

GATS Asia Earthquake Fund

The world witnessed natural disasters of unprecedented proportions (Tsunami in Southeast Asia, Katrina in the Gulf Coast, USA, and Earthquake in South Asia) in the past 12 months, which claimed an untold number of lives and rendered millions homeless. In spite of these disasters occurring in quick succession, people around the world rushed to help the most needy, the poorest of the poor, at the time of great peril in their lives with utmost kindness and generosity.

The Atlanta Tamil community, organized under the banner of the Greater Atlanta Tamil Sangam (GATS, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, Federal Tax ID: 56-2305795), is no exception and has done its noble share toward the enormous international efforts needed to alleviate the sufferings of shattered lives due to Tsunami and Katrina. We realize that making a difference even in very small ways in the face of unspeakable calamities is worth our effort, and in this effort, some of us have decided to donate money toward the establishment of an Asia Earthquake Fund (AEF) in the GATS. We set the initial goal of \$2,000 to establish this fund in our Sangam, which we have achieved.

The breadth and enormity of the October earthquake in South Asia (Pakistan, India and parts of Afghanistan) is still unfolding, and the road to recovery of those affected in the rugged, bitterly cold mountains of Kashmir is going to be long and tortuous. We would like to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us through the GATS AEF, and therefore propose that this fund is used to support the Asia Earthquake recovery programs of Save the Children (<http://www.savethechildren.org>). "Save the Children is the leading independent organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. It is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, comprising 27 national Save the Children organizations working in more than 100 countries to ensure the well-being of children".-Mission and Strategy, Save the Children.

Our specific proposal calls for making contributions to Save the Children projects for Asia Earthquake recovery in four installments for a total period of one-year (four quarters) from the GATS AEF. Whenever a payment is made to a Save the Children project, the GATS Treasurer can communicate that to the GATS Charity Committee-CC, which can be Ccied to one of us (Abdul Jabbar, amjabbar@yahoo.com) about this transaction. We hope that this fund could go beyond this initial one-year period, by more contributions coming in to the AEF during the course of the year 2006. It is only our wish and not a requisite or condition that the GATS has to operate under for establishment and servicing of the AEF. We request the GATS CC, Executive Committee (EC) 2006, and the Board of Trustees (BOT) to review this proposal for approval by both EC2006 and BOT at the earliest possible time. Thank you very much.

Contributors to the GATS AEF:

Periasamy and Sasi Selvaraj
Malik and Rehana Rafi
Ameer and Shameem Jabbar
Ravi and Selvi Palaniappan
Martin and Shanthy Vincent
Abdul and Ummul Jabbar
Karim and Aysha Gani

Our Future: Youth
Prashant Vincent
Josh Vincent