

# Light Force Spirulina Co. makes big food donation

SANTA CRUZ — Light Force Spirulina Co. of Boulder Creek has donated vitamin and high protein food supplements valued at more than \$1½ million to Emergency Relief Fund International.

A truck was loaded this morning at the company's Santa Cruz warehouse with the supplements which consist largely of spirulina products. Spirulina is a fresh water algae containing 60 to 70 percent protein, according to Deborah Rozman, executive vice president of the company.

"This is the best time of the year to give something to people," said Rozman explaining the timing of the donation.

Gary Stephen, general manager of the food supplement company, said negotiations have been taking place since October to work out the details of the donation.

Stephen also said the relief fund has a small staff of people so Light Force Spirulina is also helping with the logistics of the operation. "They have no people as far as moving it, so we are donating the people to help."

Rozman said Emergency Relief Fund International was chosen for the donation because it presented a minimum of red tape and, she added, presented the best choice as far as getting the food to the

needy quickly and efficiently. The relief fund was created in 1979 and was originally known as the Cambodian Emergency Relief Fund. The organization recently sent 17 medical volunteers and 62 metric tons of supplies to Somalia in East Africa.

ERFI will distribute the food supplements to such areas and organizations as El Salvador, Lebanon, the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in San Francisco and the Native American Health Center, also in San Francisco.

Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity also will receive some of the products for use in India and Haiti. Rozman describes the function of the relief fund as "just a conduit to make sure the product gets directly to the people who need it."

Rozman said the algae is grown in pond systems which are one foot to 18 inches deep, four feet to 10 yards wide, and as long as a football field. Paddles are used to circulate the water in the pond, she said. This movement of the water keeps the algae moving and increases its nutritional value, according to Rozman.

"We are hoping that the result of this donation will stimulate interest in the product," said Rozman.

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