



Jefferson Serves People in Haiti

Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson and Genesis Development recently joined forces to help provide aid for those so drastically affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Trinity initiated the project to collect much needed supplies for *Love a Child* ministry in Haiti. *Love a Child* is treating patients and providing care for those injured in the earthquake at the Jesus Healing Center. Their desperate need for medications, medical supplies, sheets, blankets and miscellaneous items prompted David Pedersen, Trinity's Service Opportunities Coordinator, to answer their call for aid. In addition to donations from the Trinity congregation, Pedersen contacted Genesis Development to see if they could help with the request for sheets.

The Genesis Commercial Laundry in Indianola was developed with the express purpose of providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Warren County area. The operation deals with the laundry needs of the healthcare and hospitality marketplace with major customers being the Des Moines Marriott Downtown, the Pella Regional Health Center, and the Boone County Hospital. The laundry has the capacity to do 3.5 million pounds of



laundry a year. A large percentage of that is sheets and towels. When sheets and towels become worn or damaged, the hotels no longer want them in use and Genesis disposes of them. It was these slightly damaged and worn sheets and towels that were sent to Haiti – 2,100 pounds on four large pallets!

People with disabilities participating in the Genesis Discovery program in Indianola did a lot of the work for this project. They collected boxes from Indianola businesses (Fareway, Dollar General, Hy-Vee and Motosource), folded the sheets and towels, packed them in

boxes, and got them ready to be shrink wrapped and strapped on pallets.

Pedersen then took his big trailer to Indianola, picked up the packed sheets, and brought them back to Jefferson where Genesis Development weighed them and shipped them off to Haiti with Trinity paying the shipping costs.

The Genesis Discovery program serves people who because of age or the severity of their disability are unable to participate in a work program and those who would benefit from activities not related to employment. The focus of the program is to enrich the lives of the participants through community based social, leisure and volunteer experiences and activities that will help each person develop individual potential and raise self-worth and self-sufficiency.



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