



Wave of Destruction

Deadliest tsunami in recorded history kills 165,000



by Britta Nicholson
Staff Columnist

The weather was pleasant on December 26th in northern Aceh, a coastal town bordering the Indian Ocean. The sky was a crisp morning blue, and the sun remained unobstructed by clouds. Then, without warning, disaster struck. At 7:59 AM on the day after Christmas, the crest of an enormous tidal wave was seen off the shores of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra. In some locations the

water was almost five feet deep, and people ran in a frenzied panic from their collapsing homes. After the waves stopped battering the shore, the dust cleared, and the confusion subsided, the world was confronted by the shocking statistics. Over 150,000 dead, over 500,000 injured, and over 5 million people were left homeless. The likelihood of epidemics of cholera and other diseases threaten to raise the death toll to an even more staggering amount.

It all began with an underwater earthquake, measured by the United States

Geological Survey at a magnitude of 8.5 out of 9 on the Richter scale. It swung to the north, leaving a path of destruction along the edge of the Indian Ocean. In the town of Calang alone, the tsunami killed 80 percent of its residents.

Since the world has been confronted with this catastrophe, an outpouring of charity has been channeled to the victims. According to the United Nations, Japan raised its pledge of aid from \$30 million to \$500 million, the largest contribution so far. Combined with a \$350 million pledge by the United States, this

brought the total contributions of more than 40 nations to \$2 billion. The U.S. Navy reported on January 8th that about 13,000 U.S. servicemen are now in Indonesia and its waters, along with 10 ships and more on the way. It also stated that the U.S. military has assets in the affected region worth \$20 billion and is incurring \$5.6 million a day in operating costs.

But the trouble has not vanished yet. In Sri Lanka, flash floods on January 10th forced the evacuation of thousands of people from low-lying areas hard hit by the tsunami, which killed more than 28,700 in that area. At least 15 camps where 30,000 refugees had been sheltered were evacuated after storms dumped 13 inches of rain over the eastern coastal region. Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, in his first comments on the disaster, said the world faced a long-term relief commitment. "At first it seemed a terrible disaster, a terrible tragedy," he said. "But I think as the days have gone on, people have recognized it as a global catastrophe. There will be months, if not years, of work ahead of us."

Eastview students can be a part of that long-term relief commitment. The school-wide Walk-a-thon, scheduled for Friday, will allow students to raise as much money as they can to help the victims of the tsunami. All Eastview donations will be matched by a local family. Even the smallest amount of money will make the difference in the international struggle to take on the ensuing deluge of after-shocks, poverty, disease, and death.

Calm Before the Storm

165,000 are dead, but some experts predict that the worst is yet to come. After the initial disaster in Southeast Asia, outbreaks of typhoid, hepatitis-A, dysentery, cholera, and malaria threaten to exact a death toll greater than that of the tsunami itself. According to United Nations humanitarian chief Jan Egeland, "The 150,000 dead figure is a very low figure" and will increase significantly. Corpses spoiling in the streets and the lack of drinking water contain bacteria and stimulate disease. The naturally humid climate of the region serves as a Petri dish for the bacteria—the heat is conducive and generates bacteria in abundance. The World Health Organization must raise \$60 million to provide sufficient supplies to limit further death due to this epidemic.

As many as 5 million people are left homeless, and an estimated 3 million to 5 million people are living in refugee camps

As many as 40 percent of the child refugees will suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder



When huge amounts of water are displaced by an earthquake, landslide, or the impact of a meteorite, a series of waves are produced. These waves are known as a tsunami. They cause the kind of mass devastation seen in Southeast Asia.

-All images taken from the public domain



LIGHTNING PRESS SPECIAL

Walk-a-thon allows Eastview to Turn the Tide

Goal set for 100% student and staff participation in drive to raise \$15,000

by James P. Hohmann
Editor-in-Chief

Eastview's service organizations are joining together to organize a Walk-a-thon to raise money for the victims of the tsunami. The fundraiser, set for Friday, January 21, hopes to raise \$15,000 for the American Red Cross.

The Eastview Diversity Club, LINC Community Service, National Honor Society, and Student Council organizations are urging students, staff, and parents to donate whatever money they can to help the millions affected in Asia and Africa by the tsunami that struck December 26.

Eastview students must donate a minimum of five dollars to participate in the Walk-a-thon. If every student and staff member contributes just the absolute minimum, Eastview will raise \$12,000. Organizers hope that most will make an effort to raise far more than the minimum. The school has set a goal to raise \$15,000.

A local family is offering to match any amount raised by Eastview students and staff up to \$100,000. This means each dollar you give will have two dollars worth of impact on the disaster relief.

Event organizers understand that many at Eastview have already given some money to different aid organizations in the month since the disaster. The hope is that everyone can spare at least five dollars and hopefully give up something more to help the millions afflicted by the tsunami. This writer is giving up Coca-Cola products for the week of the fundraiser and donating the proceeds to the school's relief fund.

Assistant Principal Kim Martinson notes that the five dollars required as a minimum for students to participate in the Walk-a-thon is the same as buying five pops a day for the week or getting an extra large coffee at Caribou.

Michelle Domonceaux explains, "This is a time where we can step back and realize how fortunate we really are; that

it is not always about us. This fundraiser is an opportunity for Eastview to think wholeheartedly about the well-being of the global community."

A few students have voiced excitement that this is an opportunity to 'miss' class. The school does not want students to see the drive in these terms. "This is an opportunity to really raise money on your own. Don't just get money from your parents." Student Council Advisor Jodi Hanson explains. "Figure out a way to donate money yourself and ask neighbors for donations. Take this as an opportunity to do your part."

The school has organized the event to maximize the amount of money raised while minimizing disruption to the classroom day. Each grade will only need to miss one period of the school day to participate. Freshmen will walk during second period, seniors during third, juniors during fourth, and sophomores during sixth. ADJ will play

music, students will be able to shoot basketballs for an additional donation, and participants can talk with their friends.

The tsunami is something that can be felt by all globally. As a school, we have the opportunity to learn a great deal from this tragedy, to come together as a community and to give to the relief effort.

The hope of the fundraiser is to raise both money and awareness. Money is tangible and saves lives. Spending time talking and reading about the disaster and the millions afflicted will hopefully impress upon all the values of sacrifice, selflessness, and community. A better attitude among the Eastview community will make us all better global citizens socially conscious to the needs of billions that go hungry everyday.

Students who participate in the Walk-a-thon will be given a one dollar discount to Friday night's school dance. Proceeds from the dance will be donated to the American Red Cross along with the money raised during the day.

Where will the money go?

The World Health Organization estimates between three to five million people are homeless and do not have access to safe drinking water, basic healthcare, and food. Even a small donation can help improve and save the lives of the surviving population. Eastview is fortunate to have a donor who will double any contribution you make.



A \$5 donation ensures that one person has access to safe drinking water for four days. Having safe water reduces the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera.



A \$25 donation ensures that 70 people have access to basic medical care for a period of three months.



A \$50 donation ensures that 10 people can be treated fully for fatal diarrhoeal diseases (including cholera).



A \$75 donation makes full surgical care available to one person. Ten percent of the population will require care for trauma and injuries.

Responding to doubts about fundraiser



Q: Are you kidding me? Another fundraiser? I just emptied out my pockets in the Toys for Tots drive.

A: Wow, you are a very generous person. However it is vitally important that you donate to the tsunami relief effort because we have the opportunity to share our fortunes and gifts with those that don't even have clean water.

Q: I guess I could give a couple dollars. But what good will my small donation do?

A: A number of others have helped out, but your donation, combined with the donations of thousands of students and staff at Eastview, will make a real difference. A local, anonymous donor is offering to match any donation made by ISD 196 up to \$100,000.

Q: Why a "Walk-a-Thon?"

A: The school wanted to do something different that could raise a lot of

money and show that we care. The Walk-a-Thon allows students and staff to become a part of something bigger than themselves.

Q: Isn't this just a great way to get out of class!?

A: This is one of the greatest tragedies of our generation. You are truly helping by donating any money you can. You should be happier about helping the victims, perhaps even saving a life, than missing math.

-Contributions from Student Council Volunteer Coordinator Grant Anderson

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