



ROTARY CLUB OF STEVENAGE GRANGE

Press Release 15th September 2005

Rotary Clubs 'Buy a boat' appeal – Asian Tsunami



Following the catastrophic Asian Tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange arranged a charitable collection, to help provide some assistance to the most devastated areas. The Club wishes to place on record its thanks to all in Stevenage who gave so generously at its collection point, and to Waitrose for its support.

Rather than simply pass on the funds raised, the Club liaised with others in the Rotary network to ensure the public's generosity was used to best effect. Augmented from its own funds the Club supported the 'Buy a Boat' Appeal organised by The Rotary Club of Kandy, in Sri Lanka. Directly supervised by them, in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Government, the boats are to be given to fishermen known to have lost their boats in the disaster where their livelihood, and the local economy depend on making a new start.

On 9th September the Sri Lankan Minister of Fisheries handed over 60 of the locally built boats to fishermen in the local villages. Two of these named 'The Spirit of Stevenage' and the 'Spirit of Stevenage Grange' are testimony to the generosity and goodwill of people in and around Stevenage.

Note to Editors

The type of boat chosen is in the 19 to 21 foot range. They have very flared bows to enable them to be launched through the surf but with a square stern to provide a reasonable fishing platform. They come supplied with a 15 HP kerosene (paraffin) outboard and a full set of nets, lines and hooks. Each boat provides a livelihood for up to four families. They are launched directly from the beach so need no infrastructure like quays or harbours.