" in the devastated fishing villages in Southeast Asia.



Charlie Clements, president of the committee, said the money is being wired to partner grassroots organizations in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The donations will be used for the repairing of fishing boats or buying boats and equipment to enable surviving fishermen to resume their trade. "We want to go a little beyond immediate relief," Clements said.

The tsunami brought tragedy to some of the world's poorest people, he pointed out. The median annual income is \$930 in Sri Lanka and \$530 in India, compared with \$37,810 in the United States, Clements said in a letter to Unitarian Universalist ministers.

In support of the efforts, the Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset raised \$2,000 at Sunday services, according to congregation president Richard Bock. Contributions also can be made through the Web site [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Clements, who directs worldwide humanitarian efforts, said a team will assess if there are unmet needs in Myanmar on the border with Thailand. The government of Myanmar, formerly Burma, has denied any impact from the tsunami and declined offers of help, he said.

In another effort, the service committee is sending a team of Guatemalan forensic anthropologists to Indonesia to help identify victims, Clements said. "No more than 8 percent of donations is used for administration costs," Clements said. "If costs go beyond that, we make up the difference from other revenues."

The Unitarian Universalist Society in Bay Shore will hold three benefit performances by young Long Island musicians led by Hauppauge singer-composer John-Flor Sisante, said the Rev. William Feinberg. The concerts Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and Feb. 19 will be held in the Bay Shore church at 28 Brentwood Rd., with proceeds going to the service committee and to Doctors Without Borders, earmarked for tsunami relief.

The 65-member Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork at Water Mill also raised \$700 for tsunami victims, according to the Rev. Alison Cornish, who serves both the South Fork congregation and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bellport.

The Stony Brook fellowship will take part in an interfaith service Sunday at the North Shore Jewish Center in Port Jefferson to memorialize the dead and honor the rescue and relief efforts, said the Rev. Kate Lehman.