

In Service

A Call to Action

by Suzanne Weeks, Healing Touch Practitioner

WE are called to action sometimes before we know what that will look like. During the October 2007 wildfires in San Diego, my husband and I tuned in anxiously for news of our time to evacuate as we packed what we would “need” if the house burned down. Knowing thousands were evacuating (nearly 1 million in Southern California by event end), we decided our fear could be turned to action. The idea came to us, why not bring a Healing Touch booth to an evacuation site? Unloading our possessions from the car, we reloaded to bring relief to others. Canopy, table, identification, water; all we might need to bring healing while being self-sufficient and aware of our own self-care in the smoke filled city.

AFTER considering our location, we obtained authorization from a Red Cross Worker to set-up at a near-by evacuation site. Providing a relaxing space with music under a canopy, we were finally ready. Lisa Thompson RN, HHP, CHTP/I also left her safe haven to join our efforts. Although, they were happy to have us there, we initially had a challenge finding clients. Treating an elderly evacuee in a chair near her cot where she had spent the past 2 nights, she did not



THE next day, we agreed to contact more healers and set up where we thought the need was greatest: the firefighter staging area. We spent two hours walking through the encampment looking for the “right” people to authorize our set-up. After passing hundreds of exhausted firefighters lying near their trucks awaiting the next rotation, we found the command center. With tears in their bloodshot eyes, the logistics workers sitting behind their computer terminals said they would love a treatment. The decision had been made however, that this type of aid was not possible and the volunteer massage therapist had already been asked to leave. Undaunted, we moved to the aid station to reach those evacuees who had lost their homes, knowing that a mind clearing at this time would be well received. We met police citing logistics, liability issues and fear, preventing our offer to bring healing. By this time the hot conditions and poor air quality had exhausted us and we returned home.

AT first, we were disappointed at not reaching anyone directly that day. Upon reflection though, we realized that our intention was always for the highest good. Our desire to touch with our heart brings healing to those we focus on, even at a distance. The first day we had treated several people who had never experienced this type of healing and greatly needed a compassionate heart. Often we do things and do not realize the healing effect, just by offering our intention, smile and hug at a time of despair.

THIS “Call to Action” was one of my “community project” write-ups for my HT Level 5 homework. The longer-term project could be to establish an authorized crisis-healing group so that we could mobilize in case of natural disasters. With the support of aid workers and fellow citizens, we could affect healing for the heart and soul within the community.

want me to stop treatment and was notably less anxious when I finished. At first, it seemed frustrating to not be able to treat more people, but I was also able to dedicate longer treatments, especially to the gentleman who had slept in his car for two nights. He reported feeling “a lot better” after receiving back techniques.

NEW Disaster Relief Committee NEW

Healing Touch International is beginning a Disaster Relief Committee to create strategies and alliances with various relief organizations worldwide so that when events occur, there is easy access and availability to provide healing service to those impacted and their relief workers. If you are interested in being part of this HTI Service Project, please contact Lori Wyzkowski at lwzy@bellsouth.net. She will be gathering the committee.