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While one man, left, clasps his hands in prayer, a representative of an Oxnard Buddhist Temple distributes Metro donated-goods to tsunami victims in Sri Lanka.



Valley Divisions' Donations Reach Tsunami Victims in Sri Lanka

- 3 tons of clothing and \$600 distributed to townspeople

By ARLENE LIM

(Sept. 14, 2005) Late last year when a tsunami hit the shores of Sri Lanka - devastating a nation - Metro's West Valley Maintenance division 8 held a clothing and funds drive to help those in need halfway across the world.

The month-long clothing drive at Division 8 and East Valley Division 15 amassed everything from pants to high heels and everything in between – some of which while fashionable, would not be useful in Sri Lanka.

"Can you imagine someone wearing heels in six inches of mud," joked Jag Wijegunawardena, Division 8 equipment maintenance supervisor.

A man kneels in appreciation for the donations he received.



All in all, almost three tons of clothing and approximately \$600 were collected. All of the donations were sorted - the useful things sent to the Oxnard Buddhist Temple and the rest to a local church.

The temple used the money to pay for the containers used to ship the clothing collected by Metro and others to Sri Lanka.

Clothing was distributed

A few months after the fundraiser, the clothing has finally reached Matara, a small town in Sri Lanka. There, a representative from the Oxnard Buddhist temple distributed the clothing to the townspeople.

A resident of Matara, Sri Lanka, receives an armful of donations.



Division 8 is again extending a helping hand, this time to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The division is collecting donations and selling candy.

“We have a large spectrum of people – different ages and ethnic groups – who work here and all have good hearts,” commented Mechanic Scott Lanksi as he thought about all the effort everyone has

put in to help those in need.

So far division 8 employees have already collected and donated \$2,200 to various charities. The candy, which sells for \$20 a piece, has raised just about \$750 to date.

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