



## Delivering Island Relief

By Lisa Krupp

What an incredible start in 2005! It was a pleasure to share my story and passion for enhancing the quality of life in island communities with readers last year. Since then, a series of small miracles have taken place as an ongoing reminder to me that I AM supposed to do this work.

First and foremost, we received our 501(c)3 status from the IRS in record time. This process can generally take up to six months although we were cautioned that many times it can exceed that by months or years. We were notified in less than 35 days! This allows contributions to Island Relief Inc to be deductible and assist donors with tax incentives.

Second, while on the island of Eleuthera in December, along with the help of many volunteers that took time out from their vacation, we unloaded over 7,000 lbs of books, teaching materials and shoes that were shipped just weeks before Christmas. Once again, I was momentarily discouraged as I scoured the County for assistance with shipping this amount of freight with only days to spare. Roadway was able to arrange a pickup with such short notice and quoted us a discounted rate to Florida. From there the shipping boat was another story! I was told that the items would never arrive in time due to holiday shipments, inclement weather, lack of space - hurricane relief items are still in need on the island. But of course, it was meant to be and we were even able to hand deliver a pair of shoes to a local young man that had just recently phoned the island Administrator asking for help in obtaining of all things SHOES!



*Is this Santa taking the supplies from here in Crystal Lake to Eleuthera?*



*The volunteers helping unload and set up Island Relief's recent shipment. Author Lisa Krupp is in the white tee shirt in front center.*

Third, in December I had a coincidental (no such thing) meeting with a parent of one of my past students. I mentioned "my new work" (no income volunteer) and my recent obstacles (gifts), such as losing the storage space where we had packed the 7000 lbs of items, due to the building being leased and trying to find a way to transport that amount of supplies to Florida, since finding books, materials etc., are not the dilemma, rather transporting them is the real feat, since I am still working on manifesting a start up fund. Well, he said, "My boss is looking for a new charity and we have just opened a new corporate office in Elgin, and that's what we do, STORE things for people and then SHIP them!"

As I looked blankly at him, I thought to myself, "of course you do".

Early this year, I met with Jeff Pennington, President of LeSaint Logistics. LeSaint was rated in the top 100 3PL companies, third party logistics, by Inbound Logistics in 2004. He has very generously offered to assist Island Relief in ways I could only have dreamt. We have already transported 110 boxes of childrens books to his warehouse for storage, with another 100 on their way this week. Our partnership with LeSaint will facilitate the building of many school and community libraries on the island in an unprecedented manner.

Another angel appeared in the form of Stann Champion. Founder of Roots Rock Society, nominated for Reggae/Soca Entertainer 2005 by Chicago Music Awards, Stann is eager to support Island Relief Inc in the form of benefit concerts. We are planning some future events to increase

awareness about improving literacy on the islands and share the contagious effects of their blissful reggae rhythms. Helping to plan one of these events is not only fun, but a great way to meet people and get involved with our projects.



*Volunteers (Santa's helpers?) unloading supplies on the island.*

A heartfelt thanks goes out to my family, friends, volunteers and sponsors for their unwavering support. I look forward to growing by leaps and bounds this year and can't wait to see the "signs" that strategically appear for me, whenever I need to be gently guided in the direction that takes Island Relief to the next level.



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