

Youngsters, musicians and shoppers give generously Hongkongers open their hearts and wallets to victims

Zoe Mak and Joshua But

From politicians to rock stars and children, yesterday was a day the community opened its hearts – and bank accounts – to the victims of the Sichuan (四川) earthquake.

Just about every corner and shopping mall had a collector – more than 60 organisations have been granted permits to collect donations. Political parties such as the Civic Party, the Democratic Party and the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong put aside their differences for the greater good.

Political rivals Anson Chan Fang On-sang and Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, who contested the Legislative Council's Hong Kong Island seat, both attended a function at Times Square to call for donations for the victims.

Charities such as Unicef, the Salvation Army and World Vision Hong Kong directed their energies to various fund-raising events, aiming to capitalise on the fact most people were off work for the weekend.

James Wong, 13, said he was giving his pocket money for the month to the quake victims because so many had been at school. "It's sad to hear that so many schools fell down and so many children died," he said.

The Democratic Party and the DAB also both held charity concerts in Tuen Mun and Wong Tai Sin to raise money.

The Confederation of Trade Unions and the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood collected donations in various districts and will continue today.

Tam Kwok-kiu, vice-chairman of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, said it hoped to raise HK\$100,000.

"I hope to help the victims to reconstruct their homes," he said. "There's an immediate need there. You feel really sad when you see the people in the epicentre."

The Federation of Trade Unions also collected donations at more than 100 locations across the city and will continue today.

Independent musicians from the punk, gothic and rock scenes showed their support with a charity music festival at Aberdeen, cheered on by hundreds of excited fans.

Tickets were HK\$100 and all proceeds went to World Vision.

Tim Wong Kam-tim, one of the organisers and also vocalist of Wonder Garl, one of the bands performing, was grateful for the enthusiasm of performers and the public at such short notice. He said there were already 10 groups lined up for a second show on Wednesday.

About 3,000 students – aged from



Hongkongers give generously to Volunteer Space yesterday in Causeway Bay, donating money for victims of the Sichuan quake. Photo: KY. Cheng

It's sad to hear that so many schools fell down and so many children died

James Wong, 13, who donated his pocket money

Henry's view 14

two to 15 – began a "readathon" at the Victoria Shanghai Academy. School director Maggie Koong Mei-kei said older students would read about earthquakes, and younger ones would read about caring and sharing.

Each student would look for sponsorships starting at HK\$10 for 10 minutes of reading time, while the school's charitable trust would have a matching fund aiming to raise HK\$500,000.

The school donated HK\$500,000 to help the earthquake victims on Thursday.

The Kidney Foundation had called for donations to buy haemodialysis machines as it estimated 4,500 survivors would need immediate treatment for kidney failure.

TV fund-raiser helps push effort for quake past the HK\$1b mark

Hong Kong citizens have already contributed a record of more than HK\$1 billion to help victims of the Sichuan earthquake.

During a three-hour fund-raising show *Operation Relief for Sichuan Earthquake* on TVB last night, several hundred million dollars was added to the estimated HK\$800 million collected since the earthquake struck.

All proceeds from last night's show will go to the Home Affairs Department and the Hong Kong Red Cross, World Vision, Oxfam, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Salvation Army.

The fund-raising campaign last night featured about a hundred entertainers, including Andy Lau Tak-wah, Jacky Cheung Hok-yau and Aaron Kwok Fushing, all dressed in white T-shirts for the sombre occasion.

Movie star Liza Wang Ming-chuen, who hosted the show last night, said she had felt hopeless after watching the news of the disaster.

"I don't know how to describe my feelings," the iconic actress said. "Sichuan is a million miles away and what we can do is so little."

Acting chief executive Henry Tang Ying-yen urged all members of public to show their love and support to those suffering on the mainland.

"Huge resources will be needed for rescue and reconstruction works in the affected areas. I am calling on Hong Kong's people to help, no matter how little they can give."

The donations have already exceeded the HK\$600 million which was collected for victims of flooding in eastern China in 1991.

Before the show, TVB chairman Sir Run Run Shaw contributed HK\$100 million. A number of businesses also contributed significant amounts to the relief effort.

The Bank of China (Hong Kong) donated HK\$10 million while HSBC presented a cheque of 10 million yuan (HK\$11.16 million) during the telecast. Other donors included the Liberal Party, which donated HK\$12 million, and the Hang Seng Bank and Cathay Pacific, with HK\$2 million.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Kidney Foundation established a fund with a donation of HK\$500,000. The money would be transferred directly to a dialysis centre in Sichuan (四川).

The Chamber of Hong Kong Computer Industry pitched in with an auction which raised nearly HK\$30,000 for the Hong Kong Red Cross.

Joshua But



Hong Kong's entertainment stars unite to appeal for funds to help earthquake victims during a TVB show last night. Photo: Ricky Chung

Second medical team will head to Chengdu

Loretta Fong and Cheung Chi-fai in Chengdu

A fresh contingent of 19 doctors and nurses from the Hospital Authority will be sent to West China Hospital in Chengdu (成都) today and tomorrow to help those injured in the Sichuan (四川) earthquake.

The Hospital Authority's Liu Shao-hai announced the mission at the end of his tour of the mainland yesterday. The chief manager for infection, emergency and contingency had travelled with a team to the Sichuan provincial capital on Thursday to assess the situation at the city's hospital and work out what personnel and supplies were needed.

Dr Liu said the new team would be led by Lau Chor-chiu, chief of the accident and emergency department at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital.

Specialists in orthopaedics and traumatology, infection control, intensive care, operating theatres, anaesthetics, physiotherapy, nephrology, injuries and wound management would be part of the team.

In addition to providing medical expertise, the team members will also carry specialist medical supplies and equipment.

Dr Liu said that while West China Hospital had comprehensive facilities – including 4,300 beds – its medical workers needed specialist assistance, particularly in the orthopaedic department.

The hospital had received 1,000 patients by Friday, with 300 to 400 requiring orthopaedic treatment. Doctors in the hospital have also performed more than 70 amputations since the earthquake.

However, there were several patients waiting to undergo complicated operations, and the Hong Kong doctors' experience would be of much use, Dr Liu said.

Several orthopaedic specialists from the authority will head to the city tomorrow. They are expected to provide clinical assistance during complicated operations.

Dr Liu said more patients were likely to seek treatment at the hospital, which would increase work pressures on the orthopaedics department.

The *Post's* reporter at West China Hospital witnessed how busy the hospital was yesterday.

Many of the wards have been converted into temporary orthopaedics areas due to the many patients requiring treatment for skeletal and muscular injuries.

The doctors said they were so busy they were lucky to catch a few hours' sleep each day.

Dr Liu visited a hospital in Deyang (德阳) yesterday afternoon.

The authority will keep in close touch with the mainland authorities and may send more doctors and medical staff to help if necessary.

The Hospital Authority's director of quality and safety, Leung Pak-yin, said psychologists would be sent on Wednesday to provide counselling services to the quake victims, especially those in the children's hospitals.

Ho Pak-leung, a University of Hong Kong microbiologist, and two colleagues from the Hospital Authority, will head to the mainland today to meet Ministry of Health officials to discuss infectious disease controls for later stages of the recovery effort.

HK Flying Service joins relief effort

A five-member Government Flying Service team left yesterday for Sichuan (四川) to join the Hong Kong government's search and rescue team on its dangerous mission.

The flying team, which will be providing technical assistance, consists of two pilots, two aircrew members and an aircraft engineer.

A service spokesman said the team arrived in Chengdu (成都) yesterday afternoon, and would stay in Sichuan for at least a week.

They are based at an aviation base in the town of Guanghan, just outside Chengdu, where a fleet of helicopters is stationed. The team will work with the Ministry of Communications and are on standby to fly key missions, such as evacuations and airdrops.

On Thursday, a 41-member rescue squad flew to Sichuan. It has been working in Mianzhu county (绵竹), after being assigned by the mainland rescue command, searching a collapsed administrative building at the Dongfang Electric factory.

Acting director of Fire Services Chan Chor-kam said members of the team were experiencing serious aftershocks, nearly a week after Monday's earthquake.

Mr Chan said more rescuers would be deployed as necessary. The squad would stay in the disaster area for at least seven days.

Hong Kong Red Cross deputy secretary Wilson Wong Mok-fai said the biggest difficulty for rescuers was that the transport network had been destroyed.

"Roads heading to the most affected areas are not yet cleared."

Eva Wu and Cheung Chi-fai

Foreign rescue teams refused visas in HK

Liz Heron

Two international disaster response teams that flew to Hong Kong and tried to join the Sichuan (四川) earthquake rescue effort have been refused permission to enter the mainland.

The Scotland-based International Rescue Corps, which specialises in earthquakes, was set to fly back to the United Kingdom last night. A Canadian rescue team from Red Deer, Alberta, is planning to leave tomorrow after they were told yesterday that they were not required.

The two volunteer teams, run by independent charities, brought state-of-the-art location and rescue equipment, for which Beijing last week issued an international appeal.

The 10-member British team, which arrived on Tuesday, had an ultrasonic location device, a carbon dioxide probe that tracks the living by their breath and two tiny, flexible cameras that can be inserted through holes in rubble. The eight Canadians, who arrived on Thursday, brought a special search camera and an acoustic searching device. Neither team was aware the other was coming.

"We are very frustrated that we have been unable to get to the disaster zone and help those people still trapped," corps team leader Willie McMartin said. "This equipment can make the difference between somebody being located alive or dying. The official reason that we have been given is that the Chinese government cannot co-ordinate the foreign teams on the ground."

Mr McMartin said they had learned from the United Nations website before leaving that no official request had been made by the central government for help from foreign rescue teams, but had been advised by a travel agent in Hong Kong that mainland visas could be obtained in the city.

"We would normally have a verbal indication from the embassy of the affected country that they want us to come before we leave," he said.

"We offered our help to the Chinese embassies in London and Edinburgh and initially received no reply. But the scale of the earthquake appeared to justify a decision to travel."

"We were stalled because of the visa problem. We were asked to provide return tickets and hotel vouchers in advance. But in a disaster, we are in tented accommodation."

He said the group had spent at least £30,000 (HK\$456,000) on the trip. Marcel Schur, the leader of the Canadian team, said it had spent US\$30,000.

Lu Xinhua (吕新华), commissioner of the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong, said China had adopted an open attitude to overseas assistance for the quake victims.

He said rescue teams from Japan and Taiwan had already been allowed to get to the quake-stricken area.

A range of new restrictions on mainland visas, including a requirement that applicants obtain a return ticket and hotel voucher in advance, were confirmed last month by the ministry.

THE PHILIPPA HUCKLE GROUP

lifetime financial strategies



The Psychology of Successful Investing

There are early indications that stockmarkets may have bottomed out. Suddenly investors are afraid of missing a rebound - yet just a month ago jittery investors were afraid of being in these very markets.

Request a free pack detailing 3 key behavioural mistakes
3key@philippahuckle.com
or call: (852) 2525 5110

Same markets; different feelings.

"For a lifetime of successful investing, what's needed is an intellectual framework for making decisions and the ability to keep emotions from corroding that framework."

Warren Buffet

In this seminar you will learn how savvy investors

Apply a logical, proven methodology to:

- Calmly and methodically buy low and sell high
- Neutralise portfolio dips when markets crash
- Consistently identify world class investments

Control their emotions to:

- Stop missing opportunities in cheap markets
- Prevent panicked reactions to market swings
- Eliminate gut-wrenching, unnecessary emotional rides

For the past decade the Group's founder and CEO, Philippa Huckle, has helped high net worth investors successfully navigate the Asian crisis, the dot com bust, SARS, global recession and the subsequent recovery.

Huckle has featured on an elite panel with Nobel prizewinner Daniel Kahneman and is regularly published in the international media including CNN, Asia Wall St Journal, CNBC and the UK Sunday Times.

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2008
Time: 7:00 - 9:15 pm
Venue: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Hong Kong

Price:.....HK\$ 480
Bookings before Wednesday 21 May:.....HK\$ 380
Bring your partner or guest for free

Seats are limited: Please book your seat early.

Call: (852) 2525 5110 Email: event@philippahuckle.com

www.philippahuckle.com

Licensed with the HKSFCA as an Investment Advisor

Helplines

Charities helping the victims, with their phone numbers and bank account numbers

Bank of East Asia 514-40399-663
Hang Seng 267-175-123001

World Vision
2394 2394
HSBC 018-55-4444-001
Bank of China 012-883-0002-6662
Hang Seng 286-364-385-003

Bank of China 012-878-1-061887-6
Bank of East Asia
015-515-10-505413

Bank of East Asia
015-260-81-01210-0

Hong Kong Red Cross
Hotline: 2802 0021
Donation accounts:
HSBC 567-650-155-016
Bank of China 012-806-0000-1617

Oxfam Hong Kong
3120 5000
2520 2525
HSBC 001-537-0000-12
Bank of China 012-874-001-05157

Salvation Army
2783 2333
HSBC 580-149649-001

Unicef Hong Kong
2833 6139
HSBC 567-354-014-005
Bank of China 012-875-1081-0855

Home Affairs Department
New accounts, under "The Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated - Donations",
HSBC 004-502-256803-001
Bank of China 012-875-0-039683-3