



Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSUNAMI RELIEF CHARITY AUCTION AT WWW.AUCTIONINN.COM

Susquehanna Valley, PA (December 29, 2004)— Area Boys and Girls Clubs and Auction Inn have come together to raise awareness and money to aid the victims of the tsunamis across Asia. Now you can help raise funds to support the ongoing Red Cross disaster relief operation by donating goods at drop-off locations, including select Commerce Bank branches, and purchasing donated items at www.auctioninn.com. Donated items will be placed for sale on eBay through Auction Inn, the area's only eBay® authorized Trading Post. At least ninety percent of all purchases will go directly to the Red Cross to support the ongoing disaster relief operation in South Asia.

The Red Cross is responding to the large scale disaster in southern Asia after the earthquake off the west coast of Indonesia struck on December 26th and triggered a number of tsunami waves that caused massive flooding and severe damage in several countries. It is estimated that nearly one million people living in the coastal areas have been affected.

“When disasters like this strike, whether domestically or internationally, people want to help and often offer individual and/or collections of goods or in-kind items to show their support for the victims. However, the Red Cross does not have the capacity to accept or collect, and does not actively solicit individual or collections of in-kind donations in times of disaster,” said Julia Groom-Thompson, American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley Executive Director.

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Founder of Auction Inn, Joseph Besecker said, “We are proud to support the American Red Cross and their disaster relief efforts by effectively using the eBay platform for an online charity auction. This enables people within the community, who ordinarily wouldn’t be able to contribute with a monetary donation, to participate in the disaster relief efforts.”

Commerce Bank Chairman, President and CEO Gary L. Nalbandian said, “The Tsunami Relief Charity Auction presents an opportunity for our community to help aid the millions of people affected by this natural disaster. Commerce Bank readily welcomes donated goods for the auction. Our doors are open and every bit of support can make a difference.”

Individuals and businesses can donate items worth \$25 or more to be sold online. Starting immediately, donated goods may be dropped off at Auction Inn located at 241 West Lemon Street in Lancaster and select Commerce Bank locations (see below). Please call (717) 509-6592 for additional drop-off locations, or to schedule the pick-up of large and multiple items. Auction Inn, an authorized eBay Trading Post will work closely with area Boys and Girls Clubs and other corporations to schedule and man drop-off locations for donated items.

There is a tremendous outpouring of support from the public for victims of this disaster. The best way to help those affected is to make a contribution to a disaster relief organization like the American Red Cross. Your donation will allow the Red Cross to purchase relief items directly in the region, eliminating the costs of shipping and transport from the United States. Please support the International Response Fund at the American Red Cross by calling 1-800-HELP-NOW or visiting us at www.redcross.org.

Commerce Bank Locations:

Downtown Harrisburg
101 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Camp Hill Mall
3201 Trindle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Union Deposit
3951 Union Deposit Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Together, we can save a life

Capital Region Office
1804 North 6th Street
P.O. Box 5740
Harrisburg, PA 17110-0740
Phone: (717) 234-3101

Lancaster County Office
430 West Orange Street
P.O. Box 4624
Lancaster PA 17604-4624
Phone: (717) 299-5561

Mifflin-Juniata Office
3 West Monument Square
Suite 101/P.O. Box 229
Lewistown PA 17044
Phone: (717) 248-4213