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Gale urges Nebraskans to help with tsunami relief

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale urged Nebraskans to make donations to relief efforts for the millions left homeless, hungry and injured by the Indian Ocean tsunami.

The U.S. Department of State asked Gale to make such an appeal. He serves as chief protocol officer for Nebraska in regard to international matters.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's website (www.usaid.gov) has information on how to make a donation and updates on the relief effort.

“Although the affected areas are far away, the catastrophic loss of life and humanitarian emergency are felt deeply by Nebraskans, Gale said. “I know there is an intense interest among many Nebraskans to lend a hand to those in such desperate need.”

President George W. Bush has announced an ambitious private fund-raising drive for the tsunami victims. The drive will be led by former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and coordinated by the White House's USA Freedom Corps (www.usafreedomcorps.gov), which encourages volunteering.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of the affected countries,” Gale said. “We share their grief and hope that the international community rallies behind the relief efforts.”

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