



COMPASSION IN ACTION

[rainbowfund.org](http://rainbowfund.org)



# RAINBOW WORLD FUND

Founded in 2000, Rainbow World Fund (RWF) is an international humanitarian relief agency based in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and friends community. RWF works to help people who suffer from hunger, poverty, disease, oppression and war by raising awareness and funds to support relief efforts around the world.

## Our Mission

RWF's mission is to promote LGBT philanthropy in the area of world humanitarian relief. RWF provides a united voice, a large visible presence both in the United States and abroad, and a proven structure to deliver LGBT charitable assistance to the larger world community. We are dedicated to providing aid wherever it is needed regardless of race, religion, politics, gender identity or sexual orientation.

## What We Do

RWF works in the LGBT and friends community educating people about world need. Along with raising our community's consciousness, RWF raises funds and in kind donations to support humanitarian relief projects. RWF works with partners around the world on various relief and sustainable development projects. We partner our relief activities with humanitarian service agencies and national institutions to fund and support relief efforts. By doing extensive research, RWF develops partnerships with the most effective organizations that best reflect our guiding principles: empowerment, sustainability, peacemaking, measurable impact and ecological awareness. By supporting established programs we do not duplicate existing efforts. We are able to support



## LGBT PEOPLE RESPONDING TO WORLD NEED

those already working in communities around the world. Our partners include Adopt-A-Minefield, Africare, America's Second Harvest, CARE and WaterPartners International. We also support a number of small independent aid projects.

RWF increases LGBT visibility, serving as a platform for our community's compassion and concern and changing how the world sees LGBT people by building bridges with the larger world community. We bring people together who believe that together we can heal the world. We provide the opportunity to effect real global change.

## Current Projects

Our work focuses on global HIV/AIDS, water development, landmine eradication, hunger and disaster relief. RWF currently supports projects in Africa, Asia, Central America, the Caribbean and the United States.

Our current projects include an HIV/AIDS case management program in South Africa focused on saving the next generation of young Africans. We use the most effective weapon there is against AIDS – education. RWF funds the education, training and salaries of peer educators who return to their home communities to work with young people. The peer educators receive a stipend, supplies, a bicycle and ongoing support.



In Cambodia we fund the education of Cambodians to become professional mine sweepers. We also fund the cost associated with disarming specific minefields.

In Honduras we are working to improve the health conditions of the families that live in Las Limas. The project will construct a conventional system for direct access to water in homes and set up closed-hydraulic latrines for sanitation. The project also has a major educational focus on



hygiene, water management, improving construction skills and environmental sustainability.

In Haiti we fund maternal and child health care programs in Haiti's Northwest Department. This project provides technical assistance to nurses, health education materials, administrative assistance and program development. The aim is to increase the use of health services by pregnant and lactating women, increase access to food for groups with special needs (e.g. Tuberculosis and AIDS patients, orphans), and improve school-based health services.

In Guatemala we support a variety of programs: an orphanage, two schools, an HIV/AIDS community outreach program, an art cooperative, a program documenting Mayan history and shamanism, a woman's micro-credit program, and a medical clinic that serves poor women and their children in Guatemala City.

### Past Projects

RWF has responded to the Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the Guatemalan mud slides, the Kashmir earthquake and most recently to an earthquake in Peru with emergency food aid, medical supplies and basic materials to provide shelter.



### El Autobús de la Esperanza (The Bus of Hope)

In the summer of 2008, RWF will travel to Tijuana, Mexico to deliver medical and school supplies, as well as cash grants, to an orphanage, an HIV/AIDS medical clinic and an NGO focused on providing educational opportunities to students who would ordinarily have none. The supplies will be transported to Mexico on a retired school bus which was purchased by RWF in May 2007. Supplies

# O N E H U M A N F A M I L Y

and cash donations will be collected from churches, colleges and community groups throughout California. As RWF stops along the way to collect supplies, we will provide "teach-ins" on global poverty issues and humanitarian aid issues. Our goal is to develop a network of individual and organizational volunteers to continue support for aid projects in Mexico.

### Global Awareness Journey

Each year RWF conducts a global awareness journey to Guatemala where we support several projects. The journey is a unique way to encounter new lands and peoples in a way that values them, deepens spirituality, broadens participants' world views and begins to heal the world. The 10-day journeys are "crash courses" on the historical and political reality of the developing world. They include presentations of human rights, community leadership and the effects of globalization. You will have the opportunity to dialogue with civic rights workers, sweatshop workers, the mother's of the disappeared, religious and political leaders as well as artists and poets.



By entering into the life of the people and hearing about their struggles, our journey offers an opportunity to begin to understand the prolonged oppression that many communities endure in the developing world. We also include daily times to reflect on our experience and prepare for departure and reentry into North American life. Our veteran guides are two American nuns who have lived among and served the people of Central America for many years. They are brilliant and courageous women. Their energy and commitment will inspire you.

The journeys also include a way to give back. Participants are asked to collect medical and school supplies during the months prior to departure. We distribute these supplies as we travel through the country. In the past three years participants have delivered over 500,000 dollars in life saving medicine and supplies.

## Advocacy

RWF also travels to Washington, DC each year for a national advocacy conference to take part in the fight against global poverty, HIV/AIDS and issues of humanitarian aid. Participants explore a variety of international development issues with policy experts to deliver critical policy messages to Capitol Hill and the administration during meetings with members of Congress and other key decision makers. This journey is a unique opportunity to educate our leaders about the crisis of global poverty and humanitarian rights. Throughout the year RWF also meets with representatives to continue these discussions.



## RWF's Efficiency

RWF is an all volunteer organization. We work hard to multiply every dollar we receive. In recent years, we have grown every dollar received for RWF program services 27 times into monetary aid, medicine, medical supplies and educational supplies which we distribute. 2005 was a banner year for RWF, we were able to turn every dollar into \$68 of aid. Our overhead costs have averaged 3.6% since our inception.



## Recent Accomplishments

Distributing over 1.5 million dollars in humanitarian aid over the last 36 months: food aid for Hurricane evacuees, emergency supplies for the South East Asia tsunami, medical supplies and financial aid to various projects in Guatemala, the launch of a landmine eradication project for Cambodia, an HIV/AIDS case management program in South Africa, water projects in Honduras providing safe drinking water for 625 people, a benefit concert for Haiti, and delivering hundreds of stuffed animals to children in hospitals, schools and one orphanage.

RWF was recognized for its humanitarian aid by the California State Assembly following the tsunami and for helping Haiti recover from Hurricane Jeanne. RWF's founder, Jeff Cotter, was named to the OUT 100 List as one of the most intriguing people of 2005. San Francisco Mayor, Gavin Newsom and Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, have also recognized RWF's work.

## Tree of Hope

The Tree of Hope (TTOH) is an annual project that invites people to decorate a holiday tree covered with origami cranes inscribed with their wishes for the future of the world. The purpose of TTOH is to draw attention to the plight of children in need, inspire hope and transform contemplation into action by connecting people to RWF. TTOH symbolizes the needs and desires of individuals to participate in the global community and offers an opportunity to express their creative power in a wish for the future of the world through thought, prayer, visualization, etc. Mayor Newsom of San Francisco and RWF's Jeff Cotter send out an invitation asking people to participate by sending RWF their wishes. The invitation circulates around the world via the Internet. Wishes from around the world are then printed, folded into origami cranes and placed on the TTOH. People are made aware of RWF's work and how they can help others in need around the world. The tree is on display at San Francisco City Hall during the month of December. TTOH is a powerful artistic expression and experience as well as a platform for compassion to be seen and heard throughout the world.



LGBT people responding to world need

RWF IS A VOLUNTEER-RUN 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND IS HEADQUARTERED IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. EIN: 94-3372560. RWF DOES NOT INITIATE OR PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS NOR DO WE TAKE SIDES IN SECTARIAN DISPUTES. OF COURSE, THE VERY NATURE OF OUR WORK, SUPPORTING OPPRESSED PEOPLE, CAN BE SEEN AS POLITICAL. AS LGBT PEOPLE, WE HAVE COME TO KNOW THE POWERFUL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SIMPLY LOVING ONE ANOTHER.