

# Huntington Beach landmark's friends launch a pierless fund-raising effort

Story and photo by Robert Kinsler

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When a mighty winter tempest destroyed several hundred feet of the Huntington Beach Municipal Pier Jan. 17, 1988, Tom Bagshaw had more than a casual interest in seeing the landmark rebuilt.

Two years ago Bagshaw was manager of The End Cafe, the restaurant that was knocked off the end of the pier.

Now he is president of The Persons Interested in Expediting Reconstruction (PIER) Group, a non-profit volunteer organization that is working to raise money to rebuild the pier. The all-volunteer group sells souvenir items at the foot of the pier from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday to raise funds.

"We've been doing this since January 1988," said Bagshaw, who formed the group with two other co-workers at The End Cafe only two days after the storm destroyed the restaurant. "We've raised over

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**What:** The PIER Group.

**Where:** The volunteer group is working out of PIER Realty, 322 Fifth St., Huntington Beach.

**Activities:** Volunteers sell pier souvenirs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the pier every Saturday and Sunday. The Huntington Beach Municipal Pier is located at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Main Street.

**Call:** (714)960-8497.

\$100,000."

Money raised by volunteers, as well as several government agencies, will be used to rebuild the \$10.5 million pier. The portion of the pier left standing after the storm has been closed since July 1988.

On New Year's Eve, about a dozen of the group's volunteers spent the day selling pier calendars, T-shirts, framed photographs, pins and other items to passing resi-

dents and visitors enjoying the warm winter afternoon.

"In addition to fund-raising, our other basic function is to keep people up to date on what is happening," Bagshaw said. "People still want their pier built."

The 30-member group meets twice a month to discuss progress on its fund-raising efforts, Bagshaw said.

Although PIER Group volunteer Elaine Rosen has only lived in Huntington Beach for four years, she said both she and her husband, Art Rosen, are natives of Orange County and are anxious for a new pier to be built and open to the public.

"We grew up on the pier" she said.

Diana Irizarry also enjoys spending her weekends helping with the effort.

"I came down here and bought two T-shirts 18 months ago," Irizarry said. "Then I thought, 'I have plenty of time to help out.'"

Bagshaw said construction of a new pier could begin this year and



PIER Group members Art Rosen, left, Elaine Rosen, Chris Cattle, Marilyn Hopson, Tom Bagshaw and Diana Irizarry sell souvenirs of the Huntington Beach Pier to raise funds to rebuild the storm-ravaged structure.

is hoping more volunteers will join The PIER Group.

At noon on Jan. 14, The PIER

Group is planning a rally at the foot of the municipal pier.

"We would like people to wear

their (pier) shirts to signify the (anniversary of) the destruction of the pier," Bagshaw said.

