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Daily Citizen

AREA ORGANIZATION SENDS AID OVERSEAS TO THOSE IN NEED



The College Church of Christ has assisted the Somalia famine relief effort. Teens joined in putting together the the family buckets and hygiene bags that were included in the container shipped out of Judsonia recently. Contributed photo

The United States estimates that more than 29,000 Somali children under age five have died in the famine in the last three months. An unknown number too weak to walk farther have been abandoned on the sandy trek to help after food and water supplies ran out.

An effort spearheading the collection and delivery of critically needed famine relief supplies is centered in Searcy.

Coordinating the effort for the churches of Christ and others is John L. Kachelman Jr. minister at the Judsonia Church of Christ and President of Life Resources International.

"The response has been phenomenal! The outpouring of compassion has helped us put together the beginning of assistance to the Somali's in the crowded IDP camps," Kachelman said.

Overseas help

Who: Churches of Christ and others

Coordinator: John L. Kachelman Jr. minister at the Judsonia Church of Christ and President of Life Resources International

What: Is sending supplies overseas to help those in need

Plans to ship two 40-foot cargo containers to Somalia were successful.

"We sent 45,000 pounds of rice, health/hygiene kits, five gallon buckets with essential family items, new shoes, and new clothing," Kachelman said.

Kachelman received about 20 boxes of pillowcase dresses from the group "Little dresses for Africa."

He also received a donation from a church in Brussels, Belgium with this message: "Our congregation in Brussels, Belgium wants to send aid to Somalia ... please send me the details as we took up the collection and our brethren want it to go right away as there seems to be starvation. This is our collection from this last Sunday. All our congregation is happy to participate in your program to help Somalia. May God protect the containers you will send end of month."

The first container has been sent into northern Somalia's refugee camps to help alleviate the distress. One container was loaded out of the Life Resources International warehouse in Judsonia, 1006 North First Street, and one container was loaded out of Columbus, Miss.

The Somali container will be the fourth container out of the Judsonia location. Kachelman and his crew loaded two containers for Donetsk, Ukraine and one container for Korostan, Ukraine (the area devastated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster) recently

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