

PRESS RELEASE

ACTS OF KINDNESS THAT STAY WITH YOU FOR LIFE FROM BEING HELPED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TSUNAMI TO BEING DIRECTED TO A HOTEL ROOM IN TOKYO – SHARE YOUR ‘ACT OF KINDNESS’ WITH GLOBALGIVING.CO.UK

July 2009...Ever been lucky enough to be on the receiving end of an act of kindness whilst traveling abroad? GlobalGiving.co.uk has launched, in partnership with the [Travel Foundation](http://TravelFoundation), a travel writing competition to highlight these acts of kindness and show how they really make a difference to peoples travel experience. The lucky winner will get to visit a GlobalGiving.co.uk project of their choice and 5 nights accommodation courtesy of whitedotbox.com, Expedia.co.uk and Hotels.com.

So far entries have included an array of acts that have made an impact not just on peoples trips but also their lives. Shelia was travelling in Thailand when the tsunami hit; 'In the moments after the tsunami I'd no idea anyone had been hurt until villagers on Phi Phi Island carried in the limp body of a tiny 4 year old girl. I was stunned but put on a brave face for my own children aged 13 & 14. 48hrs later we lugged our heavy cases across the devastation of buildings and dead bodies, bloated from drowning. What should have been a 15 minute walk took over an hour to the pier with no guarantee of a boat home. Thai bodies were piled at the end of the pier whilst a helicopter ferried out bodies of foreigners. An old Thai man helped us organise a way off the island, which by now, was with the Thai Navy. He lugged our heavy cases across the pier, across the deck of another rescue boat and onto the Navy boat, also helping our children and us. I gave him every bart I had left in my purse as a thank-you. Only then did I discover he'd lost all his family in the tsunami and yet he'd shown such kindness to our family, we shall never forget him."

Trevor was lucky enough to find some kind villagers on his trip to Zaire in the 90's; 'I fell seriously ill when travelling in Zaire. I was miles from anywhere, facing the choice of taking a crowded bus to the nearest hospital two days away or staying in a small village in the hope that I would get better. I stayed, but feared the worst. The word went around that I was unwell, and throughout the night, local villagers sat with me and treated my fever. Two days later I was well enough to travel on. I have never forgotten their kindness, compassion and selflessness. It stays with me on all my travels."

All the 'Acts of Kindness' travellers have shared with us so far prove that however small, be it giving directions or giving back a camera that's been left on a bench to the very big such as Trevor and Shelia's stories, they all make a difference to people journeys and lives. So share you're story with us today GlobalGiving.co.uk/kindness and let people know how your life has been touched by an 'Act of Kindness.'

- Ends -

To find out more about the campaign go to: www.globalgiving.co.uk/kindness
Or contact Hannah Ladkin: press@globalgiving.co.uk 0773 6064104 or 0207 841 8981

Notes:

- The Act of Kindness campaign will run on from the 22nd June to the 22nd July
- For more information about the Travel Foundation, please visit <http://www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk>
- Exclusive survey conducted by Fly Research: <http://www.flyresearch.com/>
- GlobalGiving.co.uk launched in September 2008. For further background information go to: <http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/aboutus/media/backgrounder.html>