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<http://www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=1589>

Public and Private Responses to Katrina: What Can We Learn?

October 20, 2005

[Mary L. G. Theroux](#)

This talk was presented at the Chief Executive Organization's Women's Seminar October 7, 2005.

For the lessons to be gleaned in the aftermath of Katrina, I look to two non-profits with which I have been involved for many years and that I see as providing a two-pronged strategy for solving problems—immediate-term and long-term.

I've served for 10 years on the San Francisco board, and three years on the National board of The Salvation Army, which Peter Drucker has termed "the most effective organization in the U.S." It does an amazing job at addressing and alleviating immediate problems and suffering. It brings people in off the street to become clean and sober and learn to lead productive lives through its detox and transitional housing and programming. It provides job training, character-based after-school and summer camp programming for children, toys at the holidays; shelters for battered women and their children; senior feeding and housing; delivery of hot meals to the homebound, housing and programming for aged-out foster care young adults; and is one of the largest relief agencies worldwide. Based in London, it operates in 109 countries every day, with 65,000 employees in the U.S. alone. So when disaster strikes, the Salvation Army is already there, ready to spring into action.

The Independent Institute, where I am a director and Vice President, tackles many of these same problems on a long-term basis. We commission and produce research into the underlying causes of problems like homelessness, urban problems, health-care costs, energy, the crisis in education, drugs, and global poverty. We use these studies to devise and promote innovative, market-based solutions to these problems.

The Gift of Markets

Why market-based? Well, here are some statistics from 100 years ago that I think well illustrate my point:

In 1905, our average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47. Only 14% of homes had a tub; 8% had a phone; 95% of all births took place at home; women washed their hair once a month, using borax or egg shampoo; and the average worker made about \$300 per year.

Our rapid advancement to the bounty found in even the poorest home in the U.S. today is due not to any government program or non-profit initiative, but primarily because profit-pursuing individuals have innovated to produce hitherto unknown prosperity.

And it's also due to the for-profit, market-based sector that many of our threatened crises never materialize. For example, when I was a girl, it was widely predicted that there would be mass starvation in the near future, as exploding populations would overwhelm the planet's limits on food production. Instead, the development of higher-yielding plants and better farming methods created an international green revolution.

Yet when was the last time you received an invitation for a gala black-tie event honoring a for-profit hero? Don't most of us instead find ourselves inundated with celebrations of those who have "given back" or honoring "public servant" politicians?

Social Innovation and Civil Society

That said, there certainly are problems we see in our communities that we would like to be able to do something about, and we form non-profit organizations to do so. And innovation and entrepreneurship can do much to address those as well. Americans have a long tradition of banding together to do just that. Probably the best-documented study of this can be found in Alexis de Tocqueville's [*Democracy in America*](#). A young French aristocrat, Tocqueville toured America in 1831-32, and he made an amazingly extensive study of our society and institutions. One thing that struck him the most was our penchant for forming what he dubbed "associations":

Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations. They have not only commercial and manufacturing companies, in which all take part, but associations of a thousand other kinds, religious, moral, serious, futile, general or restricted, enormous or diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments, to found seminaries, to build inns, to construct churches, to diffuse books, to send missionaries to the antipodes; in this manner they found hospitals, prisons, and schools....

Unlike the societies Tocqueville had known—the England of a privileged aristocracy, where Noblesse Oblige would tend to the poor, or post-revolutionary France, whose strong central government was assumed to be responsible for taking care of all such problems, in the American democratic society power and money were widely diffused among individuals, such that they had to combine forces to solve any given problem:

Among democratic nations ... all the citizens are independent and feeble; they can do hardly anything by themselves, and none of them can oblige his fellow men to lend him their assistance. They all, therefore, become powerless if they do not learn voluntarily to help one another. [emphasis added]

So, I think our tradition of innovative individuals forming alliances to solve problems stands us in good stead. The Independent Institute's book, [The Voluntary City](#), similarly brings together case studies of innovative alliances that historically met and many which continue to meet, needs from housing, transportation, education, medical care, to police and law courts. Long before there was unemployment or health insurance, for example, [many people belonged to mutual-aid societies](#), into which they would pay dues. When they found themselves out of work, facing unexpected medical or other costs, they could receive funding from the society. By 1925, there were 120,000 such societies across the country.

And so we have a rich and proven-effective tradition of voluntary associations solving problems. Yet, in case after case, we see government taking over more and more of our voluntary sector. And that is why I'm so concerned about the calls in the aftermath of Katrina to expand FEMA and other programs.

First of all, there's just the plain evidence that the public sector doesn't do the job nearly as well as the private. Let's take a look at the vast differences in the responses to Katrina from the public vs. the private sector.

Responses to Katrina: Public vs. Private

FEMA, and all levels of state and local governments in the affected areas have claimed that a disaster of Katrina's proportions could not have been foreseen or planned for and they should thus be given a pass—or better, yet, a bigger budget and more power—for having performed so badly.

Yet let's take a look at what happened in the private sector:

The giant private hospital company HCA held a "Hurricane Lessons Learned" planning meeting last fall, following last year's devastating Florida hurricanes. Some key gaps they identified were: cell phones often fail, so alternative phone systems are needed. Roads become impassable, so emergency supplies have to be stored closer to hospitals. Back-up generators are needed. As a result of the meeting, HCA provided its hospitals with satellite phones, hurricane shutters and additional backup generators. It struck deals with local businesses like refrigeration, water, diesel and gasoline companies, to provide supplies quickly in the event of an emergency. In hurricane-prone areas it also warehoused food, medical supplies and other gear closer to its hospitals. In the immediate aftermath of Katrina, senior management set up a "war room" and quickly decided they would need to lease 20 helicopters to evacuate their Tulane hospital. HCA's chairman and CEO didn't hesitate in ordering them to do so. They used

ham radios to create a makeshift air-traffic control system and immediately began ferrying critically ill patients out, without one mishap.

Literally across the street, the state-run Charity hospital was without emergency supplies and unable to get any governmental help in evacuating. Subsisting on fruit cocktail and a dwindling supply of water, [Charity's patients were only saved by being ferried by boat to Tulane and evacuated by HCA's privately-leased helicopters.](#)

Similarly, Wal-Mart and Home Depot had emergency-response plans in place and their senior management immediately sprang into action ordering them implemented, sending supplies like generators, food, water, flashlights and batteries into the areas hit. They were able to quickly establish and maintain a supply chain throughout the region. Pfizer distributed needed drugs and medicines via [Wal-Mart](#) and other retailers. Budweiser delivered truckloads of water and ice. Ford provided vehicles for search and rescue.

At the heart of the corporate response was a stunning array of advanced communication networks that kept firms in touch and coordinating. Following last year's tsunami aid effort, the [Business Roundtable](#) had arranged for each of its 160 member companies to designate a disaster-relief point man. They were in place and ready before Katrina hit. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce set up a clearinghouse to compile lists of needed supplies. Each donor company indicated what order it could fill, eliminating duplication or delay. Black & Decker's employees worked through Labor Day weekend to produce more generators.

And on and on.

Meanwhile, what was going on the New Orleans mayor's and Louisiana governor's offices? Both expressed frustration and helplessness, caused by having no plans for an emergency of this magnitude. The mayor's office set up operations in the privately owned and operated Hyatt hotel, judged the safest base. They were equipped with old field-type phones that couldn't be recharged. Both the governor and mayor claimed they were paralyzed by lack of communication, and pointed the finger at the feds' failure to come to the rescue. The entire governmental response, from top to bottom, was beset by lack of leadership, action, and absolutely no coordination or communication between any two agencies. It had been immediately pointed out following 9/11 that much of that rescue effort was hindered and many of the deaths of firefighters and police were due to the inability of rescue agencies to communicate among and between themselves. Yet four years later, and despite billions of dollars distributed to and by the new Dept. of Homeland Security, the exact same systems were in place.

When one mayor in Louisiana called FEMA to get supplies, he was put on hold for 45 minutes. Eventually a bureaucrat promised to write a memo to his supervisor. Evacuees on a boat could not receive permission to dock along the Mississippi river. A sheriff was told he could only get the help he was seeking if he emailed his request—of course, his parish was flooded and without electricity.

School buses sat idle in parking lots—contrary to the City of New Orleans' emergency plan that called to use such buses to evacuate residents to safety—not to the Superdome, which lay within the threatened area. Furthermore, the Superdome had been used as emergency shelter before, and there had been violence and civil disorder within it on those occasions. Yet no provision had been made to prevent the recurrence of such violence that had occurred before and worsened under the "hell-like" conditions following Katrina. The people in the Superdome were essentially held under house arrest, not allowed to leave or even go outside for fresh air. No provision was made to provide them food, water, sanitation, counseling, or even communicate to them what was happening and what they could expect. It's little wonder that such desperate "Lord of the Flies" conditions led to a breakdown in civil society. It could have been a laboratory study in what happens when you treat people like cattle—only worse, because cattle owners feed and water their stock.

A group of 500 guests in French Quarter hotels pooled their resources to come up with \$25,000 to charter buses to come and rescue them, subsidizing those without the means to contribute. They waited 48 hours for the buses whose arrival was said to be "imminent," only to learn that the military had commandeered them as soon as they arrived in the city. Once kicked out of the hotels, "by orders," they learned they would not be allowed in either of the two city shelters—the Convention Center and the Superdome—which had descended into humanitarian and health hellholes. Yet neither could they leave the city—those trying to leave the city on foot were turned back by armed police, "protecting" neighboring cities from fleeing evacuees. Only those with transport could leave, yet, as we've seen, transport was denied them.

Companies wanting to send in planes and helicopters to rescue their people were prohibited from doing so. One company contacted Louisiana Congressman Bobby Jindal's office for help identifying who could grant them permission to send in a helicopter to rescue their stranded employees. Unable to find anyone at FEMA, the FAA or the military who would accept responsibility to grant permission, [the congressman advised the company to just go ahead.](#)

What is probably most inexcusable and has been kept relatively quiet is that the Red Cross and the Salvation Army were staged and ready to enter New Orleans with food, water and other emergency supplies. The roads to the Superdome and the Convention Center were open, and other areas of the city remained similarly accessible. But the Louisiana Dept. of Homeland Security denied them permission to go in, saying their presence would "prevent people from leaving."

In the ultimate, horrible example of a bureaucratic Catch-22, the government kept people from leaving New Orleans, and the Dept. of Homeland Security would not let aid agencies in, saying having aid available in the city would create a magnet to keep people from leaving.

Eventually, of course, aid agencies were allowed in, and within a few days following Katrina, the Salvation Army had in place 10 mobile feeding units, including at the evacuation points, as well as 2 large mobile kitchens, with a total capacity of serving 200,000 meals per day. As of Sept. 30, the Salvation Army has served over 2 million hot meals plus over 3 million sandwiches, snacks, and drinks from its 150 mobile feeding trucks plus 10 field kitchens deployed throughout the region. It has distributed over 35,000 cleaning kits: brooms, mops, buckets and detergent; and 60,000 food boxes. It has sheltered and provided counseling to approximately half a million people. Its Emergency Radio Network, designed to help people locate family members, has received over 60,000 inquiries and found almost 16,000 survivors. A woman from our San Francisco office was dispatched to run the Astrodome operations, returning last week. As Hurricane Rita built up, the Salvation Army deployed office workers, including our webmaster, to Houston to be prepared to provide disaster assistance there—everyone else was already deployed following Katrina. In all, almost 7,000 Salvation Army officers, together with almost 7,000 Salvation Army employees, plus thousands of trained volunteers have served in the affected areas, and they will remain as long as relief is needed. They're still serving in Florida in the aftermath of last year's hurricanes there, and they remained onsite at Ground Zero for two years following 9/11, with a large tent facility housing rest facilities, food, clean socks, counseling and other needs for the rescue workers there.

The Salvation Army is being judged the most effective relief agency throughout the Gulf Coast—and, with reason. A front-page story in the September 29 *Wall Street Journal* praised the Salvation Army for its quick, effective hurricane relief efforts. Based from their operations already well-established in nearly every community, where they work daily in permanent shelters with the homeless and poor and with people trying to put their lives back together after an apartment fire or years of alcohol and drug abuse, they're well prepared to meet the needs of victims of natural disasters. Its military-style structure is designed for rapid mobilization and puts a premium on training people in advance to deal with disasters. Most people aren't aware that the Salvation Army is actually a church. Its officers are all ordained ministers and they are in the Army as a calling—their way of ministering to the poorest of the

poor in the name of Christ, with love and without discrimination, and for very little pay. The head of the Red Cross draws a salary of \$450,000. The head of the U.S. Salvation Army is paid less than \$30,000. They do this work from their hearts, and they do it very, very well.

Now I don't want to make it sound as if I think that every private organization walks on water. Not every private entity did perform well in the disaster. The government says it will bring criminal charges against the owners of a nursing home whose 34 abandoned residents died, and it is proper that they should be held liable for this negligence. But who do the victims of the gross and arguably criminal neglect in the Superdome, the Convention Center—or for that matter, the thousands whose property and lives were lost due to the government's failure to maintain its levees—sue?

The Lesson

For this is the salient point: private organizations, whether for-profit or non-profit, perform or lose their customers or their donors. When a private entity fails to deliver on its promise, or actually causes harm, it is held liable for the failure and pays the damages. When government fails, it gets a bigger budget and even more power.

Relying on big bureaucracies is itself a recipe for disaster. Bureaucracies do not talk to each other, and they are actually disincented from solving problems. Last year's 9/11 commission issued a comprehensive, damning indictment of the intelligence community's failure to perform its basic function. Yet rather than waiting for any facts on which to act, government had instead three years before created a whole new level of bureaucracy that could be guaranteed to only exacerbate the failings we saw 9/11 and now again with Katrina.

And that is exactly the danger we face again now: suddenly, in the heat of the immediate, emotional aftermath of the disaster, frantic calls go up to have FEMA do more, not less. The federal government is jumping in with promises to perform tasks no-one would have dreamed appropriate following previous disasters: reimburse faith-based charities for their expenses in providing relief; rebuilding entire neighborhoods and communities under no-bid, cost-plus contracts.

What's going to happen when we allow the pre-empting of our very effective charitable sector by bureaucracy? What's going to happen to the voluntary, charitable sector when people see enough examples of their tax dollars being used for the purpose for which they used to designate their charitable giving? Just as with the tradition of mutual-aid and other voluntary initiatives, private charity will fade as government's involvement increases.

Although you may not be aware of it, this is already happening. Organizations like the Salvation Army are already dependent on government funding. When that funding is lost in the face of politics, as happened here in San Francisco when the Salvation Army's faith-based mission fell in disfavor among our extremist city council, we lost \$3 million per year in government funding of detox, homeless shelter, and senior feeding programming. Losing the funding forced us to revitalize the board and get back in closer touch with our community—now that we were again wholly dependent upon it for support.

We also took a close look at the programs for which we had suddenly lost funding, and discovered, a bit to our chagrin, that they could actually be run better and more efficiently than government requirements. I dubbed it the "Pentagon model" of social service. I don't know if you're familiar with the adage that the Pentagon is always preparing to fight the last war—commissioning weapons systems, for example, designed to defeat the Soviet Union, not fight a dispersed, decentralized War on Terror; and of course its well-deserved reputation for being bloated. While nothing like that scale, several of our government-funded programs turned out to be a bit behind the times, and we revamped them to better meet our community's needs today. For example, the Federal Meals on Wheels program has an age 60 minimum. Revamped as the privately-funded Meals That Heal, in addition to providing for

seniors, we also deliver nutritious meals to younger people homebound by diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Similarly, there had been excessive administrative and reporting requirements. We were able to cut administrative positions and place a case-worker in every one of our 16 facilities across the city.

Disasters of Government Failure

As the Independent Institute's research shows time and again, the Katrina disaster aftermath is simply the current most obvious example of government failure. It is not the exception, it is the pattern: a crisis occurs, often because of existing government failure such as inadequate levees, the cry goes up that government must "do something," it moves in with ambitious new programs that drive out voluntary initiatives, until the myth that government has to do it or it wouldn't be done is true.

We saw only too clearly in New Orleans what happens when government is allowed a monopoly on disaster response: bureaucratic bungling and mistreatment of those who most need help.

But to me, at least as important as the fact that government performs relief work less well than private initiatives, is the message Tocqueville drew from observing our society: voluntary association brings us closer together and keeps us free and "democratic." By working together in voluntary association to help one another and solve our own problems, we learn that we as individuals are effective and powerful.

The lessons of Katrina provide a picture-perfect case study of what happens when we surrender these functions to nameless, unaccountable bureaucrats: levee systems that everyone knows are inadequate and no one does anything about; a Keystone Cop scenario of bureaucrats pointing fingers and waiting for the feds to save them; and helpless victims.

I prefer the very real and well-functioning world documented in Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* and The Independent Institute's *The Voluntary City*. Communities in which individuals working together in voluntary association meet and solve their problems in common.

Unlike the Superdome, the Astrodome was operated as a shelter under the auspices of the Red Cross and The Salvation Army. Government forecasts had predicted that evacuees would be there for months. Instead, less than 4,000 remained in the Astrodome two weeks after Katrina, with all of them placed within a month.

So instead of the Federal government's disbursing no-bid, cost-plus contracts to rebuild New Orleans (and who on earth is the master planner of what is being built, where, and why?) how about instead declaring the affected region an enterprise zone—exempt from tax and regulatory restrictions? There would be an inflow of investment as dramatic as the phoenix rising from the ashes. Think Hong Kong, that island rock with no natural resources, having even to import drinking water. Yet the economic success story of the 20th century—that could be New Orleans, freed of the most corrupt government at all levels in the entire country. Freed of slums, dead-end lives of hopelessness.

As for the levees, the failure of which was the proximate cause of New Orleans' devastation, let's fire the Army Corps of Engineers and turn that agency over to stakeholders who will have incentives to invest in bringing it up to 21st century standards and be held accountable if it fails. You could privatize it as many former iron-curtain countries privatized formerly state-run enterprises, by distributing a share to every citizen of the area; or have the levees be owned and operated through insurance schemes; or [bid them out for sale to a consortium of business or other condominium-type holding](#).

The wonderful thing about the market is that no one has to be prescient—when you get barriers out of the way, innovative entrepreneurs devise ways of solving needs never thought of before. For example, one of the most vibrant economies today is Estonia. This former Soviet satellite was so thrilled to be freed of their hated Russian rulers that they have since 1990 allowed almost no central control. The result is the most booming, energetic, happy place—rediscovering and revitalizing things like traditional native dance. At the same time it is one of the most advanced countries technologically in the world. Estonia leapfrogged traditional telephone technologies and jumped right into the wireless age. You can even pay for your parking meter from your cell phone.

It's amazing what happens when you set the private sector free.

So, what can we learn from Katrina? First of all, let's realize that no knight in shining armor is going to come save us, so let's do what needs to be done ourselves. Let's believe Mayor Gavin Newsom when he tells us he won't be able to evacuate San Francisco in the event of an emergency, and that Rudy Guillian didn't actually single-handedly save New York post-9/11. They're just guys, they're not super-heroes.

The Independent Institute will pursue activities like documenting and publicizing examples like the Business Roundtable's proactive emergency communication system. Let's champion those examples, get involved in efforts to promote and replicate them, and support and get involved with organizations like the Independent Institute and the Salvation Army that produce solutions.

And let's help spread the word to others that this is the way to take care of ourselves and those in our communities who need help. Yes, it's work, time, and money, and government's promises to do it for us, at an invisible cost to us, are tempting to believe. But next time we hear a great new proposal for a great new government initiative that's going to solve everything once and for all, let's just say, "No, thanks. We'd rather do it ourselves."

Mary L. G. Theroux is Vice President and Secretary at The Independent Institute and a member of both the National and San Francisco Advisory Boards of the Salvation Army. She is also former Chairman of the San Francisco Salvation Army Advisory Board.

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<http://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/hurricane/katrina-gis.htm>

USGS National Wetlands Research Center Provides Geospatial Technology to Assist in the Hurricane Katrina Search and Recovery Efforts



Updated September 6, 2005

As part of the rescue efforts by the Governor's Office of Emergency Preparedness, scientists in the Spatial Analysis Branch of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in both Lafayette and Baton Rouge, La., have been working with the

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Geological Survey, and the Louisiana State Police to provide critical assistance in locating victims of Hurricane Katrina. The catastrophic storm struck the Gulf of Mexico coast on Monday, August 29.

Hurricane victims in need of rescue have contacted 911 call centers and the LDWF, which has been centrally involved in water rescue efforts. These stranded individuals have provided street addresses for their locations. Unfortunately, street addresses alone are not enough information in some scenarios. For example, many of the responders are from outside the affected area and have no knowledge of the vicinities they are being asked to navigate. Another problem arises when streets are under water and emergency responders are tasked to find individuals at very specific yet spatially unmoored locations: reference points normally used are now obscured.

In response, the Louisiana State Police requested the assistance of USGS scientists to provide "geo-addressing" to supplement street addresses by providing longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates. Depending upon the needs of emergency responders, these coordinates are then expressed in a variety of ways. For example, emergency responders who are not equipped with functioning Global Positioning System equipment might request maps with geographic coordinates overlaid upon grids of street addresses. Responders who do have functioning GPS equipment might request the coordinate data in a digital form that can be sent directly to GPS equipment.

The USGS scientists provide the desired coordinate information to the LGS, who then distributes it to a variety of governmental agencies participating in search and recovery efforts. The LGS has worked with at least 20 agencies in these efforts, and the USGS has currently assisted with thousands of calls (and sometimes e-mail messages) from stranded hurricane victims, either directly or indirectly via individuals who know where victims are stranded. In these efforts, USGS scientists have produced over 3,000 tabloid maps and 40 poster maps.

In addition to their work linking geographic coordinates and street addresses, the USGS is also providing mapping support for a variety of governmental agencies. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for example, has sought USGS assistance to provide up-to-date maps of the New Orleans levee system. Along with these maps, the USGS has also provided USACE with geo-coded addresses for water pumps located in the city.

With assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USGS has also been providing geospatial support at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's command post in Metairie, La. Maps and spatial data are provided to various task forces from numerous state and federal agencies to aid in recovery activities. Geospatial products are updated daily and are delivered to recovery teams every morning prior to their deployment.

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<http://www.libertyforall.net/?p=1028>

[The lesson of Katrina: Don't depend on government](#)

Posted in [LFA Flashback](#) by R Lee Wrights on November 9th, 2007

by **Tonie Nathan**

The Katrina hurricane has finally awakened the media and the public to one huge reality that few were formerly willing to accept - the important difference between socialistic bureaucracy and a free market.

Anyone who is aware of the reports on Katrina knows that most of the early rescues and help came from individuals and groups who saw what was needed and did what they could to help. The bureaucracies all waited for "go-ahead" orders.

"Government at all levels failed the people," Senator Susan Collins told the national press.

While no American wants to criticize the many fine, dedicated individuals working in governmental offices who try to deliver good service, Katrina showed us that many of them are hampered by an over-abundance of rules, regulations and prohibitions at the local, state and federal levels.

But what happens in the private sector when a disaster happens? First and foremost, no one who has any sense of what is needed to avert disaster to his own property, business or family waits for permission to act. Mayor Phil Capitano of Kenner, LA recently declared angrily on television, "It took FEMA eight days to help us. But Wal-Mart was ready with truckloads of food and water almost immediately... Go to Wal-Mart and find out how they did it!"

Most private businesses or landowners act immediately or call others for help when an emergency occurs. If people live where they know there is danger, they should realize they must move or take steps to minimize the danger. There are many ways the poor could have escaped from Katrina if they had realized the responsibility was theirs - not the government's.

Think of some of the ways the private sector provides services without the need of "permission." Years ago the need for shelter for travelers led to the private creation of motels. Years ago the need for reliable medical care led to credentialing doctors and drugs by private associations and medical schools. Years ago the need for safety from burglars led to private protection agencies and walled, gated housing developments. The need for elderly care led to the current rapid growth of private senior housing. Trash collection was started by private companies, not government.

The reason the marketplace provides the best solutions to public needs is due to new ideas initiated by any person who has the desire to innovate. Any business that provides an improvement to its product or service that attracts new customers will soon find its competitors following suit. The public votes with its dollars to reward the products and services it wants. Since the public buys only products it likes, the marketplace indicates what society cares about. Private insurance companies can tell us where dangers may exist to life or property and how to protect ourselves from such risks.

Invention, imitation and competition allow free markets to grow, change and succeed in answering public needs swiftly and proficiently. But the government cannot react in a timely manner to accommodate all the different needs. This is why communistic governments fail. Berwick Duval of Government's Coastal Conservation Commission says, "I went before Congress for ten years telling them of disaster if the wetlands were not restored. They didn't do anything... Seventy percent of our people live in the coastal lands. Another hurricane will displace millions." Yet, government bureaucracies ignore his testimony.

The government creates monopolies that can change only under extreme circumstances. The Katrina fiasco is an extreme circumstance that identified many problems our increasingly bureaucratic society faces. Accordingly, the people of this country should work to end federal power over local concerns by eventually rejecting federal controls. The local property and business owners, charities, and local public leaders can act much more effectively without any huge bureaucratic governmental apparatus.

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Tonie Nathan is the first woman in U.S. history to receive an Electoral College vote as the Vice-Presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party (1972). She is a former broadcast journalist for a Eugene, Oregon NBC television affiliate where she produced a daily talk show, "Dialogue," for 14 months. She has been published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *L.A. Times*, *Oregonian*, among others and been interviewed on the *TODAY* show, *News Hour* and many other television and radio stations.

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5 Comments »

1. [Medical Insurance » The lesson of Katrina: Don't depend on government said,](#)

November 9, 2007 @ [1:22 am](#)

[...] Liberty For All wrote an interesting post today on The lesson of Katrina: Don't depend on governmentHere's a quick excerpt by Tonie Nathan [IMG Tonie Nathan]The Katrina hurricane has finally awakened the media and the public to one huge reality that few were formerly willing to accept - the important difference between socialistic bureaucracy and a free market. Anyone who is aware of the reports on Katrina knows that most of the early rescues and help came from individuals and groups who saw what was needed and did what they could to help. The bureaucracies all waited for "go-ahead" orders. "Government at all le [...]

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3. [Life Insurance » The lesson of Katrina: Don't depend on government](#) said,

November 9, 2007 @ [2:20 am](#)

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http://hsgac.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&Affiliation=C&PressRelease_id=1086&Month=9&Year=2005

PRESS RELEASES

September 06, 2005

LIEBERMAN STATEMENT ON HSGAC KATRINA INVESTIGATION

"Hurricane Katrina was an enormously powerful act of nature. It was certainly not caused by any government. But governmental failures in preparing for, and responding to, Hurricane Katrina allowed much more human suffering and property destruction to occur than should have.

“And so this Committee has been asked by the Senate leadership to answer the same questions that we all asked after September 11, 2001: “How could this have happened in America, and what must our government do to make sure to the best of our ability that nothing like the national nightmare that Katrina caused ever happens again?”

“Senator Collins and I know how important it is to our country and to our people that we conduct this investigation without partisanship, or defensiveness, and with an overriding and unflinching commitment to find the truth and tell it so our government will never repeat the mistakes it made last week. This is particularly important to our Committee, which originated the legislation that created the Department of Homeland Security and has responsibility under the Senate rules to monitor its work as well as the work of FEMA and other federal agencies involved in preparing for and responding to Hurricane Katrina.

“Hurricane Katrina was the most significant test of our new national emergency preparedness and response system since 9-11 and, it obviously did not pass the test.

“We need to know why not just to fix what went wrong but to rebuild confidence among the American people – all the American people – in our government’s ability to protect them from attack – whether it comes from nature or terrorists. Last week I watched the events unfold with concern, grief, anger, and embarrassment. We have always known that we were vulnerable to natural disasters, but we also always had confidence that we were strong enough and competent enough to deal with them. That confidence was shaken, and for many broken, last week. Our Committee now has an opportunity and responsibility to help restore it.

“This morning, things seem better in New Orleans and throughout the Gulf Coast, although we all know there are difficult days ahead. Government didn’t respond to this hurricane as quickly and effectively as we expected and needed, but thousands of individual government workers responded tirelessly and heroically, and that is a good part of why many lives were saved and conditions on the Gulf Coast are better there this morning.

“And around our country, millions of Americans are pulling together and reaching out to help the victims of Katrina, as we here in Washington must now come together to help the victims, to fix our emergency response system, and to restore the public’s confidence in our government.”

5

<http://www.mshomehelp.gov/privacy.htm>

Mississippi Home owner Grants

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PRIVACY POLICY

MDA is obligated by law, specifically the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978,

and the Privacy Act of 1974 (collectively the "Acts"), to inform you of your right to privacy as it relates to all Nonpublic Personal Information ("NPI") used in the process of your application. Keeping your NPI secure, and using it only as necessary to administer the homeowner's assistance program and process your application, is MDA's top priority.

The Acts provide that we may access your financial records when considering or administering government loan or loan guaranty assistance to you. We must give a financial institution a certificate of our compliance with the Acts when we first request access to your financial records. No other certification is required for later access. Our access rights continue for the term of any approved assistance program. We do not have to give you any additional notice of our access rights during the term of the assistance.

As part of your application you will be required to consent to MDA accessing information about you from various sources as well as sharing any information obtained about you with various third parties.

TYPES OF NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION WE COLLECT

We collect NPI about you that is provided to us by you or obtained by us from third parties with your authorization or otherwise. We will access, among other things, financial records held by financial institutions, insurance companies and their agents and information available from other state and federal governmental authorities. The necessary NPI includes your social security number, loan balances and information, information about your residence, insurance and claims information, governmental assistance received and any other information MDA needs to evaluate and process your application.

PARTIES TO WHOM WE DISCLOSE INFORMATION

We will not disclose any NPI obtained in the course of the assistance except as required or permitted by law and except pursuant to your consent. Whenever we share information, we stress the confidential nature of information being shared. We may transfer to another government authority any information, including financial records, included in an application or about an approved application as necessary to process that application. We will not permit any transfer of your financial records to another government authority except as required or permitted by law or except pursuant to your consent.

PROTECTING THE CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY OF YOUR INFORMATION

We will retain records relating to the assistance and your application as necessary to assist you in the future and as required by law. In order to guard your nonpublic personal information, we maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT "OPT OUT" DISCLOSURE

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you may direct us not to share certain

credit information with outside parties or affiliates. However, failure to allow the MDA to share your information as outlined above may hinder your ability to receive assistance. By completing and signing this application, I/We acknowledge and accept the above.

Press Releases

The following are recent press releases relating to the Mississippi Home Help programs.

[09/07/2007](#) - MDA NOW ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON SOLD HOME APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY MODIFICATION

[08/30/2007](#) - HOMES ELEVATED PRIOR TO KATRINA ELIGIBLE FOR PHASE I HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[08/27/2007](#) - MODIFICATIONS TO GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

[08/22/2007](#) - GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM FOR WORKFORCE RENTAL HOUSING ON COAST

[08/01/2007](#) - GOVERNOR BARBOUR: HOMEOWNERS GRANT PROGRAM PASSES \$1 BILLION MARK

[07/27/2007](#) - MODIFICATIONS TO GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

[05/11/2007](#) - RENTAL PROGRAM COMMENTS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

[04/26/2007](#) - GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RESTORE RENTAL HOUSING

[02/22/2007](#) - HOMEOWNER NOTIFICATIONS OF PHASE TWO GRANT PROGRAM UNDERWAY

[01/11/2007](#) - DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS FOR PHASE TWO OF GRANT PROGRAM BEGIN SOON

[02/15/2007](#) - HOMEOWNER NOTIFICATIONS OF PHASE TWO GRANT PROGRAM UNDERWAY

[01/24/2007](#) - HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM DELIVERS 10,000TH CHECK

[11/17/2006](#) - STATE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON SECOND PHASE OF HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

[11/16/2006](#) - OVER 5,700 GRANT CHECKS PAID TO GULF COAST HOMEOWNERS

[10/24/2006](#) - NEW CALCULATION POLICY BENEFITS GRANT APPLICANTS

[10/23/2006](#) - MDA CLARIFIES GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR HOMEOWNERS WHO SOLD THEIR HOMES

[9/21/2006](#) - GOVERNOR BARBOUR'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GULF COAST HOUSING

[9/11/2006](#) - MDA RELEASES ACTION PLAN FOR KATRINA CDBG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

[9/12/2006](#) - SERVICE CENTERS PROVIDE GRANT ASSISTANCE

[7/13/2006](#) - KATRINA HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE REGISTRATION ENDING

[6/27/2006](#) - UPDATE ON HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[6/8/2006](#) - MDA RELEASES ACTION PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

[6/5/2006](#) - GOVERNOR BARBOUR URGES HOMEOWNERS WITH HOUSING NEEDS TO REGISTER

[5/15/2006](#) - KATRINA HOMEOWNER GRANT APPLICATIONS COMING TO A CLOSE

[5/9/2006](#) - HOMEOWNER GRANT APPLICATIONS POURING IN

[5/2/2006](#) - HOMEOWNER GRANT APPLICATIONS GOING STRONG IN SECOND WEEK

[4/21/2006](#) - HOMEOWNER GRANTS START STRONG WITH OVER 1,500 APPLICATIONS IN THE FIRST WEEK

[4/14/2006](#) - HOMEOWNER GRANT APPLICATION GUIDEBOOKS AVAILABLE

[3/23/2006](#) - BEWARE OF HOMEOWNER GRANT SCAMS

[3/8/2006](#) - MDA UNVEILS HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM

[03/2/2006](#) - HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

[02/20/2006](#) - MDA FINALIZING PLANS FOR HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[02/7/2006](#) - HURRICANE KATRINA HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE INFORMATION ON MDA WEBSITE

6

http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/news/2007/11/help_katrina_survivors_come_ba.php

Help Katrina survivors come back home! Call on your senator to support S. 1668

Help Katrina survivors come back home

Public housing residents have been blocked from returning home for over two years. The Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act of 2007 (HR 1227 / S. 1668) would help them come home by repairing and opening thousands of minimally damaged public housing units. The bill passed in the House of Representatives, but some senators are standing in the way of the bill, supporting the interests of those who would like to see a richer, Whiter New Orleans and Gulf Coast.

Demand that your senator protect affordable housing in the Gulf Coast by supporting S. 1668 now

7

<http://www.bls.gov/katrina/home.htm>

U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

Hurricane Information: Katrina and Rita

Recent Publications

"[The effects of Hurricane Katrina on the New Orleans economy](#)" -- from the June 2007 *Monthly Labor Review*

"Recovery After Hurricane Katrina: Employment in the Gulf Coast Area," *Issues in Labor Statistics*, May 2007 ([PDF](#))

Hurricane Katrina -- [a special issue of the Monthly Labor Review \(August 2006\)](#):

"[The labor market impact of Hurricane Katrina: an overview](#)"

"[Worker mobility before and after Hurricane Katrina](#)"

"[Hurricane Katrina's effects on industry employment and wages](#)"

"[The Current Population Survey response to Hurricane Katrina](#)"

"[The effect of Hurricane Katrina on employment and unemployment](#)"

"[Conducting the Mass Layoff Statistics program: response and findings](#)"

["Hurricane damage to the ocean economy in the U.S. gulf region in 2005"](#)

Post-Hurricane Data

[Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment: September 2007](#)

[Regional and State Employment and Unemployment: September 2007](#)

[County Employment and Wages: First Quarter 2007](#)

The Employment Situation: October 2006 ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#)) -- *contains final update of data on Hurricane Katrina evacuees*

[Employment Status Information on Hurricane Katrina Evacuees](#)

[Labor Market Statistics for Areas Affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: September and October 2005](#) -- *includes county data*

Effects of Hurricane Katrina on BLS Employment and Unemployment Data Collection and Estimation

Effects of Katrina on methodology:

[Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#)

[Mass Layoff Statistics](#)

[Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#)

[Current Employment Statistics Survey](#)

[Current Population Survey](#)

[Overview: Hurricane Katrina and Employment Situation Report](#) -- *a short, non-technical summary*

Labor Market Statistics [Prior to Disaster](#) for Areas Affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

[Establishments, employment, and total wages, annual average data \(2004\)](#)

[Labor force and unemployment, August 2005](#)

[Business establishments in the paths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita](#)

[Links to additional labor market data](#)

[Affected area definitions](#)

Last Modified Date: October 30, 2007

8

<http://www.katrinahomedrive.org/>

THE NEW FACE OF PHILANTHROPY IS YOU!! Donate towards our \$2 Billion Fundrasing Goal for Katrina/Rita Survivors

Join Angelina Jolie, Oprah Winfrey, Paul Newman, Brad Pitt and other well-known

celebrities and advocates WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOME! You, too, can become someone's HERO. The on-going Katrina saga isn't over. Help promised and expected has not arrived. Save a life today! Together we can and will change the way the word HUMANITARIAN is used.

"I ask every advocate, friend and supporter to re-commit today on the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and join me as we launch our "NEW FACES OF PHILANTHROPY" fundraising campaign with \$2 billion as our target goal. Together, we will be able to extend a hand to our fellow Americans in order that those fallen may finally rise!" Kirby Sommers, Founder -August 29, 2007

Make checks payable to: AID HUMANITY (Katrina Home Drive is now changing into AID HUMANITY) and mail to: AID HUMANITY, P.O.Box 237073, New York, NY 10023 CONTACT US



Katrina Home Drive (KHD) was created in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to meet the needs of those whose lives were devastated along the Gulf Coast. Kirby Sommers, President of this hurricane relief effort says "We weren't sophisticated in the realm of how a nonprofit is supposed to operate, or how to raise funds, all we knew was that people needed help and something needed to be done." This sort of seat-of-the-pants management and volunteerism became the norm as we took the plunge and began to help on August 31, 2005.



Katrina survivors unexpectedly found themselves homeless and relocated across America, where from one moment to the next, the rapid changing landscape of familiarity disappeared. With virtually little training our volunteers rushed to their aid. Our fliers arrived on the scene before the Red Cross and Fema arrived; and were handed out to victims by both these organizations as a housing resource. Two years later, KHD is still offering assistance to individuals and families. "Help promised by government officials and large non-profits simply hasn't arrived. Money has not filtered down to those in need. We, as a people, cannot sit and watch people die. Proactive steps need to be taken, and we're ready to take on the next challenge," Kirby Sommers states.

Although KHD began as a housing effort, we quickly realized housing wasn't enough. People and families had been stripped of everything; all were in need of food, transportation, clothes, medical care, counseling, and more. Our "Home Angels" became the only life-link for many Katrina victims. "Home Angels"

frantically emptied out their own medicine cabinets, maxed out their personal credit cards, raided their bank accounts, and became vehicles of information as well as a bridge to a world suddenly lost by hundreds of thousands of displaced people everywhere. "The most devastating and most underserved catastrophe this nation has silently witnessed," Ms. Sommers declares. "But," she adds, "We are turning our focus to raising money to ensure all who need a hand up receive it with dignity."

9

<http://www.lucianne.com/threads2.asp?artnum=371847>

Federal funds to help Katrina evacuees

Houston Chronicle, by Mike Synder

[Original Article](#)

Posted By: [Totally Texan](#), 11/23/2007 9:13:29 AM

Thousands of tenants in 54 Houston apartment developments will soon benefit from enhanced public safety services funded with part of a \$60 million federal allocation to help Houston and Harris County pay for Hurricane Katrina recovery. However, 60 displaced families living in one of those developments have been ordered to leave their apartments by Dec. 1 because their landlord has chosen not to participate in a new house assistance program.

Comments:

Millions to enhance security for Katrina evacuees. What about the security of the citizens of Houston? Two more murders last week by evacuees. If we are going to spend all this money on the evacuees then bus them all home to New Orleans and pass out the freebies there. Sorry we ever agreed to take them in. Now we stuck with low lifes!

Reply 1 - Posted by: [guitarzan](#), 11/23/2007 9:19:56 AM

All these loser slackers needed was an address to receive their welfare checks. They aren't going anywhere so Houston is stuck with them. Busing them back to NO is a good idea but the ghetto is gone. I'm burnt out on Katrina victim/evacuee slackers. Let's hear about Mississippi's success. I guess we won't because it's Republican. I say not another taxpayers dollar for these losers.

Reply 2 - Posted by: [SP101_357](#), 11/23/2007 9:25:58 AM

How much has been spent on these leeches already? Are they now all wards of the state/feds? I'm weary of the New Orleans grifters; how about some stories about the bootstrappers in Mississippi who seem to be able to cope with adversity the way Americans did in the past. Enough....

Reply 3 - Posted by: [dubvarules](#), 11/23/2007 9:31:13 AM

I live in Memphis where crime is very high. After Katrina, things here went from bad to worse. Once upon a time, I despised Ray Nagin. However, after I heard him ask "his people" to come back and make a "chocolate city" I had to rethink my position on Nagin. If he encourages "his people" to leave Memphis - he can't be all bad. I just wish they would take some of their local criminal friends with them.

10

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/mnogo/bin/search.cgi?q=efforts>

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20. [Report to Congress on Adoption and Other Permanency Outcomes
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<http://www.nbnnews.com/NBN/issues/2007-06-18/Endowment/2.html>

National Housing Endowment:
Building Associations and helping to rebuild the Gulf Coast. This is a on line news paper
which give information on this subject.

12

http://katrinahelp.info/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Access

- This wiki is [actively monitored](#) for spam and
vandalism.

- Except for a few active pages (listed below), all of the pages on this wiki are protected.
- If you wish to edit a protected page on this wiki, [leave a request here](#) with a sample of what you want to add or edit. After your changes are made, the page will be reviewed and reprotected.
- All new pages will be protected or removed.

Jobs Offered

- Mar 18, 2007 - Skilled Tradesmen Needed With Excellent Pay/Benefits
- Dec 24, 2006 - Local Craftsmen/Tradesmen Needed to Rebuild MS Gulf Coast
- Sep 20, 2006 - Sell fabrics from home
- Aug 25, 2006 - Dallas TX hiring truck drivers
- Jul 7, 2006 - Tugboat Mates Wanted

[More details ...](#)

Housing Offered

- Feb 13, 2007 - Exchange Room & Board for Help in Ozarks

Help Needed

- Jul 25, 2007 - St. Bernard Louisiana: Urgent need Help!!
- Jul 12, 2007 - East Texas: Urgent need for job and rent assistance
- Jul 09, 2007 - Family needs rent assistance
- Jul 08, 2007 - MA Disabled survivor looking for housing
- Jun 19, 2007 - AL Family needs clothes
- Jun 12, 2007 - NH survivor family needs food and rent
- May 29, 2007 - Biloxi, MS survivors need food and funds
- May 28, 2007 - Morton, MS couple needs rent, food, and medicine
- May 17, 2007 - MS evacuee in NE needs relocation assistance
- May 05, 2007 - Survivor family needs essentials - Spring Grove, IL

- Apr 30, 2007 - Couple in Ohio needs help returning to Louisiana
- Apr 28, 2007 - Heart attack triggers unusual situation
- Apr 12, 2007 - Longbeach, MS - Disabled firefighter and family needs help
- Apr 04, 2007 - Gulfport, MS - Water damaged home needs repair

[Previous requests and more details ...](#)

Manpower & Volunteers Offered

- Apr 19, 2007 - Couple volunteer to help in Louisiana
- Jan 06, 2007 - Willing to help out
- Sep 26, 2006 - Cabinet shop offers help
- Sep 11, 2006 - Offer of rebuilding assistance

13

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Home-Loans-and-Mortgages---Help-for-Hurricane-Katrina-Victims&id=69873>

Home Loans and Mortgages - Help for Hurricane Katrina Victims

By [Charles Essmeier](#) ★

Hurricane Katrina swept through the Gulf Coast region recently and left nothing but destruction in her wake. Thousands of people are homeless, jobless and penniless, and it is not currently known how long the local economy will take to recover. Adding to the problems associated with being displaced and having no job is the fact that most of these thousands of displaced families have homes with mortgages that need to be paid. For them, help will be available.

In the last five years, home prices have skyrocketed, and that has made basic home ownership more of a burden than in years past. Thanks to a slew of new loan options, more Americans own their homes than ever before, but the high prices mean that a larger portion of monthly income goes towards the mortgage. This makes it harder on homeowners when disaster strikes, and Hurricane Katrina has done just that. Not only are thousands homeless, but they still owe regular payments on mortgages for homes that may no longer even exist!

For them, there is help. Several large mortgage companies, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and mortgage investors Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have announced plans to offer assistance to distressed homeowners in the region affected by the hurricane. The offers will vary from lender to lender and the FDIC's recommendations were merely guidelines, though most mortgage lenders will probably go along with them. These guidelines include suspending payments for several months, reducing payments for some period of time, and/or possibly changing the payback terms of the loan.

Each lender will establish their own rules for how they may help their customers, but no help will be offered unless the homeowners contact the lenders first. Anyone who has been displaced by Hurricane Katrina or has had his or her home damaged or destroyed by the storm should call their lender to notify them about the situation. In all likelihood, the lender can offer some sort of assistance that can help ease the burden caused by this disastrous storm.

©Copyright 2005 by Retro Marketing. Charles Essmeier is the owner of Retro Marketing, a firm devoted to informational Websites, including HomeEquityHelp.com, a site devoted to information regarding [mortgages and home equity loans](#).

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Charles_Essmeier

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<http://www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org/>

Bush Clinton Katrina Fund at Work in the Gulf Coast

Bush Clinton Katrina Fund (BCKF) grantees are working throughout the Gulf Coast improving the lives of those harmed by Hurricane Katrina. The grantees are rebuilding schools and libraries, rehabilitating housing, building new houses, helping people get back to work, providing mental and medical health services, educating youth and helping ensure that the region's rich culture and heritage remain distinguishing characteristics of the Gulf region.

With the support of thousands of Americans, hundreds of companies, and donors the world over, more than \$130 million has been raised as of July 31, 2007. BCKF is proud of the fact that 100% of all contributions received are being used for grant-making.

As Presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton announced when creating the Fund, contributions are being used to:

- provide assistance to institutions of higher education (\$30 million);
- to help the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to rebuild and recover (\$40 million);
- to support interfaith houses of worship (\$25 million); and
- to support other health, housing, education, and community needs (\$35 million.)

For a list of our current grantees by award category, please click the links below:

Higher Education Grants, [please click here](#)

State Grants, [please click here](#)

Interfaith Institutions, [please click here](#)

Other Grants, [please click here](#)

http://current.com/items/87326971_help_katrina_survivors_come_home

Help Katrina Survivors Come Home

<http://www.colorofchange.org/s1668/?id=1826-83838>

Public housing residents have been blocked from returning home for over two years. The Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act of 2007 (HR 1227 / S. 1668) would help them come home by repairing and opening thousands of minimally damaged public housing units. The bill passed in the House of Representatives, but some senators are standing in the way of the bill, supporting the interests of those who would like to see a richer, Whiter New Orleans and Gulf Coast. Demand that your senator protect affordable housing in the Gulf Coast by supporting S. 1668 now.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1929685/posts>

Federal funds to help Katrina tenants

[Houston Chronicle](#) ^ | 11-23-07 | MIKE SNYDER

Posted on **11/23/2007 11:15:23 AM PST** by [Snickering Hound](#)

Thousands of tenants in 54 Houston apartment developments will soon benefit from enhanced public safety services funded with part of a \$60 million federal allocation to help Houston and Harris County pay for Hurricane Katrina recovery.

However, 60 displaced families living in one of those developments have been ordered to leave their apartments by Dec. 1 because their landlord has chosen not to participate in a new housing assistance program.

City and county officials confirmed that the St. Charles Apartments, 9000 Fondren, is one of 68 Houston properties that will stop housing evacuees receiving federal assistance when the new program begins Dec. 1. The development's manager did not respond to requests for comment.

Scotty Johnson, 36, has lived at the St. Charles complex since Katrina forced him out of his New Orleans home more than two years ago. Johnson said it would be hard to move because he hasn't found work and has no car.

He said the increased security services would be welcome if he were staying at the St. Charles. Burglars recently broke into his apartment and stole a television, jewelry and other items, he said.

Another tenant, Rena Victorian, an accounts payable clerk who pays her own rent, said the management's decision to force evacuees to leave angered her.

"Try losing everything you have and moving to a city you know nothing about," said Victorian, who has lived in the development for 13 years. "When my lease is up here, I'll be gone."

The Houston Police Department is assigning liaison officers to work with tenants and managers to prevent and respond to crime in areas of Houston with heavy concentrations of evacuees. The city is using \$20 million from a \$60 million allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds to pay for the program. The funds would also pay for overtime for increased patrols in those areas.

Some assistance available Assistant Chief John Trevino, who is in charge of the program, said he was unaware that the St. Charles would not participate in the federal housing assistance program until a reporter informed him. Trevino said the development's participation in the security program would be reviewed, but it would probably be appropriate to provide the services if the St. Charles continued to house evacuees who are paying rent.

Officials of the Harris County Housing Authority, the agency administering the housing program for most Houston-area evacuees, said they were providing relocation assistance to tenants in the St. Charles and other developments that are pulling out of the housing assistance program.

However, the agency has no money available to help pay for security and utility deposits, which are difficult for many evacuees to pay, said Guy Rankin, the housing authority's executive director.

In fall 2005, when as many as 200,000 evacuees streamed into Houston, the local apartment market had a high vacancy rate and the sudden influx of new tenants was beneficial, industry leaders have said.

Today, however, the apartment market is stronger. In addition, some landlords are worried that evacuees will be unable to contribute to their own rent, which federal officials will require starting in March, said Andy Teas, vice president of public affairs for the Houston Apartment Association.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's emergency housing program, which will end Nov. 30, did not require payments from evacuees. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is taking over the program, will require payments starting at \$50 a month and increasing by that amount each month, up to full market rent, until the program ends in March 2009.

Families with a hardship can seek a waiver of the payment requirement.

The plan for spending the \$60 million in federal funds, submitted by city and county officials early this year, calls for using \$20 million to fix up aging, run-down units in developments where evacuees have been housed. Harris County will use another \$20 million to reimburse the county hospital district for evacuee medical expenses and to provide additional beds in facilities where offenders are treated for mental health and substance abuse problems.

The Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service, an advocacy group for the poor, has criticized the use of the federal funds for these services, saying the most pressing need is for long-term housing assistance for evacuees.

Complex needs Without such help, leaders of the organization say, many evacuees who are poor and have limited job skills will join thousands of other low-income Houstonians living in substandard housing or languishing on public housing waiting lists.

John Henneberger, the organization's co-director, told a congressional subcommittee meeting in Houston in October that the city and county were spending the federal funds on non-urgent, public-safety related activities that do not provide housing for evacuees.

Henneberger said this week that using these funds for public safety is particularly inappropriate in an apartment complex that is forcing evacuees who need assistance to move.

Mayor Bill White and other officials, however, said their plans for the funds reflect the complexity of evacuees' needs.

"Housing addresses but one component of disaster response," White said in a letter to Henneberger. "The City of Houston and Harris County have had to confront all of the needs confronting Hurricane Katrina evacuees."

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<http://www.thekatrinacall.org/>

Latest News

Highrise Account Donated for Contact Management
Co-Activity in the Rebuilding of New Orleans: A Natural Partnership
Welcome
November 2006 Newsletter
August 2006 Newsletter

Co-Activity in the Rebuilding of New Orleans: A Natural Partnership

Written by Kate Rivera
Friday, 27 April 2007

Katrina: America's Storm; America's Call

The Katrina Call Initiative was begun in September, 2005 by a group of Co-Active Coaches and Leaders in response to Hurricane Katrina. Our intention was to create and sustain a connection between those directly impacted by the storm, and the rest of America.

We have done this through weekly phone conversations between Katrina survivors and those wanting to offer support and witness. This has been a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved, and we hope you will want to join us. More information is listed below.

We have also published two on line newsletters about Katrina and some of the efforts, responses and needs that have followed. We will be publishing a new edition in the next few weeks which will highlight successes and accomplishments happening in New Orleans.

We also offer volunteer coaching to people needing support as they rebuild their lives and communities. To learn more, please read our newsletters, "The Katrina Call", by following the links listed below. If you are unable to access these through this webpage, please contact us at the contact listed below and we will be happy to send copies.

The true disaster of Katrina is still playing out and the need for help is, if anything, now more acute. Right now, there are many people in New Orleans who, against astonishing odds, are recreating their beloved and unique city. But they can't do it alone. Please help these Katrina survivors sustain their courage and their energy by supporting

our Coaching and Leadership Project. Katrina was America's storm, and New Orleans is America's city. This important, resilient, and, by now, tired and heart-sore city still needs us all.

There are many ways to help. People often say they would like to help but aren't sure how. The next article has information and details about our leadership program and our newsletters describe many other opportunities. One simple and effective thing you can do is to send a note to your friends and contacts. Tell them about us and share our website address. We will appreciate that, and we think your friends will too. Thank you.

New Orleans And CO-Activity:A Natural Partnership

The Katrina Call Initiative was created in response to the virtual destruction of the metropolitan New Orleans area during and after Hurricane Katrina. Our intention was to offer our skills as coaches, listeners, leaders, and leadership trainers to people affected by this disaster. During the eighteen months that have passed between then and now, we, and all of America, have seen just how much attention and help is still needed by this important, courageous, resilient and, by now, tired and heart-sore city.

We all wish we could say that this is yesterday's news but, unfortunately, it's not. The true disaster of Katrina is still playing out and the need for help is, if anything, now more acute. Right now, there are many people in New Orleans who, against astonishing odds, are recreating their beloved and unique city. But they can't do it alone. They need help—especially the kind of help that we, as Co-Active coaches, can offer with our experience, skills, presence and intention. Two of the most significant gifts that we have to offer as coaches are that we know how to inspire leadership and how to help people sustain their courage. Our friends in New Orleans tell us that these gifts are deeply needed.

This is where you come in.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS !!!

* We are now accepting applications for experienced, committed Co-Active coaches able to offer volunteer coaching to one or two coachees for a period of four to six months. The leadership team of this project will work closely with you to create the best possible experience for you as well as for those you coach.

* Other opportunities

* Technical help, website design.

* Consider becoming a member of our core team. Bring your creativity, inspiration and dedication.

* We need people with writing skills for:

- Articles and interviews for our newsletter, The Katrina Call

- Public relations outreach

- Website updates

* Financial, fundraising, and administrative skills.

* Whatever skill you have that you can imagine will be helpful, can be. You'll be creating and working with a committed, fun and energetic group who will welcome and appreciate you.

* Please also consider making a financial contribution. We welcome monetary contributions to help cover travel and other related expenses; publishing and phone expenses. Frequent Flyer miles are very welcome.

We will soon begin a six month coaching initiative, followed by an on-site Leadership training in New Orleans in November. We will be working with various community leaders: at first, individual coaching; and then, leadership training in a team setting. Our intention is to bring conscious co-activity to a small group of activists and leaders already functioning co-actively, creatively and with proven ability to be naturally resourceful. Our "assertion" is that Co-Activity is a natural fit for this moment and this place.

We've been in touch with some great folks: committed, on the ground activists working in the schools and neighborhood centers; housing advocacy groups; arts groups; library rebuilding efforts; youth leadership teams; environmental efforts. There are people working in all the multiple domains needed to plan and carry out the enormous task of rebuilding lives, homes and communities.

If you are looking to make a meaningful contribution in a real life major situation, please join us and offer your heart and your skills to our endeavor.

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<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=34915>

Chateau De Notre Dame Nursing Home Recuperates From Katrina With Help From Fema Funds

Over \$3 million recently obligated to the facility

Release Date: March 19, 2007
Release Number: 1603-612

[» More Information on Louisiana Hurricane Katrina](#)
[» More Information on Louisiana Hurricane Rita](#)

NEW ORLEANS, La. -- When Hurricane Katrina ripped through Louisiana in August of 2005, the Chateau de Notre Dame nursing facility in New Orleans was one of its many casualties. Today, with the help of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the nursing home is once again open and ready to serve the city's retired and elderly citizens.

The hurricane's high winds and extreme flooding caused nearly total destruction of the facility, with floodwaters rising to almost 16 inches inside the building. Today, most of the residents have returned, and the facility is once again a prominent site on Burdette Street.

These latest funds from FEMA – totaling over **\$3.2 million** – will help reimburse the Archdiocese of New Orleans for work that encompasses two major areas: repairs to bring Chateau de Notre Dame back to its pre-disaster function and capacity, and mitigation measures designed to reduce the threat of future mold damage. Work done on the facility includes extensive repairs to the building's roof and siding. Tools and rental equipment were also replaced, and items such as sinks, tubs, walk-in freezers and wood shelving, among others, were either restored or replaced. In addition, high-humidity ceiling tiles and flood-proof doors were installed, and several living units were raised above the current flood levels, in order to reduce the potential for mold in the future.

The Chateau de Notre Dame nursing home is a 171-bed Medicare facility that accepts both independent living residents and those that need assistance. In addition to a regular nursing home and apartments, the site also houses a chapel, dining room, rehab gym, gift shop and beauty shop. It has been in existence since October of 1977.

When projects are obligated by FEMA, the funds are transferred to a Smartlink account. This allows the state to work with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) as quickly as possible to access the monies and distribute them to the local applicants. The state may require additional documentation from the applicant before disbursements are made.

The Public Assistance program works with state and local officials to fund recovery measures and the rebuilding of government and certain private nonprofit organizations' buildings and recreation centers, as well as roads, bridges and water and sewer plants. In order for the process to be successful, federal, state and local partners coordinate to draw up project plans, fund these projects and oversee their completion.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/03/27/katrina/main2613321.shtml>

Post-Katrina Charity Starts With A Home

Relief Groups Help Rebuild Lives After Storm, One Stud At A Time

Eighteen candles will adorn the birthday cake, but Glenn Locklin won't be there to see his oldest daughter make a wish. Instead, he'll be standing on a muddy patch of land 500 miles away, making dreams come true for another family, rebuilding hurricane-ravaged lives while putting his own life on hold. With great love comes great sacrifice — one he's made without question. His wife and daughters make their own sacrifice. And so it goes for families all over the country, separated not by Katrina's wrath, but by the compassion that grew in her wake.

Locklin, a burly, soft-spoken contractor from Tennessee and project manager for the charity organization One House at a Time, has been in Pearlington, Miss., since January 2006, leaving his wife, three teenage girls, and a thriving business to fulfill what he says is his Christian duty: rebuilding homes in the rural town, population 1,684 before the storm, hovering around half that now. No tax base remains, just 200 square miles of blacktop snaking through wooded scrubland bejeweled with Spanish moss. Many residents are elderly. Nearly a third are disabled. Strong hands like Locklin's have been vital to recovery. He works seven

days a week, 10 hours a day. Every two months, he goes home for a visit. No matter how hard it gets, he returns.

He's not alone. State officials estimate as many as 500,000 people have come to provide hands-on assistance since Katrina. The federal government has provided relief money — some \$26 billion to Mississippi alone — but it's the hearts and hands of everyday people that are putting storm-torn lives back together.

Kris Locklin, Glenn's wife, says the family is committed to the cause, even more so after spending Thanksgiving here and seeing the devastation — and progress — firsthand. Still, it's hard. Discipline and grade problems have surfaced at home. Their middle daughter is transitioning from home schooling to her freshman year in public high school. Their 12-year-old is struggling emotionally. As for Mrs. Locklin, she's given up a lot of things she used to enjoy because there's not enough time. Always fiercely independent, she's become more so, learning to repair the lawn mower and toilet. The family goes on, which is both reassuring and painful.

"He comes home and feels like he doesn't belong here because we've developed our own system without him," she says. "He goes back down there and feels like he doesn't belong because he doesn't. I listen to him cry on the phone, and I can't comfort him. Those are the hardest times."

And yet he says he has no choice but to be here. "When I got down here, it changed everything," he says. "It got personal. I know these families. I know the circumstances. I know the pain. The main goal is to get them back in their homes."

So far, his group — a charity run by the Hope Center Fellowship church in Hendersonville, Tenn. — has completed 16 houses. They are humble, 1,200-square-foot cottages that can be constructed from the ground up in less than a month. It takes about 60 volunteers and \$30,000 to complete one house. At the moment, Locklin has the hands but lacks the funds. He trades and borrows materials from other volunteer groups — some 45 relief organizations in a local coalition that share resources and information. While Locklin waits for donations to trickle in, he renovates houses that were damaged and finishes projects on houses they've already built.

The experience has changed him. "I used to always want — go to Wal-Mart and buy stupid things," he says. "It's taught me how to live better, but it's also very satisfying to help people."



It's the middle of nowhere and the hour is nothing, a sliver of time dutifully noted by the alarm clock's efficient blue glow. It's surprisingly cold here in Pearlinton, and the volunteers burrow more deeply into their bunks, grateful for the woolen blankets that stave off the chill. In the darkness, shadows rise and fall, punctuated by soft groans as worn bedsprings do what they can to help tired shoulders. This isn't the Four Seasons, but as far as volunteer camps go, this wooden bunkhouse is luxury accommodations, a home away from home.

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<http://campustechnology.com/articles/40475/>

Current News

Katrina: What Can We Do to Help; This Time and the Next?

8/31/2005

By Terry Calhoun

Well, this year it's not digital viruses hitting higher ed hard, it's a hurricane — right as the students returned or were about to. It's nightmarish to imagine your server room under 30 feet of water; or with its interior exposed to wind and

rain because a large tree fell on it. What IT staffers and others are experiencing at **Tulane University** and other places can only be imagined right now. But we'll be hearing more, for sure.

It's time for higher education IT folks to come up with a plan for an always-on Internet-based resource for assistance to institutions that have met with disasters. Nearly four years ago, immediately after 9/11, my employer, the Society for College and University Planning, had some success with an email list that connected lots of people on many campuses, including some on the affected campuses in New York City.

We know for sure that lots of folks connected through the "SCUP-EMP" (Emergency Management Planning) list and that the hardest-hit school, Manhattan Borough Community College was able to find extra tables, chairs, and even portable classrooms through the connections that staffers there made through the list.

We've just kicked off a "SCUP-KATRINA" list and expect that it will be a big help to at least some people, because there are far more institutions directly affected this time than before. Find out how to join that temporary email list. And especially if you have colleagues at the affected institutions, please let them know about it!

Tulane University is basically running a [blog as its home page](#); or at least it was as of Wednesday morning. Here's how its situation is described in terms of priorities:

1. "Our first priority during this time is the safety of our faculty, staff and students. Thankfully, everyone associated with the university is safe, including those of us who remain at Tulane.
2. Our second priority is to secure our facilities. As expected, our facilities have been damaged; however, based on our preliminary assessments, the majority of the damage can be remediated in a reasonable period of time. The uptown campus is covered with debris from fallen trees and shrubs, making it almost impossible to drive or even walk on campus. We have no power in any of the buildings other than a few where we control the power source.
3. Our third priority is to develop a recovery plan. This task is impaired right now by the devastation of the city and its infrastructure, and deteriorating further due to the flooding we are now facing. In addition, we don't know when our employees will be able to return to the city, much less to the university. Therefore, until conditions stabilize, it is impossible to do any longer term recovery planning. However, part of the responsibility of the senior leadership team in Jackson, MS is to begin the planning and they have done so."

As I write this I cannot even get a web page for the **University of Mississippi, Hattiesburg** or for **New Orleans University**, or for **Southeastern Louisiana University**. From **Louisiana State University** we hear of that institution's resources all tied up with providing emergency services to more affected areas

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<http://www.zeldman.com/2007/01/09/design-relief-katrina-corps/>

Design Relief: Katrina Corps

The [Katrina Corps](#) is a grassroots effort to accelerate the return of Katrina-affected families to their homes. Its initial goal is to send 25,000 college students to New Orleans over spring break as house-gutting volunteers. The [prospectus \(PDF\)](#) explains:

At the current rate of volunteers, the workforce on which rebuilding rests, it will take years to gut the 10,000 currently wait-listed homes in New Orleans. Gutting is the critical first step towards rebuilding.

Displaced families want to come back to their homes. Each wait-listed home represents a family that longs to return, and needs to return.

Beckon a generation to demonstrate that "IMPOSSIBLE is NOTHING" while experiencing hands-on citizenship by taking on the Katrina Challenge and contributing to the rebuilding of New Orleans—a place of extreme reality, extreme challenge, and extreme opportunity.

In addition to hands-on help, the fledgling organization also needs web design help. And they need it fast.

They're not looking for a six-month build with three months of testing. They don't need fancy design or flashy features. They just need a good, simple website.

If your skills are up to snuff and you'd like to help, [holler](#).

Tags: [katrina](#), [volunteer](#), [help](#), [neworleans](#), [Katrina Corps](#), [webdesign](#)

Filed under: [war, peace, and justice](#), [design](#)

12 Responses to "Design Relief: Katrina Corps"

1. [Patrick B](#) said on [January 9th, 2007 at 4:21 pm](#):

I just sent them an e-mail to ask how I could help.

Thanks for promoting their efforts!

2. [Amanda Kern](#) said on [January 9th, 2007 at 4:43 pm](#):

This sounds like a very interesting project for our web & interactive design students. I've sent on information to the contact person. It's definitely a worthy cause!

Thanks for sharing...

3. [WinExtra » A bandwagon worth jumping on](#) said on [January 9th, 2007 at 7:32 pm](#):

[...] the fact that much of New Orleans and surrounding parishes are still struggling to recover from this year old disaster speaks more about those in power not giving a damn and loving red tape more than the people they are suppose to represent. Jeffery Zeldman brings it to the foreground with a post about a grassroots effort called Katrina Corps that is trying to accelerate the dismal return rate of affected families. [...]

4. **Jacob Patton** said on January 9th, 2007 at 9:04 pm:

What a great cause! I'm on it...!

5. **J.S. Feguson** said on January 9th, 2007 at 11:14 pm:

I'd like to help out, unfortunately the site is down.

6. **Derek** said on January 9th, 2007 at 11:34 pm:

This sounds great, however the website appears to be down. If anyone has any info please contact me. legalnonresident@yahoo.com

7. **Jeffrey Zeldman** said on January 10th, 2007 at 6:24 am:

I'd like to help out, unfortunately the site is down.

See, they really do need our help!

(I've written to my Katrina Corps contact to inform him of the problem.)

8. **Jeffrey Zeldman** said on January 10th, 2007 at 11:54 am:

The Katrina site is back up. Potential volunteers can also write to tim at o2b dot net.

9. **Katrina Corps is looking for a web designer - Blogging New Orleans** said on January 10th, 2007 at 9:05 pm:

[...] to help out artist evacuees who needed a studio after the storm.[ReadPermalinkEmail thisLinking BlogsComments\[0\]](#) [...]

10. **Todd Lambert** said on January 14th, 2007 at 7:24 pm:

While I appreciate anyone who is willing to help others as a good thing, I sure do wish that organizations and groups such as this would recognize the areas that were actually hit by Hurricane Katrina rather than just the areas that were just hit by government ineptitude such as New Orleans.

In Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs and countless other areas here on the Mississippi gulf coast, there are complete cities leveled, entire neighborhoods removed from the map, infrastructure that will take years to be rebuilt. People that were not able to be re-located to other cities and are having to live on their vacant lots and empty slabs, homeless.

I would never want to take help away from others and that is not why I am writing this. I just wanted to illustrate that are countless others who are not getting help, and have not been nearly as visible in the national Katrina help efforts as New Orleans and the 9th Ward have been.

That said, thanks Jeffrey, for bringing light to these efforts regardless, I know they are much appreciated.

- Todd Lambert

-
11. ***2007 relief needs after Katrina - Web - WebCrawler*** said on March 26th, 2007 at 8:56 pm:

[...] 2007 relief needs after Katrina ... 1. Hurricane Relief Donate to Help Families Devastated by Hurricanes! - Learn More Sponsored by: www.WorldVision.org/ [Found on Ads by Google] 2. Jeffrey Zeldman Presents : Design Relief: Katrina Corps 12 Responses to "Design Relief: Katrina Corps". Patrick B said on January 9th, 2007 at 4:21 pm: . I just sent them an e-mail to ask how I could help. ... [...]

-
12. ***Ally*** said on June 13th, 2007 at 5:23 am:
-

This is a great cause and it'll be good to see everyone grouping together to help out. I have fairly good web design skills so will look into contributing when I am at home. Thanks for posting this.

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<http://www.scruggskatrinagroup.com/>

Scruggs Katrina Group Information

[Scruggs Katrina Group](#) is comprised of Mississippi attorneys who either experienced Katrina-related losses to their homes, or whose family or friends did. If you or someone you care about experienced Katrina losses, and you are unhappy with the insurance company's handling of claims, we may be able to help. Contact us at answers@scruggskatrinagroup.com or at 601 898 7302.

If you have information on the commission of fraud during the post-Katrina recovery, please call the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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<http://www.gulfive.com/news/mississippipress/index.ssf?/base/news/1191838521289150.xml>

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NEWS

Sales tax collections, home sales point to economic rebound after Katrina

Monday, October 08, 2007

By VETO F. ROLEY

The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA -- Sales tax numbers and home sales over the last two years suggests Jackson and George counties are rapidly rebounding from Hurricane Katrina.

"There are economic development numbers that suggest a miraculous recovery," said George Freeland, executive director of the Jackson County Economic Development Agency. "There are numbers that indicate the county has made substantial rebuilding progress since Katrina."

Freeland said when he first saw the damage following Katrina there was despair.

"You couldn't help but be disheartened and discouraged," he said. "You couldn't see the industrial sector, how it would be this far ahead long-term."

But, he said the county quickly rebuilt itself, and the numbers show it.

According to the Mississippi State Tax Commission Web site, Pascagoula, Moss Point, Gautier, Ocean Springs and Lucedale show significant sales tax increases since 2005. Sales taxes are collected by the state and then dispersed to the various cities in the state.

Gautier, collected 43 percent more from January through July in 2007 over the same period in 2005, and Ocean Springs, with 37 percent, showed the largest growth. Moss Point was up 18 percent and Pascagoula rose 23.

Lucedale was in the middle, collecting 29 percent more sales taxes in the first half of 2007 compared to the same period in 2005.

In real numbers, Gautier collected \$1.766 million in sales taxes over the first seven months in 2007. In the first seven months of 2005, the city collected just under \$1.232 million.

For Lucedale, the 2007 numbers are \$1.176 million and for 2005, \$914,000.

Pascagoula collected nearly \$759,000 more over the first seven months in 2007 than it did in 2005, when the city collected just under \$3.275 million. Ocean Springs also benefited from increased sales, receiving \$3.096 million through July 2007 from the state versus \$2.267 million through July 2005.

After failing to break the \$1 million mark from 1996 to 2005, with 2005 revenues through July totaling just over \$856,000, Moss Point received over \$1 million in 2006 and 2007, receiving \$1.08 million through July of this year.

Most of the growth in sales taxes came in 2006 when residents were purchasing replacements for items lost during Katrina. All five municipalities showed a decline in sales tax receipts over the first seven months of this year compared to the same time period in 2006.

Gautier showed the biggest decline, with sales taxes lagging nearly 20 percent off the 78 percent increase in 2006. Pas-cagoula was also off by double digits in 2007, with sales tax revenues falling when compared to the first seven months of 2006.

Moss Point sales taxes were down about 6.4 percent. Lucedale, down 2.62 percent, and Ocean Springs, down 2.33 percent, were running close to the numbers the cities experienced the year following Katrina.

Home sales have also been rising in recent years. According to sales numbers provided by Mark Cumbest, owner-broker of Cumbest Realty Inc., there were 203 more houses sold in 2006 than in 2005, an increase of 10.4 percent.

The numbers are even greater when compared to 2003 real estate sales. In 2003, realtors sold 1,392 houses and 203 parcels of land. In 2005, realtors sold 1,951 houses and 393 parcels of land. And, in 2006, the latest year for which full year figures are available, real estate agents sold 2,154 houses and 407 parcels of land.

The numbers provided by Cumbest only include houses and parcels sold by licensed real estate agents and do not include homes and parcels sold by individual owners. The numbers include all homes sold in Jackson and George counties.

From 2005 to 2003, 40 percent more houses were sold and 94 percent more land was sold. In the three years from 2006 to 2003, house sales increased 55 percent and land sales doubled.

The first few months of 2007, though, has seen a decrease in the number of house sales. Through Aug. 22, 2007, only 1,050 homes and 207 land parcels have been sold.

Cumbest said the single biggest factor in the reduction of demand in Jackson and George counties is worries about insurance costs.

While insurance costs have skyrocketed along the Coast since Katrina, Cumbest said they may be stabilizing in the near future.

"If we can get through this season without a major storm, we have a good chance of having a better market next year," he said. "If we can get through without a major storm, hopefully we can get more companies to write insurance policies in the area."

Cumbest also said building procedures can help drive down insurance costs. He said he just finished building a retail building in Pascagoula, Singing River Village, that was "semi-wind resistance." The building materials used, steel, glass and block bricks, stand up better to winds than traditional construction.

He was able to insure the building at half of what it would cost to insure a traditionally-built building. He said the price to build the building was not that much higher than a traditionally-built building.

"We had to pay a little more," said Cumbest, who is chairman of the Mississippi Real Estate Commission and sits on a number of other state and federal boards, "but, it wasn't that much more."

Moves by the federal government to establish a nationwide catastrophic insurance system that would pay for more than floods also looked promising, he said.

Problems within the sub-prime market are affecting the Coast as well, he said, but not as much as they are affecting the national housing market. The sub-prime market used adjustable rate loans to allow buyers to purchase houses using low interest rates and then upping the interest rate, and payment, a few years after the loan closed.

Nationwide, many people have not been able to meet the increased payments and have defaulted on their loans.

Cumbest, who first opened his office Sept. 1, 1972, said the demand for housing along the Coast was stronger than the sub-prime forces pulling demand down.

"There is very strong demand for housing," he said. "What we have seen is a very active market along the Gulf Coast particularly north of Interstate 10."

And, if insurance rates can stabilize, Cumbest said he expects to see the market to quickly pick back up.

"People are primarily wanting to stay in this area," Cumbest said, saying the strongest growth in sales since Katrina is away from the Coast and just inland. "They want to remain in close proximity to the Coast, within driving distance."

Freeland said the lack of affordable housing in the area and the increasing cost of living, including insurance, could throw the recovery off track.

Industry, he said, needed places where their workers could live. Freeland said managers and other executives had their choices of places to live, but the area still needs affordable housing stocks.

The high cost of living is also making it difficult for businesses to attract and keep workers, Freeland said.

Part of the answer, he said, is time. As developers continue to rebuild the 60,000 homes lost along the Coast, affordable housing will be rebuilt. As the area continues to distance itself from Katrina, costs will stabilize, he said.

Local officials needed to actively support affordable housing and means to lower the cost of living along the Coast, he said.

"Obviously, part of the solution is time," he said. "But, we have to meet the challenges of workforce development, affordable housing and costs. If we do not meet those challenges, the recovery will be threatened."

Reporter Veto F. Roley can be reached at vroley@themississippipress.com or (228) 934-1427.

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http://www.oprah.com/uyl/katrina/uyl_katrina_main.jhtml

O Philanthropy

Building Oprah Katrina Homes

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Oprah asked her viewers to open their hearts and they did. As of August 2007, donations to Oprah's Angel Network in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita total \$15.6 million. Over the past two years, nearly 300 homes have been built or restored in eight communities across four states—Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama

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HOW TO HELP



Join Oprah's Angel Network and other organizations in the effort to rebuild homes and rebuild lives around the world. [Donate today.](#)

FIRST BOOK

Hundreds of thousands of children affected by Hurricane Katrina lost everything, including their precious books. See how Oprah's Angel Network and First Book's Book Relief program are [putting new books into the hands of America's smallest survivors.](#)

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http://eventsforkatrinareliefsupport.blogspot.com/2007_05_27_archive.html

'KATRINA' VICTIMS SUPPORT

Sunday, May 27, 2007

Millions in aid New Orleans banked on to help rebuild in doubt

NEW ORLEANS -- It seems "grossly inappropriate" for the state to consider using millions of dollars in federal aid meant to rebuild cities after the 2005 hurricanes to help bail out the state's troubled homeowner assistance program, New Orleans' recovery director said Saturday.

Ed Blakely told The Associated Press officials from the Louisiana Recovery Authority promised the city a share of that estimated \$775 million, about \$324 million, if the government waived a local-match requirement for federal rebuilding dollars.

Congress passed a waiver Thursday as part of about \$3.6 billion in hurricane recovery aid included in a larger war spending bill. But with Louisiana facing a possible shortfall of nearly \$3 billion in its "Road Home" program, that money may be needed so the program can continue providing rebuilding grants or buy outs to eligible, hurricane-affected homeowners, Natalie Wyeth, a spokeswoman for the LRA, said.

"Our first obligation is to make sure our commitments to homeowners under the Road Home program are met," Wyeth said Saturday. She didn't comment on whether promises were made to New Orleans regarding any sharing of those dollars.

The issue is likely to come up at an LRA board meeting June 7, she said. If LRA

backs using the money for Road Home, state and federal officials likely will still need to sign off. Gov. Kathleen Blanco wants Congress to cover the projected shortfall but would support redirecting the funds eyed by local leaders for their rebuilding plans to Road Home, her spokeswoman said.

LRA has estimated that \$775 million in federal funds was set aside to help local governments cover their 10-percent match requirement but said it is essentially off-limits because of the bureaucracy involved in tapping it. State and local officials had championed a waiver as a way to cut red tape _ to help speed the rebuilding of roads, public buildings and other infrastructure _ and to free up that money for other hurricane-related efforts, such as community rebuilding plans.

But redirecting money to Road Home could severely limit local rebuilding efforts in places like New Orleans and hard-hit St. Bernard Parish, officials said.

Craig Taffaro, a St. Bernard Parish councilman, said the parish also was expecting more rebuilding money if the match were waived. If they don't get it, it could force officials to choose between investing in services it provides to residents and the repair of infrastructure. "That's a difficult situation, obviously," he said.

New Orleans' \$1.1 billion rebuilding proposal, announced in late March, counts on the \$324 million to move forward. Blakely said the worst-case scenario is that without that money or additional resources, the city doesn't move beyond the 17 "target" zones identified in the plan. But he also said he wasn't going to scale back his expectations for rebuilding.

"Even if you take the \$300 million and put it in the Road Home pot, it still doesn't solve the problem, does it?" Blakely said. "They need a bigger solution than robbing the city of its future."

Money has been a major issue in New Orleans' recovery from Hurricane Katrina, which hit in August 2005. The cash-strapped city has been relying, in part, on loans to operate _ some of which it hopes to have forgiven by the federal government. And much of the progress that's been made so far has been driven at the neighborhood level as a result of private, personal initiative.

The city has about half its pre-Hurricane Katrina population, according to a recent estimate, and sections of New Orleans remain devastated.

For months, state, local and federal officials said Road Home was too slow to disburse homeowner aid _ and, in turn, slowing the recovery of communities. Now it appears a choice may need to be made between helping residents return and helping cities give them something more to come home to.

Given the situation Road Home is in, "it seems grossly inappropriate to suggest that the resources that were dedicated to the cities should be used for the state to bail it out of its error," Blakely said.

The head of the federal Gulf Coast rebuilding office recently told a congressional subcommittee that Road Home is facing a shortfall because the state is giving aid to many homeowners who weren't supposed to be eligible. But LRA's executive director said Road Home was meant to help residents whose houses had major damage, regardless of whether it was caused by water or winds, and blamed the projected shortfall on flawed data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Wyeth said LRA remains committed to helping the city and other hurricane-hit areas get the money they need to implement their recovery plans.

Blakely said the city needs the partnership of state and federal government to move forward: "We don't have magic here."

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<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art4685.asp>



Cleaning Site

Kathryn Weber

BellaOnline's Cleaning Editor

Hurricane Katrina -- Disaster Cleaning Tips Help Make Home Livable Again

Housecleaning is always a chore, but after a disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina, clean-up is key to getting everyone back on their feet and living as normally – and safely – as possible again.

Proper cleaning is vital because of the likelihood of contamination from floodwater or storm surge. Illness and disease are a primary concern and that's why effective clean-up so important. This article makes cleaning recommendations for Hurricane Katrina victims to help them determine what to clean, how to clean, and ways to clean effectively, yet inexpensively. I know the trauma of hurricanes firsthand.

Living in North Carolina and on the Texas Gulf Coast, I've been through hurricanes, so I know what it's like to go days without a hot meal, a shower, a phone, or electricity. The worst part is your inability to think clearly about even simple steps and processes, like what to clean or how to go about cleaning in this kind of circumstance.

For those with homes who are starting to begin the clean-up process, here are some simple cleaning guidelines and tips to help you make you home habitable again.

Determine the type of water damage you have

Normally, the problems associated with hurricanes are related to water. Specifically, it's the type of water that determines how to begin the cleaning process. From the outset, victims should determine whether their water damage is from clean water or dirty water. If damage was done by rain water, then clean up is easier and usually only requires drying out the wet items.

If the water damage was from dirty water, such as storm surge or rising flood waters which could be contaminated by sewage, then the clean up must be more extensive and thorough. In the case of dirty water contamination, the Centers for Disease Control recommends that items such as mattresses, carpeting, carpet padding, upholstered furniture, foam and paper objects, and stuffed toys (unless they can be put in the washer with bleach) be

thrown away because they cannot be washed or disinfected.

Thorough cleaning only requires simple equipment and cleaners

It's not necessary to purchase expensive cleaning products in order to clean effectively and to decontaminate. In fact, only a few – but key – cleaning products are necessary to disinfect household surfaces and items.

These include laundry soap (for washing fabrics, sheets, and clothing), dish soap for all purpose washing, and bleach, such as Clorox. Dish soap and bleach can be purchased very inexpensively and can be used to make multiple gallons of disinfecting all-purpose cleaner.

To begin clean up, collect tools and cleaning equipment. Gather items such as buckets, rubber gloves and boots, eye goggles to protect eyes from splashes, paper towels, scrub brushes, rags, sponges, bleach, cleaners, trash bags, spray bottles, and fans for drying.

Recipe for Disinfecting Cleaner

In a bucket, add 1½ cups of bleach and two tablespoons of dish soap to one gallon of water.

Use this to fill spray bottles and create cleaning buckets. Empty hairspray or other spray bottles can be used to create your own cleaning sprays. Be sure to mark all bottles and buckets clearly with the contents and keep out of reach of children and pets. Never pour bleach or bleach water into any other cleaners, especially if they contain ammonia, as this can cause dangerous, toxic fumes.

Contain contamination with three bucket cleaning

When you're ready to begin cleaning, be sure to use a three bucket cleaning system. This will help keep clean water "clean" and dirty water "dirty." Rinse rags, sponges, and mops in the clean water bucket and wring out into the "dirty water bucket."

You'll also want to have a soaking bucket of bleach and soapy water where rags, sponges, and mops can be placed after use to clean these items. The three bucket system will help you prevent the spread of contamination. It's also important to keep children and pets out of the house while you're

cleaning and decontaminating.

When you clean, be sure to wipe down all hard surfaces, especially in areas like the kitchen where you eat. Every surface in the kitchen should be wiped down, including the inside of ovens, stoves, refrigerators, and dishwashers, countertops, cabinets, and sinks.

Wash all dishes with dish soap and a teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water used. If you have electricity and can use a dishwasher, add soap and then add 1/2 cup of bleach to the wash cycle to disinfect dishes and utensils.

When cleaning walls and other household surfaces, always work from top to bottom. Use the bleach and dish soap solution to mop floors with, always being sure to wring dirty water into the dirty water bucket. If possible, use hot water to clean with. Make sure wood furniture, floors, concrete, walls, woodwork, doors, and windows are all washed.

Be sure to wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from chemicals and from contamination. Wear rubber boots if your home had flooding or storm surge and be sure to clean both gloves and boots each day after using. If you are interested in just washing your hands, the CDC recommends using ½ teaspoon of bleach into a gallon of water to use for hygiene purposes.

From my heart to your home

If you have gone through Katrina and have any other cleaning questions, or there is any way I can help or assist you, please email me. My family's prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

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<http://imagingamerica.syr.edu/katrina-faith-based-groups.html>

Hurricane Katrina Web Resource

Response: Faith-based Groups

Faith-based Groups

There has been controversy over allowing faith-based organizations to have access to federal funds and to what extent the federal government should rely on them in times of disaster. Issues have also been raised regarding how to accommodate outsiders who flooded into the region without adequate preparation or training. Yet many of these organizations' relief workers mobilized more quickly and effectively than federal emergency workers, and their labor has not gone unnoticed by local residents and the media. Here, we have included some websites that address this controversy more, realizing that there are no easy solutions or answers, only opportunities for more dialogue to reach an understanding. We have also listed efforts of various faith-based groups, categorized by the following faiths: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American, and B'nai B'rith.

General Faith-based Organizations and News:

June 1, 2006 The **Third Annual Clergy Summit** meeting discussed how to empower and protect congregations and communities through disasters preparedness. The meeting, organized by the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), at the New York University's Kimmel center, focused on best practices for religious leaders and was attended by humanitarian relief organizations. The New York City panel comprised: Care of the Caregivers Interfaith Project, the Council of Churches of the City of New York, Church World Service, Leviticus Church of God in Christ, Jamaica Queens, Islamic Circle of North America-Relief and United Sikhs. <[weblink](#)>

May 9, 2006 The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy: Federal Pandemic Flu and Disaster Plans Rely on Faith-Based Service Providers.

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf coast last summer, faith-based organizations were among the first to respond, providing shelter, food and counseling for the victims. Today, they remain as an important part of the cleanup and rebuilding efforts. Now the federal government wants religious groups to help with future disasters, including the potential outbreak of an avian bird flu pandemic, or a future terrorist attack. Government officials warn their help is needed because it alone is not prepared to cope with such disasters. As part of that effort, last month President George W. Bush ordered the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to open a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to work with such groups.

www.religionandsocialpolicy.org/homepage/article.cfm?id=4235

May 2006: *Academic Emergency Medicine* Volume 13, Supplement 1:98: The Role of Faith-based Organizations in the Katrina Disaster by Anjali T. Pant, Italo R. Subbarao, Yu-Hsiang Hsieh, Alex Vu and Thomas Kirsch, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD. Background: A Category Four hurricane ravaged the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. 1,500 people were killed and 1.5 million people were displaced. Many of the displaced people had to resort to shelters for housing. Many of these shelters were faith-based shelters. By identifying informal networks and understanding the operations of the faith-based organizations (FBOs), we will be able to utilize this asset in formal

disaster planning.

www.aemj.org/cgi/content/abstract/13/5_suppl_1/S98-a

May 2006 **Operation Blessing International** was founded by Pat Robertson and responds to manmade and natural disasters. With an established network of partners (including Red Cross and Southern Baptist Convention) and dispatch centers, OBI is currently assisting hundreds of thousands of Gulf hurricane victims through a number of specific disaster-related programs, including food, shelter, fast cash grants to community-based churches, and debris-cleanup.

http://www.ob.org/projects/hurricane_relief/index.asp

Controversy: Pat Robertson's Katrina Clash, in the Nation. "Yet FEMA's relief efforts have brought considerable assistance to at least one man who stands to benefit from Hurricane Katrina perhaps more than any other individual: Pat Robertson. With the Bush Administration's approval, Robertson's \$66 million relief organization, Operation Blessing, has been prominently featured on FEMA's list of charitable groups accepting donations for hurricane relief. Dozens of media outlets, including the New York Times, CNN and the Associated Press, duly reprinted FEMA's list, unwittingly acting as agents soliciting cash for Robertson. "How in the heck did that happen?" Richard Walden, president of the disaster-relief group Operation USA, asked of Operation Blessing's inclusion on FEMA's list. "That gives Pat Robertson millions of extra dollars." 9/7/05

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20050919/blumenthal>

February 10, 2006 PBS Religion and Ethics: Katrina Faith-Based Funding Controversy Bob ABERNETHY, anchor: "In congressional hearings this week, more complaints about the government's response to Hurricane Katrina. Meanwhile, religious groups have been given high marks for their relief work. Large religion-based organizations such as Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army have long received government funds, prompting other, smaller ones to ask why they shouldn't get help, too. The president's faith-based initiative has tried to change the rules to permit that, and... Katrina has given that initiative a new boost."

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week924/cover.html>

February 5, 2006 Washington Post: **By the Thousands, Faithful Toil to Resurrect Gulf Cities.** Biloxi MS. More than 10,000 Christian (also Jewish and Muslim) volunteers have come to Mississippi in an unprecedented effort to help the Gulf Coast. "For the poor, rebuilding has 'fallen squarely on the shoulders of faith-based groups and other NGOS' said Biloxi City Council member Bill Stallworth... 'The gov't has basically not done a whole lot.'"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

February 3-5, 2006 **Emory University, Oxford College Relief trip to New Orleans:** Reverend Judy Shema and a team of 29 staff, students and faculty traveled to New Orleans to volunteer. "We were old and young, black, white and brown. We were student, faculty and staff. We were Muslim, Christian and Hindu, male and female. Some came from very privileged backgrounds, others less so. Together we made a difference,

for others and in ourselves.”

<http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CampusLife/Activities/ReligiousLife/NewOrleans/relieftrip.html>

December 2005 The **Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy**: The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in Disaster Response. Following the devastating trio of storms that battered the Gulf Coast this year, Americans saw faith-based organizations -- both large and small -- rush to the aid of evacuees and rescue workers. Among them were the countless local churches from Florida to Texas that opened their doors to displaced residents seeking shelter. But the involvement of such groups has raised many issues, including whether faith-based organizations should be reimbursed with public funds for their relief expenses, and to what extent should government depend on such groups when disaster strikes. Also other resources and a digest of news and information from other sources related to the involvement of faith-based groups aiding those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

<http://www.religionsocialpolicy.org/resources/article.cfm?id=3337>

October 7, 2005 Proposal of statewide interfaith group to coordinate hurricane relief: Local faith-based groups from around the state sprang into action to feed, clothe, and shelter those forced to evacuate their homes. The local groups took care of people's emergency needs, said Church World Service Disaster Response and Recovery Liaison Lura Cayton. But what's needed, she said, is a larger organization that can coordinate the long-term efforts of recovery and rebuilding... Roman Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Orthodox Christians, Sikhs have all been invited to be part of the proposed new group...

<http://www.pluralism.org/news/index.php?xref=After+Hurricane+Rita&sort=DESC#headline12591>

October 2, 2005: The **Pluralism Project** at Harvard: the archive here has articles on what various faith and interfaith groups are doing after Katrina. In this article, Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists talk about why they think Katrina happened.

<http://www.pluralism.org/news/index.php?xref=After+Hurricane+Rita&sort=DESC#headline12591>

September 29, 2005 NPR Morning Edition: Faith-Based Groups to Receive Katrina Funds The Bush administration plans to reimburse charities -- including faith-based groups -- for some of the expenditures they have incurred to provide relief for Hurricane Katrina. Some experts fear the funding raises constitutional issues.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4928778>

September 28, 2005 **Philanthropy News Digest**, part of Foundation Center article on faith-based organizations receiving FEMA funds debate:

<http://www.fdncenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=117700003>

September 19, 2005 Religion Link: Katrina's aftermath continues to inspire stories that engage religion and ethics. ReligionLink offers ideas and resources on Internet memorials

for victims, poverty solutions, multifaith relief efforts and more. The religious response to Katrina victims offers an extraordinary window into the religious diversity of America and different traditions' motivations and methods for giving. Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are viewed, in religious terms, as Bible Belt states. But a striking range of faith groups are raising money and sending volunteers to the area. Even faiths with small numbers in America, such as the Sikhs, have several organizations offering aid. The site includes headings: What to watch for (in various faith groups responding), basic statistics, and groups engaged in Katrina aid.

http://www.religionlink.org/tip_050919b.php

September 19, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle News Center for the Progressive Community: "Faith Based Disaster," by David Kirp. "The Bush administration's core belief that faith-based organizations can do the job better than the government or experienced nonprofits has compounded the problem. Immediately after the hurricane, there were only two secular organizations to which FEMA's Web site urged that contributions be made; all the others were faith-based. What's worse, in at least some instances, FEMA relied on faith-based charities to spearhead the emergency-relief effort, regardless of whether they had expertise." www.sfgate.com,

<http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0919-24.htm>

September 15, 2005 **UPenn**: Student-led initiatives to assist in the aftermath of Katrina included an interfaith service where adherents of all faiths and practices were encouraged to attend an evening of personal reflection, prayer, and readings led by representatives from Muslim, Christian, Hindu, and Jewish campus groups.

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/>

September 2005. **Industrial Areas Foundation**: As soon as survivors of Katrina began arriving in the Houston Astrodome, IAF executive team member Sr. Christine Stephens and organizers working with the IAF affiliate in Houston, The Metropolitan Organization, began meeting with individuals and families. They honored the service work done by other agencies and institutions, but remained focused on the need to build self-sufficiency and power. Their newsletter was the first publication of the newest IAF organizing effort — the Survivors Leadership Group, which talks about victories in the Houston astrodome.

<http://www.industrialareasfoundation.org/iafaction/iafactionkatrina.htm>

September 2005 **Federal Food Resources for Faith-Based and Community Organizations**: Toolkit with two fact sheets explaining food assistance programs for faith-based and community organizations and for displaced persons.

www.frac.org/pdf/orgkit.pdf

September 2, 2005: **ReligionLink.org** The initial shock of Katrina's devastation inspired talk of its "biblical" proportions. But as recovery efforts continue in the weeks and months ahead, religion, faith and ethics will play bigger roles in the stories of how lives and cities are rebuilt. ReligionLink offers a roundup of ideas, with links to background

and sources.

http://www.religionlink.org/tip_050902.php

September 2005 **HUD Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Katrina Toolkit**

This kit provides information about what the Department of Housing and Urban Development is doing to assist faith-based and community organizations involved in coordinating relief activities, as well as useful contact information for HUD and to those directly assisting the public. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fbc/katrinatoolkit/intro.cfm>

Christian Organizations:

Updated daily. Following its mandate to walk with churches, leaders, and families to overcome physical and spiritual hungers, **Food for the Hungry** is working with two catalyst organizations to mobilize local churches and ministries to respond to the physical and spiritual hardship caused by Hurricane Katrina: the John M. Perkins Foundation and Urban Impact ministries. Food for the Hungry is working with these two well-known and respected Christian organizations, equipping and empowering them to train churches and ministries in holistic community development principles and redeveloping Central City, the poorest area in New Orleans. Through our work with these partner organizations, the poorest of the poor – those often overlooked – will be ministered to both physically and spiritually.

www.fh.org/katrina_partners

May 2007: Fox 21 news feature on **God's Katrina Kitchen**: It has been more than two years since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast. Some local volunteers have spent most of their time in the region since then, working with God's Katrina Kitchen. Volunteers said there is still much more to be done. The unforgettable images of Hurricane Katrina inspired Greg Porter to take action. He said, "My wife looked over at me and there was tears streaming down my face and she said you're gonna go aren't you and I said I have to." He brought food, water, and supplies, and began cooking in the middle of Highway 90. Eventually he founded God's Katrina Kitchen, made up of many churches across the country. The organization now houses 200 volunteers at a time, including Colorado Springs residents Vicki Weesner and her family. "I just remember getting there and it didn't matter which direction you looked in, there was nothing left standing," she said. About 30,000 people in Mississippi alone are still displaced, and the poor are most impacted.

www.kxrm.com/Global/story.asp?S=6542489

[<more>](#)

April 2007: **Evangelical Free Churches of America Katrina Project**: In the last year, we have hosted more than 500 teams consisting of 5,900 volunteers who have given over 230,000 hours to relief efforts, working on over 1300 homes and impacting countless lives. Many churches have sent multiple teams, representing volunteers from at least 35

states and Canada. Much work remains to be done. We are committed to continuing the Louisiana relief efforts for the next several years.

3 Ways You Can Help:

Pray - lives are being changed by the love of Christ

Give - donations go toward ministry center and relief efforts

Go - schedule a Katrina project team

<http://www.efcakatrinaproject.com/>

March 2007. **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship:** The recovery process in New Orleans continues to be slow after Hurricane Katrina put 80 percent of the city underwater, caused 1,800 deaths in the region, and left behind \$75 billion in destruction. Over a year later:

* 40 percent of New Orleans homes are still without power

* Half as many hospital beds are available as before Katrina

* Government officials estimate that 500,000 people may need mental-health assistance to deal with higher rates of anxiety, depression and hostility.

If you give your spring break to help the people of New Orleans you can help a community to rebuild, learn about the complex issues facing their recovery, and explore how to pursue justice and service in your own life. This week could change your life! Schedule. Each day, teams will serve a local organization or individual with rebuilding needs in the city. The typical day will begin with breakfast and then service from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Following an afternoon break and dinner, there will be group discussion and challenging guest speakers who will examine the issues that come up and explore the intersection of Christian faith and service.

<http://www.intervarsityne.org/boston/krup/>

March 2007: **Campus Crusade for Christ New Orleans Relief :Spring Break 2007.**

Over 15,000 college students and volunteers have served in the Gulf Coast Region with Campus Crusade for Christ...and we're still going! We now have a team on the ground full-time in New Orleans to coordinate our relief efforts. Now, as we look ahead to Spring Break 2007, we are excited to see the Lord provide yet again. There is still a lot of work to be done... and you can help. "As bad as Katrina was, this is how good it is to make you feel like, yes, we still have Americans that love and care, complete strangers who step up to the plate and help." – Kim David, New Orleans resident

<http://relief.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/>

January 18 to January 21, 2007: **Katrina Relief, US Urban Mission Trip.** Project Overview: To demonstrate the love of Christ in tangible ways to the people of greater New Orleans effected by Hurricane Katrina. We will work alongside those that were affected by Hurricane Katrina to return.

<http://www.adventures.org/a/trips/level3/2056.htm>

August 2006: The **Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy**. Katrina Anniversary Finds Faith-Based Groups Still on the Front Lines, Resilient But Fatigued. One year to the day after Hurricane Katrina crashed onto the shores of the Gulf Coast, workers from faith-based organizations are still handing out emergency meals and clothing and struggling to rebuild communities that look like the storm hit yesterday. "The devastation still exists in many areas," said Beth Harris, outreach coordinator for [NorthRidge Church](#), a non-denominational megachurch in Michigan. "Even though we're approaching the one year anniversary there is still much work to do and people still need help." NorthRidge has sent over 300 people to the Gulf to partner with [Samaritan's Purse](#) in relief efforts, with some volunteers returning two or three times. It plans to recruit another 300 volunteers to travel to the Gulf region through May 2007. The accomplishments of religious and other civic organizations over the past year have renewed faith and optimism that a full recovery will someday be possible, according to volunteers and workers with faith-based organizations on the scene. But delays and lapses in government assistance, organized planning and local leadership have left them fatigued and frustrated, and caused them to resort to a vigilant, self-appointed assignment of citizen response. In April 2007, Peggy is heading down to New Orleans again to meet the teachers as well as pastor and staff at St. Martha Church to get a first-hand update on the recovery progress. So please revisit the site at the end of April for the update.

Fall 2006: **Katrina TLC**: It's been over one-and-a-half years since Hurricane Katrina devastated the New Orleans area. Since September 2005, Katrina TLC has been in touch with Livaudais Middle School in Jefferson Parish (two miles south of the city), where the daughter of our coordinator, Peggy Mason, was assigned with the Teach for America Corps. Sixteen teachers suffered severe damage to their homes and belongings. Despite their own Katrina hardships, eight of those teachers returned in late September 2005 to open the school doors to all children in need of a safe place. For every teacher, there are at least 50 students who suffered severe losses too. In June 2006, we also started providing assistance to hurricane damaged St. Martha Church in Harvey, LA, the parish of one of our teachers. In May 2006, Peggy met the remarkable teachers and principal at Livaudais. Taking it one day at a time, they're creating a new, different life in Katrina's aftermath. They're not looking for handouts. However, we at Katrina TLC want to offer them, as well as the parishioners at St. Martha, a "helping hand" to ease the stress of their recovery.

www.katrinatlc.org/default.aspx

June 2006: The **American Baptist Churches of Oregon** have initiated a partnership with **Baptist Builders** to help provide hope and relief for those whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. "It is as though they have been forgotten," a recent commentator on Louisiana said. "When it first happened there was a lot of concern, a lot of help. Now they seem to have amnesia. Americans have moved on." Though months have now passed, little has been done to restore homes and churches in much of the area destroyed by Katrina. Through our partnership with Baptist Builders (www.baptistbuilders.org), American Baptist Churches in Oregon will be connected with several churches in Louisiana. Through these partnerships, ABCO churches will be able to begin providing immediate aid to our sister churches in the areas of prayer support, financial assistance

and mission teams.

www.vibrant-life.net/katrina.html

June 1, 2006 The **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**: is actively working to protect immigrants' rights in the areas afflicted by Hurricane Katrina. Recovery from the massive displacement and destruction brings with it social and political questions. Immigrants play a particularly important role in revitalizing the area. However, because of the major changes this disaster has brought, many immigrants struggle to cope with legal questions. CLINIC is working with lawyers, social service providers, and labor leaders on the ground to reach immigrants there. It is developing ways to provide clinical support to those with claims against employers or in need of immigration legal help. In November, they received a \$185,000 grant from the Open Society Institute to further their efforts. <http://www.cliniclegal.org/Katrina.html>

May 2006: **Southern Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board**: Groups supported by these organizations are self-sufficient, ensuring that volunteers don't take resources away from the community. Their initial plan was to accept 500 applications to rebuild homes, explains Eddie Williams, who has been on-site with his wife, Martha, since October. "Within six weeks, we had more than 600 applications," he says. Determined not to turn away anyone, they replaced the applications with a waiting list and help anyone in need, regardless of their faith.

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3676/is_200605/ai_n16363615/pg_3

April 24, 2006: **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship**: "During the month of March, 240 students from six Boston-area schools traveled to the Gulf Coast area to help with InterVarsity's Katrina Relief Urban Plunge. But these students from Harvard, Tufts, Wellesley, MIT, Boston College and Boston University did more than home clean-up and reconstruction. They studied God's word to reflect on how the destruction, misery and hope that they observed fits into God's revealed purposes in the world." Dakota Pippins brought 54 students from Harvard to work in Gulfport, MS, mucking out houses and doing some construction work. 50 ethnic minorities went down, and 15 were not Christians. Contact Dakota Pippins: pippins@post.harvard.edu

http://www.intervarsity.org/news/news.php?item_id=2325

February 8, 2006 **Katrina Relief Urban Project**: In addition to spring break projects, projects planned in June. Students participating in each of these plunge events will live and work together, study Scripture, wrestle with issues of social justice and racial harmony, and serve those who have suffered great loss.

<http://www.mnnonline.org/article/8284>

March 2006 Yale: **Yale Relief Team** of 34 students went to New Orleans to gut four houses, with Thompsons at Campus Crusade for Christ at Yale. Campus Crusade for Christ statement: "wants to meet immediate needs created by Katrina as well as help long-term by helping rebuild lives and communities... In our response to Katrina, we want to integrate good news and good deeds. Jesus...did both. Keep in mind that

salvation is always our ultimate motive but never our ulterior motive.” Contact the Thompsons or Matt Coburn at staff@yalestudentsforchrist.org

March 2006 **Luther College**, Iowa: Kirk Larsen took 16 students to Pearl River, LA right outside of New Orleans. They delivered school supplies, gutted houses, etc.
<http://www.luther.edu/>

October 27, 2005 **Council on Christian Colleges and Universities**: Member campuses of Council for Christian Colleges and Universities across the nation have raised funds and supplied manpower for the affected states of Mississippi, Louisiana.
<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20051027/7698.htm>

September 13, 2005: **Campus Crusade for Christ**: “A Christ-like Response to the Katrina Disaster” by Chip Scivicque. “You have seen Katrina’s devastation of south Louisiana and Mississippi, and you have compassion for those in need, like Jesus felt (and feels) for people who are in distress...[We] want to meet immediate needs created by Katrina as well as help long-term by helping rebuild lives and communities.” Opportunities for service and long-term initiatives are on their website.
<http://relief.campuscrusadeforchrist.com>

September 2005: Urbana is a student missions convention sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. They posted a Katrina update on their website, “Of Christ and Katrina” which tracks InterVarsity staff in the Gulf region and in other areas responding to the crisis. <http://www.urbana.org/articles.cfm?RecordId=911>

March 2006 **Sojourners** is a Christian ministry whose mission is to proclaim and practice the biblical call to integrate spiritual renewal and social justice, and offer a vision for faith in public life. For the six-month “anniversary” of Katrina, they published a study-guide- “What the Waters Revealed: Christians and Hurricane Katrina.” “In Katrina’s aftermath, deep issues of race and poverty became a central part of the national conversation. Can the truths revealed by Katrina lead to real change? This guide is part of a series designed to spark discussion, thought, and action about how to live out God’s call for justice in our nation and our world.”
<http://www.sojo.net/>

Jewish Organizations:

Updated regularly. The **Jewish Women’s Archive** organized **Katrina’s Jewish Voices** in collaboration with the **Center for History and New Media**. Through the contributions of individuals and organizations nationwide, the project is creating a virtual archive of stories, images, and reflections about the New Orleans and Gulf Coast Jewish communities before and after Hurricane Katrina. These collections will serve as a vital resource for future historians of the American Jewish experience, as well as for those interested in exploring how individuals and different faith communities responded to this

vast humanitarian crisis. Sharing our stories is also a way to create powerful connections in the present. We hope that those who contribute to this online collection and those who immerse themselves in the stories and images they find here come away moved and inspired by these varied Jewish voices of Katrina.

katrina.jwa.org/about/

June 2006: **Union for Reform Judaism:** more than \$3.6 million has been donated to the Hurricane Relief Fund (See grants made to date), and more than \$650,000 (including \$250,000 in matching funds) has been raised through the SOS New Orleans Funds for direct support to the Reform community. Out of the more than 2,000 families who belonged to four New Orleans-area Reform synagogues before the hurricanes, 500 to 600 – between 25 and 35 percent – may not return. These congregations have faced enormous difficulty in trying to resume normal operations. <http://urj.org/relief/>

Spring 2006: **MAZON:** a citizens' movement of American Jews trying to eradicate poverty, is supporting the provision of food, potable water and essential supplies in the region. They announced joint grants totaling nearly \$1 million. The grants span Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama, and support a wide variety of programs geared towards helping hurricane victims and their families pick up the pieces of their shattered lives and acquire the skills they need to get back on their feet. A portion of MAZON's Katrina-related grants were made in partnership with United Jewish Communities. The website also has Katrina recovery press releases organized by state. http://www.mazon.org/What_You_Should_Know/Hurricane_Katrina.asp

March 27, 2006 – **American Jewish Committee:** Hurricane-ravaged houses of worship in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi will receive this week a total of \$432,000 from the American Jewish Committee's Katrina Relief Fund. It is the final disbursement from the AJC fund, which raised more than one million dollars. The eight synagogues and four churches represent a broad range of denominations and were selected based upon their needs, their size, and the services they offer within their communities.

<[weblink](#)>

February 17-20, 2006 **American Jewish Committee:** ACCESS, AJC's New Generation program, led a group of thirty-two young Jewish professionals from across the nation on a relief trip to New Orleans over President's Day weekend. The trip focused on hands-on service at several locations, including gutting destroyed homes in the Ninth Ward with the relief organization Common Ground Collective. The group also cleaned and painted Jewish houses of worship and met with federal officials and community members to learn about the reconstruction effort, and to delve into the issues of race and poverty which were exposed by the hurricane. The trip closed with a session at Xavier University, a predominantly African-American campus, where the group met with students and faculty to hear their personal stories of survival. AJC presented Xavier President Dr. Norman Francis with a \$100,000 donation from AJC's Katrina Relief Fund (which began in September) to aid the University's recovery efforts.

<[weblink](#)>

February 2006: **United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's** Hurricane Relief Fund has made substantial contributions toward the relocation of some of Hurricane Katrina's many displaced victims. They are also looking at ways to help rebuild. Their website also has updates from members who have visited the region and report what they have seen and heard. http://www.uscj.org/Hurricane_ReliefYou_6553.html

January 2006 **United Jewish Communities:** UJC and local federations provided emergency aid, including food and water to the refugees living in the Houston Astrodome. They also established the Hurricane Relief fund and encouraged youth to travel to the Gulf Coast area to help with recovery efforts. www.ujc.org

September 6, 2005: The **Shefa Fund** and the **Jewish Fund for Justice**, two non-profits that merged to advance Jewish giving, advancing, and organizing for social change created the JFJ/Shefa Hurricane Katrina Relief and Reconstruction Project, raising funds to provide immediate and essential assistance to Katrina refugees and invest in long-term re-development needs of impacted low-income residents.

September 2005 **Jewish Federation of Greater Houston:** The local Jewish community in Houston, Texas hosted refugees for the High Holiday services, offering free places in Jewish schools, taking families into their homes, providing kosher food, counseling, youth activities, and elder care. They also participated in relief voluntary work, an Emergency Response Team, Jewish community and hosting families from New Orleans, social and education services.

<http://www.houstonjewish.org/>

About.com: **From Houston to Atlanta and Beyond: Dispersed Are Welcomed.** The former residents of the Jewish community of New Orleans have found that Hurricane Katrina has brought them closer together than they ever could have expected prior to the storm slamming into the Gulf Coast. The outpouring of love and concern from fellow Jews has been especially noted in the Texas community of Houston, now home to an estimated half of the dispersed. Nearby Baton Rouge, now bears distinction as the largest city in Louisiana, and many Jewish community members have elected to stay there if for no other reason than its proximity to the Crescent City.

http://judaism.about.com/od/americanjewry/a/katrina_diaspor.htm

Muslim Organizations:

June 2006 **Council on American Islamic Relations:** Muslims Care is a new annual campaign designed to encourage the Muslim community to reach out to their neighbors and make a positive contribution to their society at large. Toolkit and opportunities to volunteer with disaster communities and be emergency volunteers in Gulf Coast area.

<http://www.cair.com/muslimscare/event.asp?runstate=la#maparea>

Winter 2006: **Islamic Relief**, a charity helping “the world’s poorest people”: Islamic Relief immediately responded to the needs of the victims of Hurricane Katrina – one of

the greatest natural disasters in United States history. Islamic Relief has committed \$2 million for Katrina relief projects, which include working in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and assisting evacuees in Houston and Dallas, TX. Islamic Relief's relief and rehabilitation efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina represented its largest domestic operation in its history.

<http://www.irw.org/katrina/>

September 20, 2005: A group of 12 American Muslim organizations have formed the **American Muslim Task Force for Disaster Relief**. This website lists participants and news of how members of the AMTFDR are assisting the world in disaster relief.

September articles deal with Hurricane Katrina. <http://www.amtldr.net>

The **Muslim Task Force for Disaster Preparedness and Relief** is a joint effort of Islamic Centers, Masaajid, and Muslim Organizations in California to efficiently pull together resources and provide aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina. This task force is part of the Muslim Hurricane Relief Task Force that is coordinating the Muslim Community's deep concern for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Their long term goal is to look beyond Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and be able to quickly mobilize the Muslim community in times of crisis to serve the needy in the United States as well as other parts of the world.

September 15, 2005: **Council on American Islamic Relations**: A Representative of the Sacramento Valley chapter of CAIR returned recently from a mission to serve Katrina evacuees in Houston, Texas. "Compassion, kindness and humility are essential teachings of Islam," said Treasurer Tamer Ahmed. "It was a humbling experience to be in my former home, the state of Texas, to serve in any way I could."

<http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=1752&theType=NR>

September 13, 2005: **Islamic Circle of North America's Relief Helping-Hand and LIFE (Life for Relief and Development) USA** announced that they would join hands to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina together. Both organizations will integrate their field operations as well as fundraising efforts to avoid the redundancy and share the much needed resources as much as possible. <http://www.reliefonline.org/>

Greater Houston Historic Volunteer Day: When Houston city mayor called all religious organizations to provide volunteers and resources to meet needs of the 25-30 thousand persons who were sheltered in Astrodome and George Brown Center by picking days to take turns in providing personnel and resources for relief work, the major Muslims organizations in Houston realized the importance of cooperation with each other and authorities, and jointly offered to take care of the entire population of displaced persons sheltered in George Brown Center, on Sunday, September 11. This offer was acknowledged and accepted by the authorities.

<[weblink](#)>

September 7, 2005 **Islamic Society of North America**: Officials of the ISNA concluded the organization's 42nd annual convention by announcing a \$10 million pledge for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The Islamic

organization launched the Katrina Relief Fund during the opening of its convention, held September 2-5 in Rosemont, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

<http://usembassy.state.gov/pakistan/h05090702.html>

September 2005 **AMWA** (The American Muslim Women's Association of Arizona), a non-profit, private, charitable organization working in Phoenix since 1997, are committed to improve the economic status of women from all ethnic and religious backgrounds residing in Muslim community. Sameena Basha (AMWA's asst. Refugee Coordinator) & Nazli Currim, AMWA's current President, held a drive and delivered tote bags with personal hygiene items for Hurricane Katrina. Pakistani Information and Cultural Organization (PICO) also donated used and new clothes as well hygiene items.

<http://www.muslimvoice.net/mv/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=306>

Hindu Organizations:

Spring 2006: **Sewa International**, in concert with the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, helped coordinate hundreds of Hindu volunteers, small temples and Indian-American organizations during post-Katrina relief work in Houston, San Antonio and Atlanta.

http://www.hinduismtoday.com/archives/2006/1-3/06-08_diaspora.shtml

December 8, 2005: **Hinduism Today**: The Mata Amritanandamayi Center in the United States handed over \$1 million to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund to aid hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast area of the United States. Swami Ramakrishnananda and Brahmachari Dayamrita Chaitanya, representing the M.A. Center, met former President Clinton on December 8, 2005, in his offices in Harlem, New York City, to present the check. The donation is one of the largest the fund--run by George Bush senior and Bill Clinton--has received from a non-government organization.

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1:121316786/DIASPORA.html>

September 10, 2005: The **American Hindu Association** set up a fund for victims, 100% of which will go toward the effort. <http://www.americanhindu.net/Katrina.htm>

September 2, 2005: The **Hindu American Foundation** (HAF) released today a guide intended to assist Hindu religious organizations in participating in the federal Faith-based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) program. Entitled "Faith-based and Community Initiatives in the United States: A Guide for Hindu Organizations." Hindu participation in the FBCI program has been absent thus far according to the leaders at HAF. They felt that this absence reflects a relative lack of integration of Hindus into the mainstream. Acknowledging some concerns that the FBCI process is dominated by Judeo-Christian groups and that the entire program compromises separation of church and state, HAF members nevertheless felt that as the program enters its sixth year, participation is necessary to actually confirm a Hindu presence in the mainstream and increase general understanding about Hinduism. <http://www.hinduamericanfoundation.org/newsletter/09-09-2005/newsletter.html>

Buddhist Organizations:

September 16, 2005 **Buddhist Peace Fellowship**: Waking Up to Suffering: 7 Ways the Dharma Community Can Respond to Hurricane Katrina. BPF offers this list as a way to begin responding. It includes individuals and groups who are working to alleviate the suffering of survivors of Hurricane Katrina and also includes ideas which you can implement wherever you live, as ways to begin addressing the some of the social, cultural, and environmental causes of this tragic situation.

http://www.bpf.org/html/resources_and_links/statements/katrina_responses2.html

September 2, 2005: **Buddhist Compassion Tzu Chi Foundation**, has helped Katrina evacuees in Houston and Beaumont, Texas with food, clothing, medical assistance, and basic necessities, as setting up a fund. www.tzuchi.org

Native Americans:

September 2, 2005 **National Congress of American Indians**: Tribal nations across the United States are sending their support to the victims of Hurricane Katrina as federal officials pledged to help tribes affected by a disaster that battered the Gulf Coast. The National Congress of American Indians has set up a relief fund to assist tribes and their members in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Six federally recognized tribes are located in the three states, which were hit by wind, rain and flooding. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Indian nations..." <http://www.indianz.com/News/2005/010151.asp>

B'nai B'rith:

September 26, 2005: **B'nai B'rith International's** Gulf Coast Disaster Relief Fund has passed the \$925,000 mark. Initially set up to aid victims of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the scope of the fund has been expanded to include residents of the entire Gulf Coast and inland areas that have experienced destruction and devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. http://bnaibrith.org/pubs/pr/050926_drUpdate.cfm

<http://www.religionandsocialpolicy.org/news/article.cfm?id=3510>

After Katrina, charity helps the helpers -- The Christian Community Foundation of South Florida has

set up a relief fund for faith-based organizations working in the Gulf Coast area.

Publisher: The Miami Herald

By: Alexandra Alter

First published: November 18, 2005

Faith-based groups were among the first responders to the devastation on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, but many volunteers are running low on funds, supplies and energy as relief efforts stretch on.

So Stephan Tchividjian, (pronounced Cha-vid-jin) eldest grandson of evangelist Billy Graham and president of the Christian Community Foundation of South Florida, set up a relief fund to help the helpers. The Angel Relief Fund gives grants to churches and ministries working to feed, clothe, house and comfort Katrina's victims, often as they struggle to recover from damage themselves.

The foundation, which opened in 2004 and matches local Christian donors with faith-based charities, has raised \$729,000 to distribute to groups such as Youth for Christ, the evangelical relief group Samaritan's Purse, the New Orleans-based Desire Street Ministries and Mercy Ships, a Christian relief organization that uses ships as platforms to launch relief teams into coastal areas.

SHOVELED MUD

Last month, Tchividjian, a preacher at Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale, took 15 donors and a DJ from WMCU Christian radio to the Gulf Coast in two private jets to survey the damage and assess the needs of faith-based organizations working in the area. They visited churches, met with the police chief in Gulfport, Miss., and saw houses with two or three feet of mud, where volunteers from Samaritan's Purse shoveled out the festering mess.

"It was sobering. Just utter devastation," said Eric Girardin, a donor who owns Q'Straint, a manufacturing company that builds restraint systems for wheelchairs. Like many of the philanthropists who funnel money to Christian causes through the Christian Community Foundation, Girardin contacted the group after Katrina hit to find out what he could do for victims.

"This is one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history, and a lot of people have been asking what can be done," he said.

But these days, helping hurricane victims isn't as simple as whipping out your check book, Tchividjian and other philanthropists say. The Internet has made it easy for fraudulent charities to rake in donations. After Katrina, state and federal officials began cracking down on bogus charities, including websites set up in Florida with the domain names katrinahelp.com and katrinadonations.com. The sites were shut down.

Recently, Tchividjian's foundation hired an employee in the Gulf Coast to investigate faith-based charities looking for grants and to ensure that funds aren't being misused.

"Just because you call yourself a church doesn't mean you're doing good work," Tchividjian said.

FOUNDERING CHURCHES

Todd Nichols, the North Carolina native who was hired by the Christian Community Foundation to oversee its operations in the Gulf Coast, spends most days driving to area churches. Many are struggling to help their communities. Some churches don't know if they'll be able to stay open, Nichols said.

"We've got a lot of churches that are really wondering if they're going to exist in three months," he said. "'You've got churches where the people who attended have moved away. There are churches that no longer exist."

Like other relief agencies, faith-based groups have been stretched financially by this year's hurricanes. Last month, FEMA announced it would reimburse religious organizations that provided shelter and food for victims of Katrina. The announcement angered civil liberties groups that see the plan (which would give taxpayers' money to groups that evangelize as well as offer material help) as a violation of the separation of church and state. Volunteers with Samaritan's Purse, for example, often pray with families and give them a Bible after helping to clear debris from their homes, a spokesman said.

But disaster relief agencies say faith groups have effective networks for funneling aid. The United Methodist Committee on Relief recently received a \$66 million grant from FEMA to manage cases for Katrina victims.

"Some of these organizations are national in scope. They have an active disaster response plan," said Tricia Wachtendorf, a sociology professor with the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. ""They've done this before; they've done this many times. They've seen what works and what doesn't work."

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http://www.religionandsocialpolicy.org/article_index/index.cfm?SiteTopicRequest=25

Disaster Response

Faith-Based Social Service News

2007

[Help for house as close as mouse; Web links volunteers to groups in need](#)

by Bruce Nolan

New Orleans Times-Picayune (Louisiana)

Posted: 09/03/07

[Valley's Katrina victims still struggling: Many are homeless, ailing or suicidal](#)

by Mary K. Reinhart

East Valley Tribune (Arizona)

Posted: 08/29/07

[Katrina Churches Rebuild -- But Not Always in New Orleans](#)

by Kim Lawton

Religion News Service

Posted: 08/29/07

[Charity, volunteers slowly reviving Mississippi Coast](#)

by Anita Lee

Kansas City Star (Missouri)

Posted: 08/29/07

[Houses of Worship Work to Restore Services in New Orleans Neighborhoods](#)

by Roundtable Correspondent, Claire Hughes

The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy

Posted: 08/28/07

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<http://www.osv.com/OSVNav/OSVNewsweeklyPastIssues/OSVNewsweeklyAugust192007/OSVNewsweeklyAugust262007/tabid/4331/Default.aspx>

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Minneapolis bridge collapse should remind the rest of us that we cannot put off until tomorrow what we need to do and say today

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On second anniversary, lessons still being learned

It's been two years since Hurricane Katrina, the reconstruction effort is steady, but survivors of Katrina are far away from life as usual.

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Church and faith-based charities continue to lead charge in reconstructing storm-hit areas

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Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger was a Jewish convert, the voice of French Catholics and a man 'who did not mince words'

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While they 'lock and load' side by side with men, females are exposed to harassment and mothers must leave children

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Katrina brings deeper faith

New Orleans Archbishop Alfred Hughes speaks to Our Sunday Visitor about the state of the city and its people two years after the hurricane

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Contacts: Deidre Malone and
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Group, (901) 278-0881 or
aadams@thecartermalonegroup.com

COGIC Offers Assistance to Hurricane Katrina Victims

*The Charity Projects to Contribute Cash and In-kind Donations Worth
\$17 Million to Relief Effort*

(September 15, 2005 – MEMPHIS, TENN) The Church Of God In Christ Inc. (COGIC)
Charities

foundation has formed a special fund to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The General
Board of

one of the world's largest African-American religious denominations has formed a
committee led

by Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush, of Lafayette, Louisiana, to coordinate an immediate and
longterm

relief effort strategy. The church will contribute in cash more than \$1 million to the relief
effort and through in-kind donations, services and collaborative efforts, the church will
facilitate

additionally up to \$16 million to benefit hurricane victims.

COGIC Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson says the General Board is serious about doing
what it can to assist Katrina evacuees. "We have members of the denomination who
have lost

their homes, churches and family members, and they are in crisis," Patterson explained.

"Our

church through COGIC Charities is reaching out to those members and anyone else
affected by

this natural disaster." From his personal resources and local congregation, Temple of
Deliverance COGIC, Bishop Patterson has initiated the relief effort with funds exceeding
\$100,000. He has also challenged bishops, pastors and churches to follow with similar
expressions of generosity and compassion. The churches in the Memphis region, as well
as

churches throughout the nation, are responding to this national tragedy by providing
hundreds

of meals daily to evacuees.

Last Tuesday, Bishop Winbush and leadership in other religious denominations, met
with President George W. Bush in Washington, D. C. for a briefing on the relief effort and
to

discuss ways the religious community can assist. COGIC is offering their former Saints
Junior

College campus in Lexington, Miss., as a site to relocate between 500 and 1000 evacuees. The 275 acre site will accommodate transitional housing and an emergency education program.

-more**COGIC**

Hurricane Relief Effort, page 2

Many COGIC churches have coordinated shelters, clothes, cash and food donations for evacuees. "Through the denominations efforts, our congregations and members of the community have been reaching out to victims involved in Hurricane Katrina," said First Assistant

Presiding Bishop Charles Blake, pastor of the West Angeles Church Of God In Christ in Los

Angeles. More than 2,000 people contributed to the West Angeles clothing drive and donated

more than \$100,000 to the relief effort. Blake added, "I ask that people contribute to the COGIC

Charities foundation so we are better equipped financially to help the hurricane victims."

This past Sunday, The Church Of God In Christ in Michigan gave more than \$100,000 toward the relief effort. Through COGIC Charities, these churches are facilitating the availability

of 372 units of multi-family and senior housing through section 8. This is in coordination with

federal and state agencies.

The charity is also sending trucks from across the country with relief supplies to the devastated areas across the south.

If you are interested in contributing to COGIC Charities Hurricane Relief Fund, you can make a donation online at www.cogiccharities.org or send a contribution to:

COGIC Charities Hurricane Relief Fund, P. O. Box 37, Memphis, TN 38101. For additional

information or to make a donation, please call 1-800-947-9350.

About COGIC Charities, Inc.

COGIC Charities, Inc. is the benevolent arm of the Church Of God In Christ Inc. religious denomination. The charity was founded in April 2002 by Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson.

COGIC Charities has donated to various relief agencies including the Salvation Army, the Horn

of Africa Relief and Development Organization, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the American Heart Association.

About the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

The Church Of God In Christ is the fourth largest Protestant religious denomination in the United States of America with an estimated membership of more than six million.


COGIC

headquarters is located at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn.

###

http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/programs/editorial_0816.shtm

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

 [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#)



President George W. Bush sits with Donald Powell in the Oval Office Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005.

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding was created by President George W. Bush to help devise a long-term plan for rebuilding the region devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

[More about the Office.](#)

Map Center



- [Corps of Engineers Louisiana Flood Risk Maps](#)
- [FEMA Floodmaps](#)
- [FEMA Rebuilding Grants Maps](#)

Gulf Coast Recovery Rebuilding Sectors

- [Hurricane Protection](#)
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Did You Know?

\$117 Billion in federal funding has been disbursed or is available for states' use

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Resources

- [Advisory Base Flood Elevations for Louisiana Parishes](#)
- [Continuing Progress: A 2-Year Update on Hurricane Recovery and Rebuilding](#)
- [FEMA Gulf Coast Recovery Office](#)
- [Housing Unit Damage Estimates, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma](#), February 12, 2006 (PDF, 45 pages - 346 KB)
- [Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing](#)
- [Louisiana Recovery Authority](#)
- [Louisiana Rebuilds](#)
- [March 2006 Healthcare Testimony](#) (PDF, 15 pages - 211 KB)
- [Mississippi Governor's Office of Recovery & Renewal](#)
- [Prepared Remarks from Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Donald E. Powell for Senator Landrieu's August 27, 2007, Hope and Recovery Summit](#)
- [Surviving a Hurricane](#)

Testimony

- [Donald E. Powell's Testimony on Long Term Budget Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita](#), August 2, 2007
- [Donald E. Powell's Testimony on the Goals, Costs, Management and Impediments Facing Louisiana's Road Home Program](#), May 24, 2007
- [Statement of Federal Coordinator Donald E. Powell Office for Gulf Coast Rebuilding before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs](#), February 15, 2006
- [Statement by Federal Coordinator Donald E. Powell Before the United States Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Field Hearing, Gulfport, Mississippi](#), January 17, 2006

General Contact Information

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c/o DHS
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<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7673295>

Katrina & Recovery

Bush Checks on Gulf Coast's Katrina Rebuilding

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All Things Considered, March 1, 2007 · President Bush visits the Mississippi Gulf Coast and New Orleans for the first time since late summer, saying the government has written a check for \$110 billion — and now the challenge is getting that money to the people who need it.

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[The Politics of Post-Katrina Rebuilding in 2007](#)

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0830/p01s02-usgn.html>

PART 2 • MONEY: WHERE THE DOLLARS ARE GOING

Katrina disaster aid is the nation's most expensive recovery program ever.

By [Ron Scherer](#)

BILOXI, MISS. – On a hot and humid July day, cranes lift gigantic concrete slabs out of the water - the remains of the Biloxi Bay bridge, which collapsed like a deck of cards after hurricane Katrina. Its replacement will be quite a sight.

It will be wider than San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, although it connects a population one-tenth the size. It will sport a bike lane, but with a grade so steep Lance Armstrong would have trouble climbing it, a local politician grumbles. If the mayor of Ocean Springs, Miss., gets her way, it will have fleurs-de-lis embossed on its buttresses.

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http://www.ssrc.org/announcements/Katrina_Grants/

Katrina Grants

This program is currently closed to new applications.

The SSRC is offering small grants in aid of up to \$5,000 (in rare cases \$7,500) to enable researchers to complete projects bearing on Hurricane Katrina, its impacts on people and places, and the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast. These may supplement funds from other sources. Preference will be given to students completing dissertation projects and to younger researchers, but applications are welcome from others. The awards are intended to enable people to bring to fruition research they have already begun.

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http://www.ci.durham.nc.us/agendas/2007/cm20070507/86020_3936_119310.doc.PDF

April 2, 2007

To: Patrick W. Baker, City Manager

Through: Wanda S. Page, Assistant City Manager
From: Yvonne Pena, Director of Human Relations
Subject: Grant Project Ordinance – HUD Katrina Grant
and HUD Cooperative Grant

Executive Summary

The Human Relations Department has been authorized by the City Council to administer local, state and federal laws, ordinances and regulations dealing with discrimination in fair

housing. The purpose of this proposed Council action is to adopt a grant project ordinance

for funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to

provide fair housing education and outreach to persons who reside in Mississippi who were

affected by Hurricane Katrina. The one time grant in the amount of \$60,000 will be utilized

by the Human Relations Department to sub-contract with three agencies in Mississippi who

have been approved by HUD and who will provide community outreach, education and fair

housing training throughout the region, specifically in the coastal area.

The remainder of the contract reflects \$53,620.00 which is case processing funds to be used for community outreach, education and fair housing training throughout the City of Durham.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the City of Durham North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Katrina Grant Funds and Cooperative Agreement Grant Funds by executing the grant documents and to adopt the City of Durham Grant Project Ordinance for Katrina Grant

Funds and HUD Cooperative Grant funds in the amount of \$113,620.00.

Background

In October 2005, HUD requested proposals for the Katrina funds from Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) recipients. The City of Durham Human Relations Department

submitted a proposal and was told in February 2006 that the proposal was accepted and would be funded in the amount of \$60,000. However, the funds were never sent to the City

of Durham. After numerous requests for release of the Katrina Grant funds, HUD sent a memo to all approved FHAPs stating that they would need to change the target outreach efforts to those persons residing in the affected areas of Mississippi and Alabama. The Human Relations Department responded by revising the proposal to state that the Department would agree to subcontract with three agencies in Mississippi. HUD indicated

by phone that the revised proposal had been reviewed and accepted but an official e-mail

CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

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was not sent to the City of Durham until much later. We are very happy to say that everything was finally approved on all levels.

Issues/Analysis

The following agencies will receive funds over a six month period as outlined in their budget requests after providing required documentation of the fair housing services provided in accordance with their specific proposals. They are listed below:

The Gulf Coast Latin American Association (GCLAA) Biloxi, Mississippi - \$20,000.00

With the large influx of Hispanics in the Latino Community post Hurricane Katrina, the GCLAA has been charged with the responsibility of training and educating the Hispanic community on Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Housing Rights issues. The GCLAA recently

has a much higher level of housing rights issues affecting the Latino Community post Katrina

and would like to obtain funding to go out and educate the Latino community, local businesses, as well as local political entities about their housing rights.

North Delta Mississippi Enterprise Community –Sardis, Mississippi - \$10,000.00

The North Delta Mississippi Enterprise Community, located in Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi, has established a presence and worked in the North Delta region of Mississippi

for over ten years focusing on housing and fair housing issues. Their service area includes

Panola, Quitman and Tallahatchie counties. They will use funds to address post Hurricane

Katrina housing issues and they propose to do fair housing outreach and education over a

six month period.

Housing Education and Economic Development (HEED)- Jackson, Mississippi \$20,000.00

Housing Education and Economic Development (HEED), is located in Jackson, Mississippi

and is a private, non-profit organization handling housing, education and economic development. They have agreed to undertake a six month project to focus on fair housing

education and outreach in the geographic area of the State of Mississippi.

City of Durham Human Relations Department - \$10,000.00

The Human Relations Department will provide oversight for the three grants and will use the

remainder of the funds for administrative costs associated with the monitoring of the three

agencies.

HUD Cooperative Grant Agreement Funds - \$53,620.00

Total Contract Amount- \$113,620.00

The Human Relations Department will provide oversight for the three grants and will use the

remainder of the funds for administrative costs associated with the monitoring of the three

agencies.

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Alternatives

The City Council may choose to not accept this ordinance resulting in inadequate funds for

the Department to spend in carrying out fair housing activities throughout the City.

Financial Impact

There would be no impact of the General Fund.

SDBE Summary

This is a grant project ordinance from HUD promoting fair housing and equality of services and therefore not required to be reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

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http://www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/grants/

Make Your Project Part of Global ReLeaf

American Forests is always looking for quality tree-planting projects to be funded by our Global ReLeaf Forests ecosystem restoration program. We are particularly interested in partnering with private and public sector organizations and agencies to plant trees and improve the environment in projects that would otherwise not be feasible. We support projects that plant the right trees in the right places for the right reasons. Our members and supporters are anxious to help us make a difference on the land by funding projects, such as yours.

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To be considered for funding, be certain to review the [Evaluation Criteria](#) before submitting your proposal to American Forests.

[Download the application!](#)

Submit your proposals to:

American Forests
Attn: Margo Dawley
P.O. Box 2000
Washington, DC, 20013

For questions, call (202) 737-1944 x224, FAX (202) 737-2457 or e-mail [Margo Dawley](#).

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<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=41553>

Hurricane Katrina Mississippi Recovery Update: October 2007

Release Date: October 31, 2007
Release Number: 1604-606

[» More Information on Mississippi Hurricane Katrina](#)

Biloxi, Miss. -- The following is a summary of Mississippi recovery efforts as of Oct. 26, 2007:

Individual support continues with more than \$1.2 billion to individuals and families:

- 216,539 individuals and families have been approved for Housing Assistance totaling more than \$848 million;
- 134,299 Mississippi survivors have been approved for more than \$412 million in Other Needs Assistance (ONA);
- 14,451 temporary housing units (travel trailers and mobile homes) in service. More than 27,000 families have deactivated their units.
- To assist temporary housing occupants in their recovery, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons have partnered with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), local business and non-profit organizations to create a series of Helping Hands Workshops. The next workshop will be held in November in Gulfport.
- The workshops address various personal recovery issues facing occupants of FEMA travel trailers and mobile homes. VAL has conducted workshops specifically targeted to occupants in Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River and Stone counties.

Nearly \$2.2 billion has been obligated in the following Public Assistance (PA) categories:

- More than \$721 million obligated for land-based debris removal;
- \$367 million for emergency protective measures;
- \$533 million to repair or replace public buildings;
- \$380 million to repair public utilities;
- \$118 million to repair and restore public recreational facilities such as state parks;
- \$110 million to meet the costs of administering the PA grants;
- \$63 million to repair roads and bridges;
- \$1 million to repair water control devices such as reservoirs and irrigation channels.

Obligated funds can be adjusted if a project can be completed for less than the original project estimate.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency administers the funds. To date, MEMA has disbursed more than \$1.3 billion to PA applicants for debris removal and rebuilding projects including bridges, public buildings and utilities.

An inter-agency campaign, directed by FEMA, has been working to clean up Mississippi's coastal and inland waterways.

- As of Oct. 22, the U.S. Coast Guard has cleared more than 246,530 cubic yards of marine debris from the water since marine cleanup began May 2006 and 10 of 15 marine debris removal contracts are complete.
- More than \$50.1 million has been expended for marine debris removal. Due to the oversight and recommendation by the U.S. Coast Guard project officer, approximately \$100 million of the \$237 million obligated for the project has been de-obligated. Obligated funds can be adjusted if a project can be completed for less than the original project estimate.

Preparing today for tomorrow's disasters...

- FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) brings together federal, state, and local governments to prepare communities for future events. Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.
- MEMA, as designated by the Governor of Mississippi, administers the HMGP. MEMA provides eligible grant applicants with assistance in mitigation planning, project selection, application development and reimbursement.
- FEMA has allocated more than \$84 million for various HMGP projects throughout the state.
- Across the state, 246 jurisdictions have MEMA- and FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation plans.
- The amount of funding available for the HMGP following a disaster currently stands at 7.5 percent of the total amount of federal assistance. More than \$433 million in HMGP funds are available for Mississippi.

Unless otherwise noted, the above figures were compiled as of Oct. 26, 2007.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

Two state government agencies might have handed out hurricane recovery grants to unqualified businesses, the Louisiana legislative auditor said in a report released Monday.

Officials with the state Department of Economic Development and the Office of Community Development made corrections to their procedures. They argued that mistakes were made when trying to put together a program that could quickly disperse federal aid monies, according to the 68-page report.

“I don’t think the report is trying to slam them,” said David Greer, the assistant legislative auditor in charge of performance audits. “It’s saying we looked at it initially and found some problems.”

The Louisiana Recovery Authority created the program in August 2006 to help businesses recover from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The program is called the Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program.

Auditors took a sampling of applications and found very little documentation. They looked at 68 out of the program’s 3,438 applications.

Ten percent of the applications reviewed should have been rejected because the business seeking the loan or grant failed to meet the program’s minimum standards, the audit states.

Those seven applications were for grants totaling \$126,838.

On 53 other applications reviewed, not enough documentation was available for auditors to determine what reasoning was used to approve the grant or loan.

“The point is we couldn’t tell if they were routinely approving ineligible applications because of the lack of documentation,” Greer said Monday. The documents would show how the eligibility was determined.

More than \$211 million has been set aside for the program.

Businesses that qualify for the program can receive grants up to \$20,000. The eligibility requirements include the businessman applying for the money own more than 51 percent of the business, which employs fewer than 50 people in areas affected by the 2005 hurricanes, Katrina and Rita. They also need to show a 30 percent decline in revenues in the months after the hurricane.

The economic development office and the community development office hired seven other agencies — usually regional economic development authorities — to run the program.

Michael Olivier, the secretary of economic development, did not return calls seeking

comment Monday. But in a prepared statement, Olivier said, “We have agreed to the recommendations of the (legislative auditor) and have implemented them.”

Susan Elkins, the executive director of the community development office, also did not return a call seeking comment. But in her Oct. 18 letter to Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot, Elkins wrote that her office believes Olivier’s department, “has charted a course for proper corrective action.”

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<http://www.ims.gov/news/2007/051007.shtm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2007

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Mamie Bittner, mbittner@ims.gov

**Institute of Museum and Library Services Awards Almost \$5 million
For Critical Conservation at Nation’s Museums**

Washington, DC--Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Ph.D., Director of the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), announced the 65 museum recipients of the 2007 Conservation Project Support (CPS) grants totaling \$4.9 million. The grant program, which began in 1984, helps museums identify conservation needs and priorities and perform activities to ensure the safekeeping of its collections. Today, Heritage Preservation also announced participants of their IMLS-supported Conservation Assessment Program (www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP).

“The Conservation Project Support awards help museums develop comprehensive strategies for the care of their collections, safeguarding pieces of our nation’s story, now and for future generations,” Radice said. A 2005 report conducted by IMLS and Heritage Preservation found that immediate action is needed to prevent the loss of millions of irreplaceable artifacts held by archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and scientific organizations.

In addition to its ongoing support of conservation through grants, the Institute has launched Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action. This multi-year conservation initiative aims to increase public awareness of the importance of collections care. The initiative will begin in Washington, D.C., with a June meeting of library and museum representatives from every state

Conservation Project Support grant recipients will match their awards with an additional \$8.9 million. This year, the Institute received 172 applications for a wide range of projects, including conservation treatment, training, and surveys. Eighteen of the 65 grant recipients are first-time CPS grantees. Ten of the recipients won additional funding for a public education component to their conservation project. Museums nationwide of all disciplines, from art to zoo, are among today’s recipients. [Click here for a full list of grant recipients by state.](#)

Conservation Project Support grant recipients include:

The Museum of Northern Arizona, in Flagstaff, will conduct a detailed condition survey of 100 textiles and 90 to 135 Hopi katsina dolls. The grant will allow the museum to better assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of its current storage practices and develop storage and

mounting plans to prevent deterioration. Grant amount: \$8,924. Cost share: \$8,924.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, in Washington, D.C., will conduct an environmental survey of the Woodrow Wilson House's building and existing mechanical systems to develop priorities for collections improvements and a strategy for mechanical upgrades. The Woodrow Wilson House is a national historic landmark and house that focuses on President Woodrow Wilson's Washington Years (1912-1924). Grant amount: \$76,022. Cost share: \$77,760.

The Chicago Zoological Society in Brookfield, IL, will conduct research to learn more about basic behavioral and physiological patterns of male and female okapi, a forest-dwelling hoofed mammal. The goal of this project is to develop management recommendations to improve the well-being of the captive okapi population. Grant amount: \$249,922. Cost share: \$320,174.

The National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago will purchase and install new storage furniture in which to properly rehouse the museum's folk art collection. Represented in this collection of more than 700 objects are items indigenous to Mexico such as amate (hand-made bark paper), papier-mâché or cartonera (an ephemeral form of papier-mâché used for festivals and holiday celebrations), and extremely brittle ceramics. Grant amount: \$83,595. Cost Share: \$90,000.

The University of Iowa's Museum of Art in Iowa City will use its grant to conduct research on important components in 15th - 19th-century western paper, the results of which will allow conservators and other preservation specialists to make better-informed treatment and collections care decisions. The project will augment the William Barrow Laboratory's pioneering 1974 analysis of 1,500 historical papers, but include certain analytical techniques not used or unavailable 30 years ago. Grant amount: \$184,740. Cost Share: \$220,938.

The Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka will treat two Kansas Civil War battle flags carried by Kansas regiments at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. The flags are painted and depict numerous battle honors. One of the flags is from the 1st Kansas Battery, commanded by James Lane, one of the first U.S. Senators from Kansas and a fervent antislavery soldier. His unit attacked and looted Osceola, Missouri, an event that incited Confederate guerilla William Quantrill to later attack the town of Lawrence, Kansas, where Lane lived, killing 150 men and boys. Grant amount: \$25,837. Cost Share: \$25,913.

The Louisiana Museum Foundation in New Orleans will purchase compact shelving, conservation materials, and supplies to rehouse the museum's collections. These collections will be returned to the museum from temporary storage where they were stored due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Grant amount: \$150,000. Cost Share: \$1,087,186.

The New Orleans Museum of Art will purchase and install new storage cabinets to rehouse the museum's diverse permanent collections of furniture, photography, framed works on paper, textiles, small-scale sculpture, ethnographic, and decorative art that was removed from storage areas due to damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Grant amount: \$94,600. Cost Share: \$97,900.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston will treat wooden and polychromed wooden material excavated from an Egyptian tomb dated to about 2000 B.C. The tomb, filled with funerary equipment of a local governor and his wife, comprises one of the largest, most important reference collections for the study of ancient cultures along the Nile Valley. Grant amount: \$131,537. Cost Share: \$230,003.

The Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, VT, will provide mid-career on-the-job training for a staff conservator and an advanced internship for a recent conservation graduate in folk art conservation. The intern will assist in the conservation of 27 painted folk art panels from the museum's rare intact 1902 carousel built by the Gustav A. Dentzel Carousel Company, and a 1920's Artizan Factories carousel organ. This grant will also help to design, fabricate, and mount an exhibit on the conservation of the 900-piece hand-carved Arnold Circus Parade, the Dentzel carousel animals and rounding boards, and the Artizan Factories carousel organ. Preventive conservation actions taken throughout the museum's 27 collections buildings will

also be highlighted and explained. Grant amount: \$82,029. Cost Share: \$89,114.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

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http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/rpts/audit/editorial_0604.shtm

Financial Assistance (Grants) Reports, Fiscal Year 2007

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Atlanta Field Office

- [Audit of Personnel Costs Claimed by New York State Emergency Management Office Under FEMA Grant Programs, Audit Report No. DA-07-10](#) (PDF, 8 pages - 373 KB) - **New 10/16/2007**
- [Audit of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma Activities, Monroe County, FL, Public Assistance ID No. 087-99087-00, FEMA Disasters Nos. 1602 and 1609-DR-FL, Report No. DA-07-09](#) (PDF, 4 pages - 177 KB) - **New 10/16/2007**
- [Reveiw of Hurricane Wilma Activities, City of Pembroke Pines, FL, Public Assistance ID No. 011-55775-00, FEMA Disaster No. 1609-DR-FL, Report No. DA-07-12](#) (PDF, 6 pages - 355 KB) - **New 10/10/2007**
- [Audit of Hurricane Katrina and Wilma Activities, City of Miami, FL, Public Assistance ID No. 086-45000-00, FEMA Disasters Nos. 1602 and 1609-DR-FL, Report No. DA-07-11](#) (PDF, 5 pages 355 - KB)
- [Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, Report No. DA-07-03](#) (PDF, 3 pages - 200 KB)
- [Review of Hurricane Katrina Activities, Jones County, Mississippi, FEMA Disaster 1604-DR-MS, Report No. DA-07-08](#) (PDF, 3 pages - 253 KB)

- [Review of Hurricane Katrina Activities, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, FEMA Disaster No. 1605-DR-AL, Report No. DA-07-07 \(PDF, 4 pages - 81 KB\)](#)
- [Interim Review of Hurricane Wilma Activities, City of Coral Gables, Florida, FEMA Disaster No. 1609-DR-FL, Report No. DA-07-06 \(PDF, 3 pages - 46 KB\)](#)
- [Review of Hurricane Katrina Activities, Hancock County, Mississippi, FEMA Disaster No. 1604-DR-MS, Report No. DA-07-05 \(PDF, 3 pages - 47 KB\)](#)
- [Review of Hurricane Wilma Activities, City of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, FEMA Disaster No. 1609-DR-FL, Report No. DA-07-04 \(PDF, 4 pages - 66 KB\)](#)
- [Review of Hurricane Katrina Activities, City of Gulfport, MS, FEMA Disaster No. 1604-DR-MS, Report No. DA-07-02 \(PDF, 3 pages - 97 KB\)](#)
- [Audit of Emergency Management Performance Grant Funds Awarded to the Virgin Islands Territorial, Emergency Management Agency, Audit Report No. DA-07-01 \(PDF, 6 pages - 139 KB\)](#)

Denton Field Office

- [Review of Hurricane Katrina Debris Removal Activities, Washington Parish, LA, FEMA Disaster No.1603-DR-LA, Public Assistance ID No. 117-99117-00, Report No. DD-07-11 \(PDF, 16 pages - 117 KB\) - New 10/10/2007](#)
- [Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Inc., FEMA Disaster No. DR-1606-TX, Public Assistance ID No. 000-UN08R-00, Audit Report No. DD-07-09 \(PDF, 4 pages - 538 KB\)](#)
- [Review of Hurricane Katrina Debris Removal Activities St Tammany Parish, Louisiana, FEMA Disaster No. 1603-DR-LA, Public Assistance ID No. 087-99087-00, Report No. DD-07-10 \(PDF, 14 pages - 98 KB\)](#)
- [Interim Review of Hurricane Katrina Activities, City of Kenner, Louisiana, FEMA Disaster No. 1603-DR-LA, Public Assistance ID No. 051-39475-00, Report No. DD-07-08 \(PDF, 6 pages - 60 KB\)](#)
- [Interim Review of Hurricane Rita Activities, Jefferson County, TX, FEMA Disaster No. DR-1606-TX, Public Assistance ID No. 245-99245-00, Report No. DD-07-07 \(PDF, 5 pages - 51 KB\)](#)
- [Interim Review of Contract Costs, Clearbrook, LLC FEMA Disaster No. DR-1603-LA, Report No. DD-07-06 \(PDF, 6 pages - 60 KB\)](#)

- [Interim Review of Hurricane Katrina Activities, Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana FEMA Disaster No. DR-1603-LA, Public Assistance ID No. 075-02886-00, Report No. DD-07-05 \(PDF, 4 pages - 52 KB\)](#)
- [City of Houston, Houston, Texas, FEMA Disaster No. 1379-DR-TX, Public Assistance ID No. 201-35000-00, Audit Report No. DD-07-04 \(PDF, 13 pages - 207 KB\)](#)
- [Congressional Inquiry, Landfill Cost Issues Relating to Disposal of Debris in the City of New Orleans, Report No. DD-07-03 \(PDF, 5 pages - 83 KB\)](#)
- [St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana's, Management of State Homeland Security Grants Awarded For the Removal of Debris From Hurricane Katrina \(Redacted\) DD-07-02 \(PDF, 22 pages - 355 KB\)](#)
- [University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX, FEMA Disaster No. DR-1379-TX, DD-07-01 \(PDF, 6 pages - 271 KB\)](#)

San Francisco Field Office

- [Audit of Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Grant Funding Awarded to the State of Washington's Department of General Administration After the Nisqually Earthquake, Audit Report No. DS-07-01 \(PDF, 51 pages 3.46 MB\)](#)

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<http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=4779985>

Katrina Grant Application Process Begins

The application process is underway for three billion dollars in Katrina Homeowner Grants.

That federal block grant money is being administered by the Mississippi Development Authority. It's designed to help residents who lived outside the federal flood zone, but still sustained significant flood damage from the hurricane.

Government assistance programs are sometimes plagued by endless red tape and frustrated applicants. But WLOX News found just the opposite in Hancock County Monday. Applicants we talked with give the Katrina Homeowner Grants program and process, a thumbs up.

"And we lost everything in the house. All our appliances, our furniture, what you see. We had to gut the whole house," said Justin Vitrano as he gave a tour of his flood damaged home.

Katrina's floodwater reached the ceiling in his house on Venus Street in Waveland. Volunteers from the Baptist Church are helping him restore the home. He's counting on Katrina Homeowner Grants to help pay for part of the project.

"They just wanted documents and receipts from any repairs that you made and deeds. Just personal information. Contact numbers and stuff like that," he explained.

St. Stanislaus school is one of three application centers for the state-administered grant money. Judy Therrell was among several applicants who praised the process on opening day.

"It was fine. It was real together," she said with a smile.

"Four and a half feet of water. We got home three days after the storm and checked it out. Within a week, we started gutting the house ourselves," said Kirk Necaise.

The Waveland man says the Katrina Homeowner Grant would be a welcome boost in covering his extensive and expensive home repair bill. He's doing much of the work himself.

"We did the painting. Hung the sheet rock. Whatever we could do on our own, did some trim. It's hard to pay the prices out there these days," he said.

Necaise and his wife took time out from the home repairs, to be certain their names are among those eligible for the grants.

"It went great. It was a fast process. Very good," said Stevee Necaise.

Eligible homeowners may qualify for up to 150 thousand dollars. The grant money won't be awarded until the application process is finished. That's expected to take six to eight weeks.

[By Steve Phillips](#)

News

October 11, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN MOSS POINT

Governor Haley Barbour was joined by consumers, engineers and local officials here today as ground was broken for the first post-Katrina water system enhancement project in Jackson County

September 18, 2007

BARBOUR: LOW INCOME MISSISSIPPIANS BENEFIT FROM RECOVERY HOUSING PROGRAMS

Housing grants, tax credits, mortgage bonds, public housing funds, long term workforce plan all part of comprehensive housing recovery strategy

August 30, 2007

BARBOUR: HURRICANE RECOVERY FUND GRANTS \$34 MILLION TO HELP REBUILD COAST

A special recovery fund created by Governor Haley Barbour in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has raised and granted more than \$34 million to help rebuild Coast housing, community centers, playgrounds and day care facilities

August 26, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR RELEASES KATRINA TWO-YEAR REPORT

As the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approaches, the Governor's Office of Recovery and Renewal today released findings from state agencies reporting their recovery efforts during the past year.

August 22, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANTS OF \$9.5 MILLION FOR FOURTEEN PROJECTS IN JACKSON COUNTY

Grants for constructed projects will total \$99.5 million

August 22, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM FOR WORKFORCE RENTAL HOUSING ON COAST

Workshops planned for Small Rental Assistance Program

August 20, 2007

MDEQ APPROVES GRANTS OF \$15.3 MILLION FOR TWELVE HANCOCK COUNTY PROJECTS

Constructed projects will total \$111 million

August 16, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANT OF \$9.4 MILLION FOR 23 HARRISON COUNTY PROJECTS

Constructed projects will total \$229 million

August 1, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR: HOMEOWNERS GRANT PROGRAM PASSES \$1 BILLION MARK

Governor Haley Barbour said today more than \$1 billion in housing recovery assistance has been delivered to thousands of Coast families under a comprehensive homeowners grant program.

June 21, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES TOTAL ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS

Governor Haley Barbour today announced the full amount of \$128 million in federal Social Services Block Grant monies has been allocated and will help many Mississippi families and supporting agencies continue their recovery from Hurricane Katrina

June 21, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR GIVES FIRST COTTAGE KEYS TO BILOXI RESIDENT

Governor Haley Barbour today presented the keys to the first Mississippi Park Model cottage to Biloxi resident Katherine St. Amant, whose Claiborne Street home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina

June 20, 2007

WIRED GRANT TARGETS ADVANCED WORKFORCE TRAINING

A \$5 million federal grant to plan, design and create centers for excellence in advanced manufacturing and help Mississippi workers attain higher job skills has been approved

June 12, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SEEKS ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANTS

Mississippi is seeking federal approval to pump an additional \$150 million into a grant program designed to help local governments rebuild towns ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

May 15, 2007

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR TWO SCHOOLS IN HARRISON COUNTY

Governor Haley Barbour today announced the Harrison County School District will receive more than \$19 million in federal grants to enhance two schools in the district

May 9, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO HELP REVITALIZE COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Governor Haley Barbour today announced approval of more than \$97.2 million in grants to help with post-Katrina revitalization projects in 15 coastal communities

April 26, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RESTORE RENTAL HOUSING

Update: \$869 Million Distributed to 12,413 Families in Housing Assistance

April 26, 2007

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR

On the extension of FEMA travel trailer deadline

April 3, 2007

WIND POOL RECEIVES \$30 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS

Governor Haley Barbour and Commissioner of Insurance George Dale announced today that the Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association (MWUA or Wind Pool) has received \$30 million in Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds

March 29, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SIGNS BILL TO AID SMALL BUSINESS

Legislation signed by Governor Haley Barbour will allow more small and mid-sized businesses to qualify for GO Zone tax-exempt bond financing as they build new facilities or expand in Mississippi

March 22, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SIGNS 'WIND POOL' BILL

Joined by lawmakers and other officials at the Capitol, Governor Haley Barbour today signed a bill designed to help promote the availability of insurance for Mississippi homeowners and businesses, whose premiums skyrocketed after Hurricane Katrina.

March 12, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR HANCOCK COUNTY PROJECTS

Governor Haley Barbour announced today that a \$271,929 grant to the Hancock County Utility Authority has been approved by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

March 6, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR HARRISON COUNTY PROJECTS

Governor Haley Barbour announced today that a \$568,500 grant to the Harrison County Utility Authority has been approved by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

February 22, 2007

SCOTT TO SERVE AS POLICY ANALYST TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RENEWAL

Matthew Scott of Jackson has been named public assistance policy analyst

January 30, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR COAST PROJECTS

Governor Haley Barbour announced today that a \$224,415 grant to the Jackson County Utility Authority and a \$102,700 grant to the Pearl River County Utility Authority have been approved by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

January 30, 2007

MCDONALD NAMED DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RENEWAL

Governor Haley Barbour has named Bryan McDonald to serve as director of the Governor's Office of Recovery and Renewal, which is coordinating the state's efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina.

January 24, 2007

HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM DELIVERS 10,000TH CHECK

Mississippi has delivered more than 10,000 grants under an unprecedented program to help homeowners along the Coast recover and rebuild from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina

January 19, 2007

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAM

Governor Haley Barbour announced today he has received notification that FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security will extend the Katrina temporary housing program

December 21, 2006

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR

On meeting emergency housing needs

December 20, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR TOUTS HUD APPROVAL OF NEW COMPONENTS IN KATRINA RECOVERY PLAN

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's approval of two new components of Mississippi's comprehensive Hurricane Katrina recovery program

December 14, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR NAMES WOMACK TO HEAD MEMA

Governor Haley Barbour today named Mike Womack of Jackson as Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

November 17, 2006

STATE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON SECOND PHASE OF HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Homeowners who did not qualify under the original multibillion-dollar grant program

October 24, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES PROJECT TO EXTEND STUDY OF GULF COAST HOUSING NEEDS

Governor Haley Barbour announced today that the National Association of

September 26, 2006

\$18 MILLION IN HURRICANE RECOVERY GRANTS COMMITTED

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund has approved \$18 million in grant commitments to aid in the recovery process from the worst natural disaster in American history

September 21, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GULF COAST HOUSING

September 21, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES NEW PHASES OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN

Programs Targeted to Low and Moderate Income Homeowners, Renters

September 18, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES \$10 M OF SSBG FUNDS TO HELP COAST HOSPITALS

Governor Haley Barbour today announced he is setting aside \$10 million of social service block grant funds to help hospitals along the Mississippi Gulf Coast recruit and retain health care professionals.

September 14, 2006

GRANTS APPROVED TO AID LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour and the State Bond Commission today approved grants that will assist local governments in providing essential services

September 1, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO RESTORE SOCIAL SERVICES LOST TO KATRINA

Governor Haley Barbour today announced the allocation of more than \$17.8 million in social services block grant (SSBG) funds to be used to restore services to hospitals and other social services entities affected by Hurricane Katrina.

August 31, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW HOUSING ON COAST

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour today announced that over \$10 million of housing tax credits awarded will facilitate construction of housing units on Coast

August 25, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR RELEASES "ONE YEAR AFTER KATRINA: PROGRESS REPORT ON RECOVERY, REBUILDING AND RENEWAL"

Governor Haley Barbour today announced the release of the Katrina report, "One Year After Katrina: Progress Report on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal."

August 17, 2006

HUD APPROVES \$100 MILLION FOR COAST PUBLIC HOUSING

More than 2,500 public housing units in South Mississippi were damaged or destroyed when Hurricane Katrina made landfall nearly one year ago. Today, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson approved a \$100 million plan to restore these public housing units on at least a "one-to-one basis."

August 11, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ANNOUNCES "WORKING YOUR WAY BACK HOME" PROGRAM

(Biloxi, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour today announced the "Working Your Way Back Home" initiative,

August 10, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ANNOUNCES AWARD OF SUPPLEMENTAL KATRINA GRANTS

(Jackson, Mississippi) — Governor Haley Barbour today announced the award of more than \$4 million in Katrina Supplemental Public Facilities Code Enforcement funds for communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

June 30, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR: STATE WILL PAY 90 PERCENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF DEBRIS REMOVAL COSTS

(Jackson, Mississippi) – Starting Saturday, the state will pay 90 percent of non-federal costs for removal of dry debris remaining in areas stricken by Hurricane Katrina

June 30, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES \$86.3M OF SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR STATE AGENCIES

(Jackson, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour today announced the allocation of more than \$86 million of social services block grant

June 23, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES \$6M GRANT FOR COASTAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

(Biloxi, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour announced today the Coastal Family Health Center, headquartered in Biloxi, will receive a \$6.1 million grant

June 22, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR UPDATES LAWMAKERS ON RECOVERY, REBUILDING AND RENEWAL

(Jackson, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour today distributed the following information to members of the Mississippi Legislature

June 20, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF DEBRIS REMOVAL DEADLINE

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to extend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission to finish debris removal

June 20, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ENCOURAGES PUBLIC COMMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION PLAN

(Jackson, Mississippi)-Governor Haley Barbour is encouraging the public to participate in development of a plan to improve water and sewer services in Mississippi's six southernmost counties.

June 14, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SETS ASIDE \$50 MILLION TO REDUCE 'WIND POOL' RATE INCREASE

(Biloxi, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour announced today he has set aside \$50 million in state-administered federal grants

June 6, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ANNOUNCES AWARD OF \$14.4 M SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS TO RESTORE CHILDCARE PROGRAMS

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour today announced the Mississippi Department of Human Services Office for Children and Youth's award

June 5, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR URGES HOMEOWNERS WITH HOUSING NEEDS TO REGISTER

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Barbour is asking low- to moderate-income homeowners who sustained flood damage to their homes due to Hurricane Katrina to register.

May 31, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR AWARDS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS TO MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITIES & STATE AGENCIES

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour today awarded \$58.25 million in federal grants to aid law enforcement and state agencies in the wake of Katrina.

May 30, 2006

HOME BUILDERS WORKSHOP HELD IN BILOXI

Over 500 home builders from Mississippi and across the nation were briefed on opportunities for housing development on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

May 22, 2006

"GREEN BUILDING IS STORM RESISTANT" WORKSHOP AND TRADESHOW TO BE HELD JUNE 6TH

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is hosting this event to inform decision-makers about the storm-resistant features of sustainable design and technology and to teach participants how to implement these strategies in coastal communities. Product tradeshow is open to the public.

May 18, 2006

STATE SEEKS \$100 MILLION TO REBUILD COAST PUBLIC HOUSING

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour has asked federal authorities to approve up to \$100 million

May 10, 2006

HOUSING WORKSHOP FOR BUILDERS TO BE HELD MAY 24TH

Housing workshop will focus on factors that either facilitate or hinder the construction of housing.

April 18, 2006

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SIGNS BILL CREATING GULF REGIONAL WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

(Gulfport, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour today signed the Gulf Region Water Utility Authority Act

April 13, 2006

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED FOR HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

(Jackson, Mississippi) – Today seven Mississippi businesses were recognized by the Small Business Administration for outstanding acts of volunteerism following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

April 6, 2006

HUD Approves Homeowner's Assistance Program

Applications begin on April 17

March 7, 2006

Governor Barbour's Testimony Before U.S. Senate

Governor Discusses Hurricane Recovery Issues

January 14, 2006

Gavin Smith's Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity

Director Gavin Smith Discusses Housing Options

January 3, 2006

Federal Appropriations for Katrina Recovery

Summary of Hurricane Relief Items in the 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations Act

P.O. Box 139 | Jackson, MS 39205 | Phone: 601.359.3150 | Fax: 601.359.3741

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/sof/news/katrinagrants_20060124

OSI Announces Hurricane Katrina Grants

Press Release

January 24, 2006

Contact: Amy Weil

aweil@sorosny.org

1-212-548-0381

NEW YORK – As part of a wider effort to strengthen communities in the United States and around the world, the Open Society Institute today announced a special [Katrina Media Fellowship](#) competition as well as grants to eight frontline nonprofits working in the devastated Gulf Region.

OSI's U.S. Programs expects to award between 12 and 15 journalism fellowships in June 2006 for the one-time competition. The grants will support exceptional print and radio journalists, photographers, and documentary filmmakers to help foster a national conversation on race and class inequalities that Hurricane Katrina laid bare.

OSI's Katrina Media Fellows will receive between \$15,000 and \$35,000; special consideration will be given to applicants who have been displaced from or are residents of the Gulf Region. By supporting in-depth journalism projects, OSI hopes to improve media coverage and deepen public understanding of the persistent problems of poverty, racism, and government neglect.

OSI is also providing \$815,000 to eight nonprofit groups in the South whose work has been interrupted by the storm, paying special attention to the most urgent needs of low-income people of color, immigrants, and women to ensure that their voices are heard as the recovery moves forward.

The eight grants, awarded in November, include support for local and national organizations to monitor post-Katrina efforts and assure that equity and social justice are given paramount importance. The grants encourage those most affected by Katrina to get involved in shaping policy and rebuilding their communities.

The organizations supported by OSI are helping to provide legal representation to immigrants, document the cases of incarcerated people whose records were lost in the storm, and involve low-income young people and women of color in shaping policy.

The Hurricane Katrina funding reflects OSI's commitment to ensuring that the interests of the most vulnerable people are at the forefront of policy. OSI over the past decade has spent some \$742 million in the United States to strengthen human rights, access to justice, education, professionalism in law and medicine, palliative care, and to ensure the inclusion of everyone in the democratic process.

Grantees

The following organizations received funding to help restore communities in the Gulf Region:

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC): \$185,000 to support legal representation of immigrants affected by the storm, including the undocumented and those who lost documents, the elderly, disabled, refugees, detainees, and laborers.

Critical Resistance/Justice Now: \$40,000 to rebuild offices and regional chapters; to assist families of the incarcerated, attorneys, and community leaders in documenting the stories of prisoners who are not being released because their cases were disrupted by Katrina; and to encourage the fair treatment of individuals who were arrested post-Katrina for alleged looting and theft.

Ms. Foundation for Women, Inc.: \$60,000 to map and assess the needs of low-income women of color in the flood-affected region and develop strategies to help these women play a role in influencing policies and programs.

National Immigration Law Center: \$195,000 to ensure that immigrants are not overlooked or exploited in disaster recovery efforts; to support community-based organizations serving immigrant survivors; to produce community education materials; and to coordinate response efforts with other regional and national coalitions addressing the needs of immigrants, and all hurricane survivors.

Pacific News Service: \$35,000 to complete and distribute the results of the New America Media multilingual poll of ethnic Americans on the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

Southern Partners Fund: \$75,000 to provide relief and support to grassroots organizations located in affected areas of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, enabling them to regain operational capacity.

Sound Portraits – StoryCorps: \$150,000 to provide continued support for StoryCorps’ two permanent booths in New York City as well as support for two mobile StoryBooths which will travel to New Orleans and other locations in the Gulf Coast region to collect the stories of those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Students at the Center: \$75,000 to continue an intensive writing and media program for displaced youth from New Orleans’ most under-resourced public high-schools, and to ensure these students’ participation in developing post-Katrina public education.

[View a more detailed description of grantee activities.](#)

[View the Katrina Media Fellowship guidelines.](#)

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, is part of the network of foundations, created and funded by George Soros, active in more than 60 countries around the world.

OSI's U.S. Programs seeks to strengthen democracy in the United States by addressing barriers to opportunity and justice, broadening public discussion about such barriers, and assisting marginalized groups to participate equally in civil society and to make their voices heard. U.S. Programs challenges over-reliance on the market by advocating appropriate government responsibility for human needs and promoting public interest and service values. U.S. Programs supports initiatives in a range of areas including access to justice for low and moderate income people; judicial independence; ending the death penalty; over-reliance on incarceration; drug policy reform; inner-city education and youth programs; fair treatment of immigrants; and reproductive health and choice.

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<http://katrinanetworking.blogspot.com/2007/08/grants-of-week.html>

THURSDAY, MARCH 08, 2007

Grants For Individuals

This page does not include information on grants for homebuying or repair. Visit the Mortgage and Home/Utility pages.

2/3 Grant Writing Tip Site

2/1 Grants for Women over 65

This foundation provides grants to economically disadvantaged women over the

age of 65. Grants are generally awarded up to \$6,000, but could be more. This is a national grant program.

Contact Sarah A. W. Devens Trust,
c/o Rice, Heard & Bigelow, Inc.,
50 Congress St., Ste. 1025,
Boston, MA 02109;
617-557-7509;
axs@riceheard.com.

For HomeOwners Grants for down payments and more

Craft Emergency Relief Fund

CERF provides immediate support to professional crafts-people suffering career-threatening emergencies, thereby helping them sustain their craftsmanship as a livelihood and, by doing so, enriching the cultural and economic vitality of communities in the United States.

Ways To Work micro grants (from Janet) Ways to Work programs provide small loans to low-income families that are commonly used for automobile purchase or repair, mortgage or housing expenses, or child care-all to help parents keep a job or stay in school. To learn more about the program requirements and how the Alliance can help qualified organizations implement Ways to Work, contact Deborah Smith at 800-221-3726, ext. 3636.

Share a Smile ShareASmile Foundation was founded in 1999 by Mark T. Hammond, president and CEO of Flagstar Bank. Mr. Hammond's goal has been to assist people directly, especially individuals whose needs fall outside the boundaries of other charitable organizations. Since its inception, the foundation has helped many individuals experiencing hardships.

Reference Guide for Grants To The Disabled

If you are an individual with a physical or other disability, and you are looking for information on grants specifically for those with disabilities, this user aid will help you in your search. We have selected a few of the most important print and electronic resources for you to begin your search.

BreadWinners Foundation The Breadwinners Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to strengthening the safety net for families who have tragically lost their principal breadwinner.

LGBT Family Grants

Other Resource Pages

[Businesses](#)

[Children/Childcare](#)

[Dental](#)

[Disabled](#)

[Education Assistance](#) [Elderly](#)

[Emotional Resources](#)

[Family Resources](#)

[Furniture and More](#)

[Grandfamily/Single Parent Resources](#)[Grants for Individuals - does not include homeowner or repair grants](#)

[Home/Utility LA Family Resources](#)

[Medical Resources](#)[Mortgage Resources](#)

Labels: [financial aid](#), [grant](#), [individuals](#), [recovery](#), [relief](#)

posted by Leslie | [Thursday, March 08, 2007](#)

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<http://www.fndmidsouth.org/>

Foundation For the Mid South

FMS and other national and regional partners have supported the development of new data and information on the status of hurricane recovery along the Gulf Coast. Below are links to two new reports:

Gulf Coast Collaborative's compendium

>>> [Coming Back from Catastrophe](#)

PERC study >>> [Recovery, Renewal, and Resiliency: Gulf Coast Small Businesses Two Years Later](#)

The Foundation for the Mid South was created to improve the lives of those living in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation does this by using private philanthropic resources to fund, develop, and promote initiatives in the areas of **education, economic development, and families and children**. Since its establishment in 1989, the Foundation has awarded nearly **\$11 million** in grants to community organizations and leaders throughout the three states with its total impact estimated at \$150 million in new resources for the region.

NOTE: For those applying to the Foundation for the Mid South—*regardless of the state where your organization is established or operates*—MUST register and receive a certificate that designates it as a public charity or exempt for the state of Mississippi before applying. The application, Form URS, to apply to the Mississippi Secretary of State is available at www.sos.state.ms.us/forms/forms.asp?Unit=Charities

The Foundation will issue a request for proposals (RFP) when funding will be made available through one of our initiatives. The RFP will consist of two documents: (1) *Grants Cover Sheet*, and (2) *Grant Guidelines* specific to the funding.

Current funding opportunities:

[American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program
Community Resilience Grants](#)

Rebuild Ocean Springs Fund

Deadline: *n/a*

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<http://wadleighrefdesk.blogspot.com/2007/04/new-orleans-post-katrina.html>

Wadleigh Reference Desk Blog

From The Wadleigh Memorial Library Reference Librarians

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007

[New Orleans - Post Katrina](#)

Soon after experiencing our local flooding here in Milford my husband and I took a trip to New Orleans. Though I was glad to get away from mopping the basement to

enjoy some warm, sunny weather down South, I couldn't help but appreciate the enormous sacrifices and deprivations the people of New Orleans still experience 20 months after the storm that devastated their city. Millions of people have been lost or displaced and many of those who were able to leave may never come back.

Because of time constraints (and the lack of a car) we did not take the post-Katrina drive described in Fodor's New Orleans 2007 which guides you through mid-city and 17th st., Gentilly and the lower Ninth Ward. Friends of ours did and were very moved by the horror of the scenes of devastation. Yet there many signs of renewal. Everyone told us to pass the word that New Orleans is coming back and wants the tourists to return. There is such a vibrancy and sense of excitement about the city that, despite the tragedy of Katrina, it draws you in...with its fabulous food, music, friendly people and fascinating culture and history.

As with any trip I never leave home without my Fodor's. I also brought our library copy of Frommer's New Orleans 2007 to cover all the bases. Both books are comprehensive, but Fodor's has better maps. I used the Frommer's the first day to get from my hotel Jackson Square and got completely turned around and spent 2 hours circling the French Quarter before I found St. Louis Cathedral. I guess part of the fun of discovering a new city is getting lost, but my feet hurt. Fodor's also has a detailed account of the history of the storm which maps the events of August 29 - September 26 and subsequent events ending with the American Library Association meeting in June 2006.

So with travel season coming up be sure to stop by the library to check out materials to help plan your next trip.

Posted by: Susan Amann, Reference Librarian

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<http://www.casefoundation.org/spotlight/katrina>

Bringing New Orleans Back

by Elaine Gast

Volunteers offer service and hope to a city rebuilding.

It's hurricane season on the Gulf Coast. Throughout the region, people are talking about what little has been done -- not only by way of rebuilding and the residents' right of return, but making sure the area is safe from another storm. A long two years later, there are no guarantees.

In a region where hope has been hard to find, there is one bright spot. Hurricane Katrina mobilized Americans from all over the country to head South in the spirit of service. From New Orleans to Biloxi, an estimated 1.1 million volunteers have contributed services worth nearly \$263 million in the last two years, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Nic Bonsell, 26, is one of those volunteers. He came to New Orleans from Minnesota in November 2005 to help with the Gulf Coast clean-up. Like many volunteers, Bonsell was only supposed to stay for a couple weeks. Two years later, he's still in New Orleans.

"When I first got here, the city was dead. The power was out, the curfew was still in effect and there were military Humvees driving the streets." Since then, he's seen it grow into a functioning city. "It's 200 times better than what it was back then," he said. "The heart and soul of the city hasn't been lost. The people kept that, and they're trying to bring it back."

Bonsell is committed to helping them. He now serves as construction supervisor at Hands On New Orleans (HONO), a disaster response project of the Hands On Network. Hands On comprises 62 nonprofit organizations worldwide, with a mission to strengthen communities through meaningful volunteer action. Hands On Network now partners with another organization, Hands On USA, to provide a presence of volunteers in the Gulf Coast region.

Volunteer organizations like HONO have been a huge help to the city. "We are making progress, slowly," said Bonsell. "We've been able to make a difference on some of the pressing public health issues -- like mold remediation, trash removal, and gutting houses."

Last fall, the city required people to gut their homes or tear them down. As homeowners scrambled to save their properties, volunteers from nonprofits and churches came to their rescue.

Gutting a house is no easy task. It requires a team of people, suited in protective gear, to clear everything out of abandoned homes -- clothes, dishes, washers, dryers, everything. Next, the walls come down, including the molding, sheetrock, and wires. When all's said and done, the only thing that remains is the skeleton of a home: the structural studs, outside walls, the roof, and the floor.

If done commercially, gutting can cost between \$3,000 and \$15,000, but volunteers provided the service for free. This gave homeowners who may not have been able to afford the costs of labor the option of rebuilding or selling.

In another small victory for the people, a community-initiated group called the Common Ground Collective sent teams of volunteers out mowing lawns and replanting greenery, among many other relief activities. According to volunteer Ted Cash, a 24-year-old from Chino, Calif., mowing grass is more important than it sounds. "The city has been fining people for uncut lawns -- even on homes where the people aren't able to move back in. If any grass goes uncut, the city threatens to repossess those houses. So we mow grass in the Lower 9th."

Cash said that Common Ground is moving away from direct relief and looking to long-term advocacy and recovery work. His role is to offer technical support for Common Ground and other nonprofits in the city. "I set up computer networks for local nonprofits, and opened a free computer lab for people in neighborhoods to go online." He is working on setting up a wireless

network at two public housing sites, and is seeking equipment donations to do so.

Cash has been in New Orleans off and on for more than a year. "It's all volunteer work. Common Ground pays for my food and housing -- and by that I mean, I sleep in my office," he said. "But I feel like I have to stay. If I wasn't here, I don't know anyone else who would do it."

In spite of spartan living conditions, many volunteers have fallen in love with the broken city, and are committed to seeing it come back. "My family was skeptical of me being down here, until they came to visit. When they saw the projects we were doing, and experienced the city and the music, then they understood," said HONO human resources manager Kristin Burlage. "Once you see it, you want to help rebuild it. Living down here, I feel like I'm part of something larger than myself."

Nic Bonsell would agree. "It's an amazing time in the history of New Orleans. Volunteer movement has mobilized people around the country, so to be a part of that is really something." Plus, volunteerism has its perks. "I've met highly intelligent, motivated and passionate people. I'm also building my personal skills -- not only in construction, but in areas like grant writing." He's thinking of going back to school for his master's degree when he leaves.

As for the people of New Orleans, they say they feel blessed to have so many volunteers on their side. "While waiting for the federal, state, and city government to do things they are unable or unwilling to do, the volunteers have been there for us," said New Orleans native Seth Knudsen. "In order for change to continue, though, we're going to need a similar level of volunteerism over the next eight to ten years."

Bonsell doesn't know how long he'll be there, but he's guessing at least another year. "To see the homeowners we're helping, that's what matters," he said. "We're part of the rebuilding of New Orleans. We're part of the change."

To find out more about volunteering in New Orleans or the Gulf Coast, visit [USA Freedom Corps](#) or [VolunteerMatch](#). To volunteer with or donate to [Hands On New Orleans](#) or the [Common Ground Collective](#), contact the organizations directly.

* * * * *

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Elaine Gast is a writer and communications consultant for nonprofits, foundations, membership associations, businesses, and individuals. She has authored six books, contributed to Fodor's Travel Publications, and published articles in numerous magazines and newspapers. Elaine is president of [Four Winds Writing, Inc.](#)

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<http://www.kjlhradio.com/katrina.htm>

KJLH and West Angeles Church Help with Katrina

From the start, the station went into emergency mode contacting and interfacing with churches, civil rights organizations, political leaders preparing swift reaction to the disaster. Our esteemed News Director Jacquie Stephens was on the leading edge of the issue as she accompanied congresswoman Maxine Waters into Houston, Baton Rouge and other shelter locations in the south. It was here that we would learn first hand about the devastating effects of the hurricane on people's lives as Jacquie and Congresswoman Waters provided us with up close and personal reports from the field.

Meanwhile here at home, we linked with Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald as she demanded answers from a seemingly reluctant government while using her congressional influence to acquire much needed big rig equipment for our operation. She and her staff got it done.

We asked the listeners of KJLH across our community to donate their time, money and toiletry items all for the relief of Hurricane Katrina areas. The community heeded our call as they included three centers for donations (Faithful Central Forum, City of Refuge, and West Angeles Church). Listeners from far and wide responded with tons of diapers, non-perishable food items, cotton balls, batteries, flashlights, wheel chairs, walkers, medical supplies and more. Significant financial donations were made. From corporations, churches and private citizens. We even had some little girls who sold lemonade all day and brought their entire proceeds to benefit the We are You Foundation/Katrina Fund.

We also solicited drivers to transport our goods to pre-determined shelter locations. Brothers stepped forth with their rigs. Our heritage as a beacon of communication for the African American Community over the last 40 years, allowed us to link directly with shelters and relief efforts operated by African American organizations, churches, and universities.

KJLH was abuzz with activity as KJLH staff converged at the Forum to gather donations. The City of Refuge collected goods and was our location as Gayle Anderson and the KTLA 5 Crew helped us with volunteers and donation pleas. West Angeles Church received donations from over 2000 cars in one day! All told, tons of goods needed in the south was collected. All these goods have to be sorted, inventoried, boxed and put on pallets. But that's not all, this stuff had to be shrink wrapped!! Whew! Were we busy!! But we put it down!! The combined dedication of the KJLH staff and the community.... Man, it was so awesome to witness.

We have shipped over 150 pallets of supplies to the hurricane affected areas.

Hurricane relief efforts in the South continued under the Caravan of Love. The generosity of the masses of KJLH listeners have allowed us to continue to help our people recover. To that end, we've teamed up with the AME Church, the Council of Jewish Rabbis and the Latino Coalition of Faith for Community Initiatives to send one hundred people to the Gulf Region to pray, work, repair homes, worship centers and generally restore hope. This movement of the people is known as the **Freedom Ride**. The **Freedom Ride** targeted parts of Mississippi largely ignored by general media reports. Your generosity allowed us to donate thousands of dollars cash cards which will be distributed directly to evacuees. Along with the distribution of toiletries and much needed supplies. The Freedom Ride departed on Sunday, October 9, 2005 immediately after Statewide AME convocation services at West Angeles Cathedral located at 3600 Crenshaw. Aundrea Russell broadcasted a portion of the exciting "Spread the Word" gospel radio program live from the Cathedral. It's another example of our people helping our people...

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DISASTER PREPARATION - Click for info!

We were in shock just like you to witness the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. We're hurt that the government seemed to move really slow especially when the images coming from the south showed our people suffering. [Click here to see scenes from Kevin Nash's experience in Louisiana](#)

Meanwhile on the home front, we were hard at work, [click here to check it out!](#)

KJLH Also set up the Universal Beauty School - where all proceeds went to the Caravan of Love, [view photogallery.](#)

So, The Staff at KJLH resolved to make something happen to come to the aid of people in Louisiana and Mississippi. We believe that all the necessary resources to deliver emergency goods, services and equipment exist right here in our own community. We involved churches, community leaders, civil rights organizations and private citizens in an operation known as the **KJLH CARAVAN OF LOVE!**

Thanks so much for the support and sweat equity you, the KJLH listener invested in our hurricane relief efforts... We have accomplished so much and recently, we committed our final act of support. We have provided a generous financial donation to Common Ground Relief, an on-the-ground organization committed to relief solutions for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. To see some of Common Ground's activities, please [click here](#) to see a powerpoint presentation. After that go to their website to learn more about Common Ground Relief. They are at www.commgroundrelief.org

<http://www.salvationarmy-socal.org/content/view/317/10/>

Southern California Division Continues to Serve Katrina Evacuees



Lt. Colonel Paul Bollwahn, whose division continues to serve Katrina evacuees taking refuge in Southern California, recently participated in a different type of recovery effort. On Feb. 9, Bollwahn joined Ambassador Andrew Young, a number of Los Angeles area pastors, and civic leaders from New Orleans to discuss ways they could help churches struggling to recover from the 2005 hurricane.

Hosted by Bishop Charles Blake at the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, the meeting included an update on rebuilding efforts from Cynthia Willard Lewis, a New Orleans councilwoman; Joe Givens, a regional Council of Churches representative, and Carl Williams, the faith-based coordinator for the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

All three speakers agreed that in a city plagued by crime and despair, churches are desperately needed. "Unless the congregations come back," said Givens, "the neighborhoods won't come back. The role of the church is to rebuild families and rebuild lives." Sadly, many churches in New Orleans remain shuttered. "People are looking for their pastors," Givens added. "Eighty percent of churches have not returned."

Councilwoman Lewis pointed out that since Katrina, depression and suicide rates have risen in New Orleans. "People are wounded and hurting. In the midst of great loss, churches make sure that people don't lose their souls."

Special guest Ambassador Andrew Young of Operation Hope announced an initiative designed to revitalize 36 churches in New Orleans. "It is clear that congregations in the Gulf area are still struggling to get back on their feet," said Young. "This coordinated effort will help provide them with the support they desperately need to restore their places of worship."

The initiative will encompass 36 local churches working in partnership with 360 churches nationwide to unify efforts for the next two to three years. The effort hopes to create an institutionalized buddy-system for rebuilding centers of worship in New Orleans.

"In this effort," said Givens, "there is no more Baptist, Methodist, Jew or Catholic. There is no more Democrat or Republican. There is no more uptown or downtown. There is no more White, Black or Hispanic. We need to work together to rebuild as God's people."

According to Colonel Bollwahn, Corps from across the Southern California Division have contributed to a number of Katrina relief efforts. In addition, the Family Services department has a caseload of approximately 1,000 Katrina evacuees. Out of the thousand, 300 to 500 individual and family cases are still open.

"This past year, we assisted 300 Katrina clients in our Christmas Assistance program," said Esther Casas, Director of Family Services, "Another 15 Katrina families were adopted in our Adopt-A-Family Christmas program."

Services provided to Katrina clients consist of rental assistance, utility assistance, crisis counseling, food, clothing, long-term case management, client advocacy, emergency lodging and shelter referrals, relocation assistance (bus or plane tickets) and health services (medical, dental, optometry and prescriptions.)

"The Salvation Army will take care of these families as long as the need exists," said Bollwahn. "We're committed for the long term. It's what we do."

After Katrina hit, former Los Angeles mayor Richard Riordan and Judge Dean Pregerson spearheaded Salvation Army relief efforts in a unique collaboration to assist Katrina victims called Operation Angel Island. Together with the Family Service Outreach Center in downtown Los Angeles, the programs transitioned more than 500 families toward independence by providing critical support services.

The following is information that you as a concerned citizen might be interested in researching and acting upon:

<http://www.colorofchange.org/about.html>

<http://www.colorofchange.org/>

What Is ColorOfChange.org?

Our sisters and brothers were left behind to die, because no one answers to them.

It's time to stand together and make a change.

Most politicians ignore poor Black folks because they can't make big donations or deliver votes. And, to be real, a whole lot of *us* have tip-toed out of the hood and left them behind too, making our folks invisible even to the people who above all others *should* have their backs.

But they weren't invisible after Katrina hit. The media showed us faces we recognized: people who looked like us; people doing everything they could to save their families; people surviving, not "looting." And the more we looked, the more we knew -- it didn't have to be like that.

We were heart-broken and outraged by the catastrophe that followed Hurricane Katrina. We were disgusted by the lack of response by the Bush administration which would **never** have left rich, white people to suffer and die. And we were also devastated to realize that as a Black community, we did not have the capacity or the political power to demand and receive **immediate** action to care for our suffering brothers and sisters.

If there were ever a time to step up, that time is now.

We are asking 250,000 people -- African-Americans and concerned allies of any race -- to make a commitment. To ensure that our brothers and sisters, including all folks who find themselves in the same boat, are protected and are never abandoned again. To make sure that our folks in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast have a chance to be a major part of the rebuilding effort, and are given a chance to thrive. To ensure that Bush cannot use this crisis as another way to fatten the pockets of his friends, and further erode our government's support for those who need it most.

No matter what your race or income level, you know what you saw was wrong. Join us and help to make it right.

We are calling out to all people who are ready to stand up for justice. It is time to come together and raise our voices. Let's all become the color of change.

Join Us.

Please join **Julian Bond**, a true civil rights hero and Chairman of the NAACP, and **Michael Eric Dyson**, a brilliant and incisive commentator on race, class, and culture in America, in signing the pledge.

We, the undersigned, vow to step up in the aftermath of Katrina, to ensure that no one is left behind again.

We commit to doing our part to ensure that all people are regarded as full humans, not as second-class citizens, and that our government is responsive to their needs. We commit to helping those who have been continually ignored gain a powerful political voice.

We will insist that those who have been pushed to the margins become a priority in this country, and that the federal government take responsibility for people in crisis. We will hold the government, and ourselves, accountable.

Together, we will be a powerful force for change.

ColorOfChange.org exists to strengthen Black America's political voice. Our goal is to empower our members—Black Americans and our allies—to make government more responsive to the concerns of Black Americans and to bring about positive political and social change for everyone.

We were heart-broken and outraged by the catastrophe that followed Hurricane Katrina. And we were devastated to realize that no African-American organization or coalition had the capacity to respond on the necessary scale.

Hurricane Katrina made it clear that our lack of a political voice has life-and-death consequences. With no one to speak for them, hundreds of thousands of people—largely Black, poor, and elderly—were left behind to die. But it wasn't just Black folks. Poor, sick, and elderly people of every color were abandoned too. We are not alone, and when we work to protect Black lives and interests, we do the same for all who have been left behind in political silence.

ColorOfChange.org is comprised of Black folks from every economic class, as well as those of every color who seek to help our voices be heard. Our members are united behind a simple, powerful pledge: we will do all we can to make sure *all* Americans are represented, served, and protected—regardless of race or class.

What We Do

Using the Internet, we will enable our members to speak in unison, with an amplified political voice. We will keep them informed about the most pressing issues for Black people in America and give them ways to act. We will lobby elected representatives using email, the telephone, and face-to-face meetings. We'll bring attention to the needs and concerns of Black folks by holding coordinated events in different parts of the country, running TV and print advertisements, and demanding that the news media cover our issues. We will also work with other groups—online efforts and other organizations that are doing related work—to magnify our impact.

When we come together and speak with one voice, we cannot be ignored.

How It Started

James Rucker and Van Jones came together in the wake of Katrina to use the organizing power of the Internet to give Black Americans and our allies a renewed and strengthened political voice.

James Rucker

James Rucker, 36, served as Director of Grassroots Mobilization for MoveOn.org Political Action and Moveon.org Civic Action from the fall of 2003 through the summer of 2005, and was instrumental in developing and executing on fundraising, technology, and campaign strategies. Prior to joining MoveOn, James worked in various roles in the software industry in Silicon Valley: co-founded and leading Imana, Inc., an enterprise software company, in San Francisco, as well as providing management coaching and technology consulting for other start-up ventures. James is also passionate about school reform and issues of equity, and serves on the boards of two area schools. James grew up in Seaside, California and has a BS in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University.

Van Jones

Van Jones, 37, is the founder and executive director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (EBC). Headquartered in Oakland, California, EBC is helping to lead the national fight for alternatives to the U.S. incarceration industry. Born in rural west Tennessee, Van completed his undergraduate degree in 1990 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In 1993, he graduated from the Yale Law School. A pioneering human rights activist, Van is well-known as a steadfast opponent of police brutality and mass incarceration. He has worked with a variety of well-known organizations and initiatives in the social justice and environmental arenas. In recent years, Van has expanded his work to incorporate insights from ecology, spirituality and social entrepreneurship. He is now working to create environmentally-friendly, "green-collar" jobs for formerly-incarcerated persons. He believes the path to peaceful streets and healthy communities is through "green-collar jobs, not jails." In the meantime, Van has recently earned two important, new titles: happy husband and proud father (of a one-year-old son).

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