

# Santa Cruz/Monterey EARTHQUAKE '89 - Santa Cruz County

## Quake-relief contributions hit \$1.6 million

By Bob Levy  
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Private donors, both individuals and corporations, have contributed at least \$1.6 million to earthquake relief efforts in Santa Cruz County.

The actual figure probably is a lot higher. The \$1.6 million represents donations to just two agencies: the Red Cross and the Greater Santa Cruz County Community Foundation. Many other organizations also have received large sums of money.

"It's wonderful. ... It's amazing," said Hope Tuttle, spokeswoman for the Red Cross, whose Santa Cruz County offices have received \$1 million in gifts since the Oct. 17 quake.

The money has come from large corporate donors, from out-of-state individuals who have given as much as \$2,000, and from "people who are giving their nickels and pennies because they just want to do something," Tuttle said.

The community foundation, a private, non-profit agency set up in 1983 to support worthwhile causes in Santa Cruz County, has received about half of its \$600,000 either directly from corporations or from corporate foundations.

"The local corporate generosity has been excellent," said Grace Jepsen, executive director of the community foundation.

While the Red Cross tends to use its relief money for direct aid, the community foundation turns its funds over to other non-profit groups to use.

Among the Santa Cruz County groups receiving foundation money since the quake have been:

✓ The Second Harvest Food Bank, \$25,000 for food distributed countywide.

✓ The Valley Resource Center, \$9,000 to help families in the San Lorenzo Valley buy food and building supplies.

✓ The Child Development Resource Center, \$8,000 to coordinate child care services at emergency shelters.

✓ The Pajaro Valley Historical Society, \$2,000 for a structural engineer to help determine which historical buildings could be saved from demolition.

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Jan Beautz, who attended a foundation board meeting Monday, said that parceling out taxpayers' money can be a long process — "and that's appropriate. ... But in the short term, people have needs that must be met and that's where or-

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shelters.

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## Some donated funds to help build future

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ganizations such as the community foundation come in."

Beautz recalled going to the Loma Prieta area a few days after the quake and finding "there were people up there who didn't have food."

The community foundation stepped in to help, she said.

"There's a local feel you get (from the foundation) that can't be duplicated by any government program," Beautz said.

Foundation officials said they plan to save a large portion of the donated money for longer-range projects. The most likely candidate for the money will be an effort to provide housing for low-income people in the county.

The need for such housing was serious before the quake. It is critical now, the officials pointed out.

The Red Cross dollars have been spent so far largely on providing emergency shelter. Nearly 300 people still are being sheltered in Watsonville nightly, Tuttle said.

However, Tuttle noted that two other Red Cross programs are available for quake victims. One provides grants for people who still need help, even if they have received it from other sources. The money can be used for home repairs, food, clothing or occupational equipment, Tuttle said.

The other program will help people make their rent, mortgage or utility payments if they have been out of work for at least seven days because of the quake. The money is available even to those receiving unemployment insurance, Tuttle said.