Fritz Institute gauges tsunami relief: It's still coming up short

One year on, San Francisco's Fritz Institute remains involved in the tsunami relief process.

In addition to designing logistical support software used in the aftermath, Fritz is measuring how victims received aid. According to a new survey, immediate needs were met, but 83 percent of affected families in Indonesia have lost more than half of their income. The same situation holds for 59 percent of affected Sri Lankan families, and 47 percent of Indians. In addition, 100 percent of affected families in Indonesia still live in temporary housing, as do 92 percent in India and 78 percent in Sri Lanka.

This is the largest survey of aid recipients' perceptions of services they received. The results will help Fritz Institute understand the needs of disaster victims to improve how humanitarian organizations respond to future disasters.

Lynn Fritz founded the institute after selling his shipping company in 2001.

Magazine does out awards

Raising a Reader has won a Social Capitalist Award from Fast Company magazine. It and 24 others beat 240 nominees for the honor.

The program, which fosters early literacy skills and parent-child bonding in low-income families, was created by one of the Peninsula Community Foundation's social venture funds. Founded in 1999, it is the youngest organization among the Fast Company winners.

Four other Bay Area nonprofits won a Social Capitalist Award. They are KickStart and Room to Read, Rubicon Programs and Transfair USA.

Red kettle catches on

The Salvation Army's first national online red kettle campaign was designed here. Wal-Mart is the lead retailer in the online holiday fund-raiser, though any individual or group can set up its own online kettle. Last year, in a West Coast pilot program, online donations averaged $95 and increased web giving by 36 percent. Now that the campaign has gone national (it is being administered here in San Francisco) other regions can enjoy similar increased revenue.

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