Lynn Fritz Moved From Air Cargo To Benefit The World

We love this guy, Lynn Fritz.
You should too.
What the esteemed Mr. Fritz did was develop some of the most advanced logistics for air cargo in the world, and then he sold his business, The Fritz Companies that he founded and built up to 11,000 employees, to UPS for everything and a bag of chips.

But rather than hang out on some golf course or run around crying with a loaf of bread under each arm, Lynn Fritz has spent most of what he learned, earned and brought to air cargo, trying to streamline relief activities to help people in ultimate danger around the world.

San Francisco-based Fritz Institute is the fulcrum for advanced thinking in logistics being applied to cut out the stalling effects of paperwork in getting help in emergencies where it is needed and fast.

"We need to take the paper out of relief work and save lives," said Lynch Fritz as he introduced Humanitarian Logistics Software that he developed.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which have been working for the past year on the development of a humanitarian logistics software package with the San Francisco-based Fritz Institute agree whole heartedly.

In-depth analysis of some of the largest relief operations undertaken by the International Federation indicates that the speed of the relief process can be increased 20% to 30% using the Humanitarian Logistics Software, which goes "live" this week at the International Federation's Geneva-secretariat and will gradually become standard for Red Cross/Red Crescent operations around the world.

Fritz Institute has invested over a million dollars and 3,000 man-hours in an assessment of the International Federation's technology requirements.

"Aid donations are typically targeted for direct relief and have not enabled humanitarian organizations to adapt 21st Century technology and commercial logistics practices to take the paperwork out of relief and to ensure that staff have timely information about the availability and whereabouts of relief supplies."

"This is where we feel our expertise can make a difference," said Lynn Fritz.

"There is no doubt that our resources are being stretched to the limit as we see the numbers of people affected by disasters worldwide increasing dramatically year after year."

The strains on humanitarian organizations responding to emergencies were underlined in this year's World Disasters Report, published by the International Federation. It showed that last year alone, 256 million people were reported affected by disasters, well above the decade's annual average of 210 million.

"Humanitarian Logistics Software has been designed based on the needs of relief organizations operating during the emergency phase of a disaster."

"It is customized for the mobilization and reporting needs of the disaster theatre."

"The technology allows up-to-the-minute tracking of food, non-food, gifts-in-kind and financial information about the commodities in the supply chain."

"It also allows for the speedy reconciliation of needs versus what has been pledged or purchased and does it at a demand level per project per item."

"This is but one example of the synergy that I would like to see developing much more between the expertise and resources available from the private sector and the needs of aid agencies responding to humanitarian emergencies. We need to encourage more partnerships such as the one that has developed between our Institute and the International Federation," Lynn Fritz said.

You look at Lynn Fritz, and then everybody else who has done well in air cargo over the years.

Then you wonder why air cargo has not produced more people like Mr. Fritz. He doesn't mail it in, write a check or just pay lip service either.

Our favorite picture so far this year is 60 something Lynn Fritz somewhere in the wilds of Africa humping sacks of rice on his shoulder to feed the starving.

You can't make this stuff up.

He might not agree with this, but by his deeds and example in every way, Lynn Fritz lifts the words "air cargo" higher than any one of us could have ever imagined. Lynn Fritz is more than a helping hand. The guy is a saint.