

**Blindness  
International**



**Cécité  
Internationale**

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Mrs. Debbie Boyer  
President, ASVI  
615 Meadowview Crescent  
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Alberta T8H 1Y9

March 1, 2005

Dear Mrs. Boyer

I want to express my sincere gratitude to you and the members of ASVI for your generous contribution of \$500 in support of blind persons in Indonesia and Sri Lanka following the devastation of the recent earthquakes and Tsunami there. Your official receipt for income tax purposes will be forwarded from the CNIB National Fund Development department shortly. However, I did wish to write now to acknowledge the generosity of your members.

All of us here in Canada were horrified at the devastation caused by the earthquakes and Tsunami on December 26<sup>th</sup>. As Canadians, it has been difficult for us to imagine what it must be like for those who have lost loved ones, their homes, communities and their very way of life.

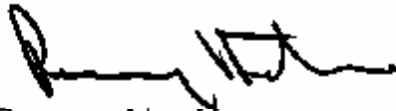
Generally when these natural disasters occur, those who are very poor or disabled are even more adversely affected than others.

We have heard a number of accounts of the real tragedies affecting blind persons in Sri Lanka and in Indonesia where we understand that 14 special schools were lost. There will no doubt be a long period of redevelopment in both of those countries, as they struggle to rebuild the infrastructure for general services. And it is likely that the rebuilding effort for services for blind persons will lag far behind as they tend to be quite far down on the priority list of governments and those organizations providing traditional aid.

The contribution from your members, together with those of staff and friends of CNIB, will be divided equally between the organizations serving blind persons in Sri Lanka and Indonesia and so will go directly to help blind persons in those countries. And we are working closely with counterparts in the World Blind Union from that part of the world to ensure that the contributions from us and our sister organizations around the world are coordinated in order to do the most good for the people who need the funds the most.

On behalf of those individuals who will benefit from your generosity, I thank you and the members of ASVI for your support.

With my sincere thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Hartin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Penny Hartin  
Executive Director  
Blindness International

Cc Bill McKeown