

Y_{ou}'re O_n Y_{our} O_{wn} Workshop

A Half-day Go Kit Preparation Event

Project Detail Description

Introduction:

When a disaster of any proportion hits, one of the most basic of essentials is a personal "Go Kit." It is a bag prepared in advance, kept in an easily accessible place, with sufficient supplies to carry a person through the first 72 hours following the disaster. Such bags are commercially available or can be easily made by an individual or group.

The first 72 hours are the most critical following a disaster. During that time assessments are being done and relief supplies accumulated. Until larger resources become available, many have noted that during those first 72 hours "You're On Your Own." Those having made the advance preparations of assembling a personal "Go Kit," at a minimum, ease the demands for immediate assistance, and, at a maximum, facilitate the survival of a greater number of the people affected by the disaster.

The following describes a group event which incorporated the making of "Go Kits" along with offering a basic presentation on disaster preparedness. It was held in Glenn County, California, on November 17, 2007.

While this particular event was done as a chapter activity of the Butte/Glenn Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a similar event could be organized independent of the Thrivent connection. The obvious advantage of doing it as a Thrivent event is that the Chapter has access to the fraternal funds of Thrivent which can be used to help defray the cost of the kits.

Preparations:

As this was done as a Thrivent Chapter Event, the first step involved filling out Thrivent's "Request for Funding Questionnaire." A sample of the form is found in the "Examples of Publicity, Forms, and Fundraising" section. The project was presented to the Chapter Board and adopted as a "hands on" activity. It was also presented to First Lutheran of Willows, CA, and adopted by them as a Care in Congregations project. Because of the broad distribution expected, as well as the design intent to do this as a pilot project available for other Chapters, a grant was also sought from Thrivent Regional sources. Donation of some of the augmentation items was also sought from local merchants.

The budget for the kits themselves was \$1,317.00 which does not include the cost of the meal which was served at the event. The aforementioned funding sources covered all the costs involved.

Because we had decided to include empty 35mm film canisters in the kits, local photo processors such as Longs Drugs and Wal-Mart were contacted a month prior to the event. They were asked to save the canisters and someone stopped by on a weekly, and, as we

got closer to the event, semi-weekly basis to pick up the canisters accumulated to that point.

The next step involved identifying a source for the emergency supplies which would make up the kit. The choices were: 1) decide on our own what we would include and find a supplier 2) make use of resources/services already organized for such a purpose. For convenience and cost effectiveness we decided to go with the latter.

There are a number of sources available. In this case it was decided to draw on the resources of Earthquake Management in Westminster, CA.

Here is a brief list of providers you can find by googling “disaster supplies.”

earthquake-management.com
www.foodforhealthint.com/
www.americanfamilysafety.com/
www.certproducts.com/
www.mrefoods.com
www.baproducts.com/

Based on the funding available and the cost of the supplies, it was decided that 100 “Go Kits” could be made. It was cheaper to buy the basic kits pre-assembled (\$7.95 from Earthquake Management) and augment them with additional supplies. This met Thrivent’s criteria for what they call a “hands on” event, thus providing a funding source to pay for kits.

An added bonus in having ordered the basic thermal bags from Earthquake Management was that, at the time, EM was offering free silk screening of your logo on the cover flap of the bag. In our case we provided them with a composite logo which identified the Butte/Glenn Chapter of Thrivent and also LSS-NorCal which has a disaster coordination function in our area. The LSS-NorCal logo included their phone number.

Since we had decided to augment the contents of the basic kit, we had to decide what to augment it with and where we would obtain the augmentation items. The suppliers used were based on geographical proximity to the event location and event planners.

The augmentation consisted of the following items. Up to two film canisters were put in each bag to hold anything from emergency cash to safety pins or other small objects at the discretion of the user. The muslin was ~36” wide and cut into 36” squares which were then diagonally cut into equal triangles. While we did the cutting during the event, these could be cut to size in advance, if more desirable. Those were then folded into a triangle approximately 4”x4”x5” so it would fit in the bag. Two safety pins were used to attach a small instruction sheet on how to make a sling and to be available in the event a sling needed to be made. The scripture booklet from the International Bible Society [item#4340] was chosen because it was physically the right size for the bag and its content. It provides a 30 day devotional helping lead the reader back to new beginnings

while providing space for them to journal their own journey. The table below indicates the item, its source, its cost at the time of the event, and whether or not it was donated.

Item	Source	Cost/unit	Donated
35mm Film Canisters	Film Processing Venues	free	yes
Metal Whistle	Earthquake Management	\$0.50	no
Poncho-Adult	Earthquake Management	\$0.99	no
Dust Mask	Earthquake Management	\$0.50	no
Muslin for sling/bandage	Wal-Mart yard goods	\$0.35	no bought 42 yards
Safety Pins	Wal-Mart yard goods	\$0.02	no
First-Aid Kit	Wal-Mart	\$0.99	75 by Wal-Mart
Germ-X, small bottle	Wal-Mart	\$0.50	75 by Wal-Mart
IBS Scripture Booklet	Intern'tl Bible Society	\$0.50	no
Golf Pencil	Thrivent	free	yes

The basic Go Kit as ordered from Earthquake Management contained the following at a cost of \$7.95 @ on special:

Item	Source	Cost/unit
Red Nyon Bag	Earthquake Management	\$7.95 plus shipping
Mayday 2.5K Calorie Food Bar		
6 Pouches Mayday Water		Shipping worked out to about
84" x 52" Solar Blanket		\$1.12/unit due to the weight
3 Wet Naps		of the water pouches.
12 hour Light Stick		
F.E.M.A. Checklist		

Bag contents have a five year shelf life and will tolerate storage temperatures up to 149*.

We had decided to hold our disaster preparedness event at a local restaurant, so contacts were made to reserve space and arrange a buffet lunch. Using Thrivent's chapter system we sent out notification to the Chapter congregations asking for a response one week in advance so we could coordinate with the restaurant for preparation of the proper amount of food.

Local news media were also contacted. Articles ran in all the major papers of the coverage area. Had local television and radio stations been available, those venues would have been contacted as well.

Personnel were pre-arranged to help with various aspects of the event itself. There was a "registrar" who greeted the people as they arrived. A "bag packing coordinator" thought through and directed the attendees in the packing of the bags. The local fire department was contacted to provide a speaker concerning issues related to the local area. The county sheriff was contacted to talk about issues related to the broader geographical area.

The Event:

The restaurant provided us with a room which was large enough to house the presentation/dining area as well as kit assembly area. The dining tables were arranged in

rows such that all had an acceptable view of the screen where PPT presentations were projected.

At the far end of the room rows of tables were arranged in an “L” shape with the bags as ordered from Earthquake Management placed at the beginning of the line and then each augmentation item placed one after the other so attendees could pick up a bag and then pack the next item into the bag. We had two lines of attendees going down either side of the tables.

In hindsight, a better way to do the bag packing might have been to ask ten of the attendees to take charge of one of the augmentation items and hand them to the other attendees as they packed the bags. The reason for doing it this way is that we started with a hundred count of each item and after all the bags were packed we had some items left over which means not all the bags received all of the items.

The schedule of the day was as follows:

9:30 – 10:00 AM	Registration
10:00AM – 10:15AM	Opening Devotion, Welcome, Presentation of the Day’s Schedule
10:15AM – 11:15AM	Presentation on general preparedness and regional concerns by the Glenn County Sheriff
11:15AM – 11:45AM	Presentation on local issues by the Willows Fire Department
11:45AM – 12:30PM	Buffet Lunch courtesy of Thrivent
12:30PM – 1:30PM	Preparation of the “Go Bags”

33 people attended the event. Some drove as much as an hour and a half to be present.

The actual time for preparing the bags was between a half hour and forty-five minutes. Attendees were encouraged to take a bag with them (nearly a \$15 value when you incorporate the shipping costs and tax on the individually purchased items plus the items which were donated) and the remainder of the bags were given to the Thrivent agent to distribute as he made his contacts. A supply of about 25 bags was left at 1st Lutheran Church of Willows for distribution over time as opportunity becomes available. It took an additional 15 minutes to load the bags in boxes for loading in vehicles for the distribution already described. Because of the water pouches in each bag, these were quite heavy.

Examples of Publicity, Forms, and Fundraising:

Here you will find posters, news releases, an attendance sheet, a Thrivent project funding request form, and fundraising letter which were used as part of the project. There are also photos from the day of the event as well as photos of the kit components separated according to their source (the ones which came with the kit, those used to supplement the basic kit).