

Donation improves fire safety at Camp Tecumseh



Burlington Township Volunteer Fire Department recently donated its 1978 pumper truck to Camp Tecumseh YMCA. Burlington VFD Assistant Chief Derek Jackson (center) is seen with camp employees Darrell Sterrett, left, and Keith Kender, right, who picked up the truck. "Camp Tecumseh YMCA feels very fortunate to receive this donation," said Camp Tecumseh Executive Director Dave Wright. "Though the truck no longer meets the state requirements and Burlington has a new truck, it will help Camp Tecumseh with emergency response. We have many areas where we have cooking campfires and program campfires. If a fire were to accidentally spread to dry leaves, the pine forest, or to one of the cabins, all we have had is hand-held fire extinguishers. These are effective on very small fires but once a fire has spread, a pumper truck like the one donated can be a huge help." Camp maintenance employees John Everett and Sterrett, both volunteer firefighters, will be heading up efforts with the truck. Kender, camp property manager, is a part-time EMT for Carroll County EMS. Wright added, "Obviously Camp Tecumseh YMCA would not be able to afford a fire truck on its own but the donation of this used truck certainly improves our potential to suppress small fires." Photo provided

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Lilly Endowment announces \$50 million for storm relief and recovery efforts

Comet staff report

In light of the massive recovery facing communities from floods and storms that wreaked havoc in 2008 across major portions of Indiana, Lilly Endowment Inc. announced Monday grants totaling \$50 million for disaster relief and recovery. The grants have been approved for three organizations that have significant experience serving in disaster

situations.

The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army each will receive \$2.5 million to help with their efforts to alleviate the more immediate needs of citizens and communities that have suffered from disasters in 2008 and to help replenish their disaster relief funds.

The Indiana Association of United Ways (IAUW) has been awarded \$45 million for a disaster-response fund from which IAUW will make grants for relief and recovery efforts at the county level in counties damaged by 2008 disasters. Eligibility criteria likely will include whether a county has been declared a disaster area by the state or federal government.

Applications to the fund will be based on the recommendations of local United Ways, which will work with community foundations and other key community partners to set local

priorities for the funds.

IAUW expects to offer grants in at least two rounds. The first round, which IAUW plans to offer as soon as possible, will provide up to \$100,000 in flexible funding to local United Ways and in some cases to community foundations for each county affected by a 2008 disaster. This funding may be used for immediate needs and for assistance in planning and facilitation efforts related to prioritizing a county's needs for support from subsequent funding rounds.

One or more subsequent rounds will offer larger grants which are expected to vary in amount from county-to-county in accordance with factors determined by the grants advisory committee. These factors will include local needs, available resources, the scale and type of the damage, local demographics and others.

"The Endowment believes that in situations such as these it is preferable for local communities to be able to prioritize the needs for which funding will be sought, and the Endowment is confident that IAUW has the ability to encourage local priority-setting efforts," said state president N. Clay Robbins.

For nearly 30 years the Endowment has supported IAUW's efforts to build an effective network of United Ways across the state. There now are 62 United Ways serving the local needs of 80 some counties. In particular, Indiana residents needing disaster-relief assistance should call the American Red Cross at (317) 438-4636 or toll free at 1-866-438-4636; The Salvation Army at (317) 937-7000 or toll free at 1-800-589-1037; or the Indiana information and referral service at 2-1-1.



Donnelly is honored

Congressman Joe Donnelly received the Department of Indiana Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 2007-2008 Legislator of the Year award Saturday for his work on behalf of America's veterans. "The Indiana VFW performs exceptional service on behalf of Hoosier veterans who have fought and sacrificed abroad for the very freedoms we hold dear as Americans" said Donnelly. "As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I have valued their continued advice and guidance during my first term in Congress, and it is my honor to receive the Legislator of the Year award."

During his tenure in Congress, Donnelly has helped to enact the largest funding increase in history for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and he introduced several pieces of legislation to improve medical care for soldiers with traumatic brain injury and to help disabled veterans more easily access the benefits they've earned.

Donnelly voted to successfully block proposed out-of-pocket price increases for military and veterans' health care, supported a pay increase for military personnel and recently voted with the House of Representatives in passing an update of the GI Bill to ensure education benefits keep up with the rising costs of a college education.

He helped to expand access to care for Hoosier veterans by working to open the country's first Veterans Multi-Use Outreach Center in Logansport. The Center will provide an array of services under the same roof.

"The Indiana Veterans of Foreign Wars is honored to be presenting the Legislator of the Year award to Congressman Donnelly," said Thomas V. Burks II, member of the National Legislative Committee and Chairman of the Indiana VFW. "We want to thank him for his ongoing support of veterans and their needs as they continue with life after their service."

Service News

Clevenger is activated

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Brian K. Clevenger has been mobilized and activated at Fort Dix, N.J., for a deployment overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Clevenger is a member of the 38th Military Police Company, a National Guard unit based in Danville.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces par-

ticipating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq.

Clevenger, a military police member and squad leader, has served in the military for nine years.

He is the son of Joan White of Delphi, and Dan R. Clevenger of Linden.

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