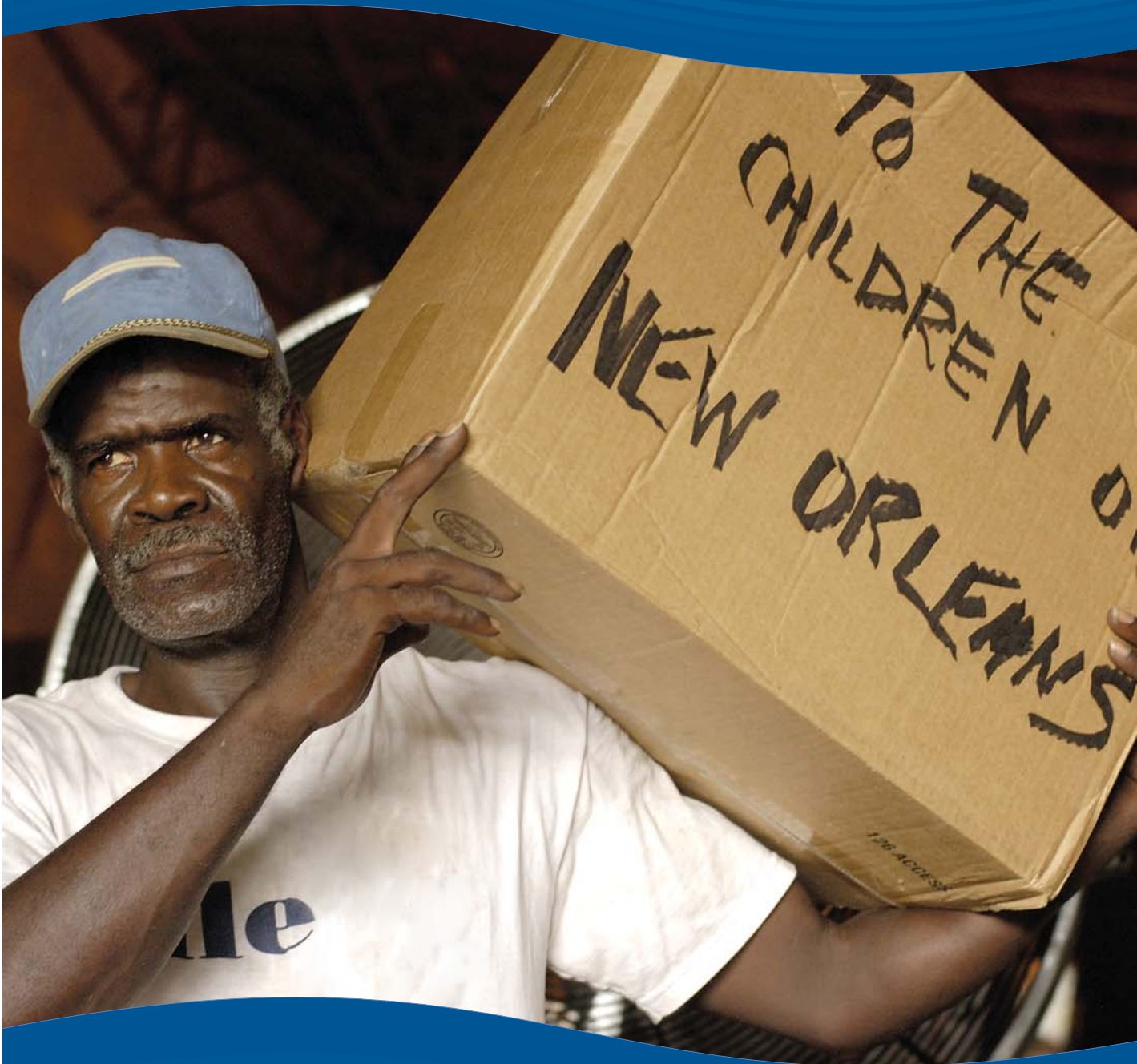


Currents

Special Edition 2005

A publication of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation



Responding
to Hurricane Katrina
with Generosity



Thomas H. Turner
Board Chair

Letter from the Chair

This is why we exist.

By design, community foundations are positioned to respond to challenges that arise at the local level. As institutions of philanthropy and a nexus for community leadership, community foundations assist donors in making informed, timely responses to civic situations. Typically, you can measure the worth of such institutions by the programs they fund and the results those programs achieve.

I am proud to report, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, that we have responded swiftly and responsibly to the unprecedented situation created by Hurricane Katrina. Our commitment to this community begins with people, and we are fulfilling that duty with an unparalleled coordination effort to ensure that each of our displaced neighbors receives the care they need. As we move forward, the Foundation will continue promoting informed decision-making and the efficient use of resources.

Hurricane Katrina has challenged our whole region, our entire nation. Reconstructing New Orleans and caring for our displaced neighbors will not be an easy task, but we are already succeeding. We have witnessed inspiring acts of hope and compassion, generous contributions and offers of assistance from people around the globe.

The outpouring for this relief effort has been astounding.

In this Special Edition of *Currents*, you'll find an overview of our post-Katrina activities. For over a month now, Baton Rouge has been scrambling to accommodate our estimated 250,000 new neighbors, including as many as 50,000 children. Whether temporary or permanent, victims of Hurricane Katrina who have found refuge in Baton Rouge need our support. The Foundation has initiated funds for both the immediate relief of displaced residents and the long-term recovery of New Orleans. Further, we have enlisted the help of the International Rescue Committee, experts in refugee management, in assessing our local needs and programs.

Across the region, service organizations are implementing amazing programs to help evacuees with food, shelter, education, employment and healthcare. In these pages, you'll see the impact that our relief grants have already made. As we continue, you'll be able to find updates and reports on our relief efforts and grants at [www.FOUNDATIONSFORRECOVERY.org](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSFORRECOVERY.org). FOUNDATIONSFORRECOVERY is an internet portal established by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to report to its donors and the greater community on its Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

As a donor, you can be proud of the efforts of the Foundation's staff, Board of Directors, and generous community volunteers.

Thanks for your continued support and welcome to our new neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas H. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

The Foundation's Response

Hurricane Katrina struck the southeastern coastline of Louisiana early on Monday morning, August 29, 2005 with winds exceeding 145 miles per hour. While most citizens of Baton Rouge were waiting the storm out at home, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation convened a meeting to determine its response to the storm.

Realizing that Hurricane Katrina's impact was quickly becoming catastrophic, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation established two funds dedicated to the impending care necessary for evacuees and the recovery of New Orleans. FoundationsForRecovery.org, an internet portal, was established shortly thereafter as a medium for reporting Hurricane Katrina relief efforts to donors and the greater community.

Next, the Foundation convened the Hurricane Katrina Task Force to create a strategy for responding to Hurricane Katrina, and assist in implementing that plan responsibly. Composed of non-profits and service organizations, the Task Force met daily at the Foundation, worked together to identify the immediate needs of evacuees and coordinate relief efforts. The process for administering the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund was heavily influenced by the open dialogue of this forum. Organizations represented in the Task Force include Advance Baton Rouge, the American Red Cross, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Bertman & Associates, Capital Area United Way, The Chamber of Greater Baton Rouge, The Community Foundation of Acadiana, The Greater New Orleans Foundation, Greater New Orleans, Inc., the International Rescue Committee, and Plan Baton Rouge.

On page 4, you'll find the plan that the Foundation, with assistance from the International Rescue Committee, created for administering the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund. With a workable plan in hand, the Foundation assembled 25 grantmaking teams and went on the road, looking for shelters and assessing relief activities across the region. Since then, we've issued \$1,700,097 in grants to relief programs according to the process outlined on page 6. Look for brief descriptions of the 29 grants we've made to 98 organizations throughout this edition.

In our offices at 402 N. Fourth Street, the phones were ringing off the hook. Offers and requests poured in via mail and email. The Foundation's administrative staff focused their energy on connecting those thousands of requests and offers to the appropriate providers. On pages 7 and 9, you can read some of the more unusual stories that resulted from these coordination efforts as narrated by Mary Ann Sternberg.

Nearly 11,000 people have made contributions to the Foundation's relief funds in the month since Hurricane Katrina, inspiring our staff with their generosity and words of encouragement. You'll find anonymous quotes from recent donors throughout these pages. Also, look for the moving letter excerpts on pages 11 and 12.

This *Currents* concludes with highlights from some of our collaborations and new funds, and an overview of the Foundation's key values. As many of you know, our independent membership program funds a major portion of our operating expenses. During this urgent time, we have responded to an unprecedented number of requests, seriously stretching our approved budget. Please read Alice Greer's letter on page 20, and consider renewing your membership or joining for the first time.

"We are just beginning to discern the magnitude of destruction and human loss that is unfolding in southeast Louisiana. This is a human tragedy on a massive level that will have a much greater local impact than many may realize. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the Baton Rouge community must stand ready to assist the many thousands who are displaced from their homes through evacuations to our community."

John G. Davies (August 29, 2005)

**Except where noted, photographs provided by Marie Constantin, to whom we are indescribably grateful.*

Currents is a regular publication of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, and funded by its normal operating budget. Gifts to relief funds were not used for this publication.

Hurricane Katrina Grants

*The Baton Rouge Area Foundation announced its first grants, totaling almost \$670,000, from the **Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund** on September 8, 2005. Two weeks later, on September 23rd, a second set of grants, totaling \$1,030,303, was issued.*

*Non-profit organizations and churches in the greater Baton Rouge area working to benefit those individuals and families that have lost their homes due to the recent hurricane have been considered for grants in the areas of **Education, Human Services, Job Development and Medical/Health**.*

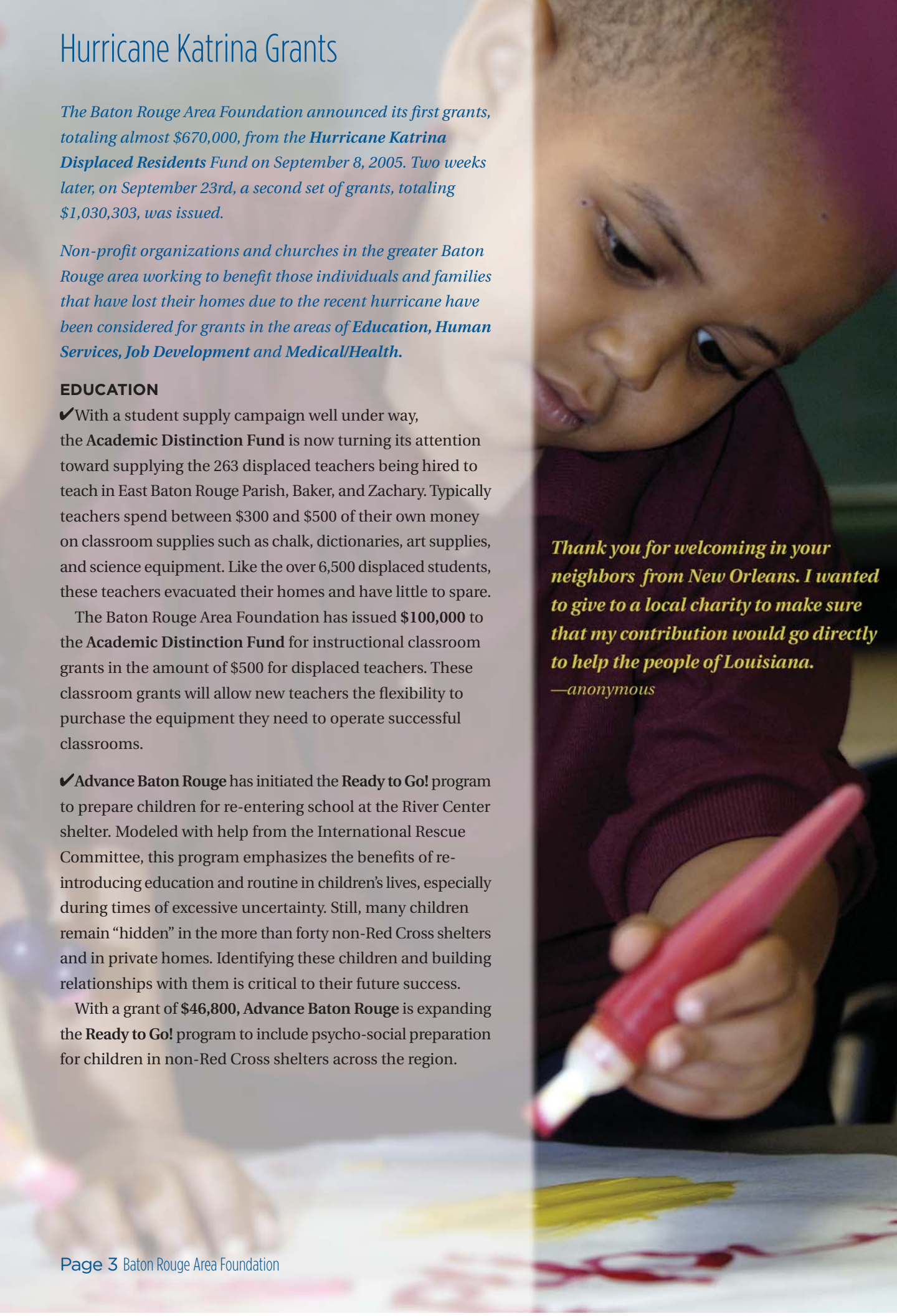
EDUCATION

✓ With a student supply campaign well under way, the **Academic Distinction Fund** is now turning its attention toward supplying the 263 displaced teachers being hired to teach in East Baton Rouge Parish, Baker, and Zachary. Typically teachers spend between \$300 and \$500 of their own money on classroom supplies such as chalk, dictionaries, art supplies, and science equipment. Like the over 6,500 displaced students, these teachers evacuated their homes and have little to spare.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation has issued **\$100,000** to the **Academic Distinction Fund** for instructional classroom grants in the amount of \$500 for displaced teachers. These classroom grants will allow new teachers the flexibility to purchase the equipment they need to operate successful classrooms.

✓ **Advance Baton Rouge** has initiated the **Ready to Go!** program to prepare children for re-entering school at the River Center shelter. Modeled with help from the International Rescue Committee, this program emphasizes the benefits of re-introducing education and routine in children's lives, especially during times of excessive uncertainty. Still, many children remain "hidden" in the more than forty non-Red Cross shelters and in private homes. Identifying these children and building relationships with them is critical to their future success.

With a grant of **\$46,800**, **Advance Baton Rouge** is expanding the **Ready to Go!** program to include psycho-social preparation for children in non-Red Cross shelters across the region.



Thank you for welcoming in your neighbors from New Orleans. I wanted to give to a local charity to make sure that my contribution would go directly to help the people of Louisiana.

—anonymous

Our Grantmaking Priorities

The Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund benefits individuals and families evacuated to Baton Rouge from the hurricane impacted areas in Greater New Orleans, who are now unable to return for what may be an extended period. Early official estimates suggest that as many as 250,000 individuals may be required to remain in our area for up to six months, and they will face numerous challenges related to housing, food, education, healthcare and basic survival necessities. This fund supports those entities and programs in our area that endeavor to meet these critical needs, as well as address the impact this influx of residents will have on our community.

The Hurricane Katrina New Orleans Recovery Fund is focused on the rebuilding of infrastructure to provide basic human services to residents of these devastated areas. As the Greater New Orleans Foundation has now established their Rebuild New Orleans fund, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation has closed this fund to new donations and is working to establish a contractual relationship with GNOF to assist in the distribution of donations already collected. Grants from this fund will focus on attempting to provide resources to programs and efforts that positively impact the quality of life of the area's residents, and contribute to the overall rebuilding of critical service delivery mechanisms in the Greater New Orleans area.

Shortly after the storm, the Foundation realized that establishing a clear direction and plan of action would be paramount to the success and consistency of our efforts to help displaced residents. Administering grants from the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund is a responsibility that the Foundation has taken seriously. This plan has allowed us to provide relief to evacuees in an effective, conscientious manner. The Foundation is continually reevaluating shifting community needs, and adjusting our strategy to confront those needs, especially concerning the transition from shelters to temporary and then permanent housing.

The Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund, benefits individuals and families evacuated to the greater

Baton Rouge area from the hurricane impacted areas of greater New Orleans who are unable to return to their homes for an extended period of time. Ensuring that basic care and essential services are readily available to the massive number of displaced people in the greater Baton Rouge area is the Foundation's main concern. This fund will support organizations that are providing critical human services to the eight parish region served by the Foundation. For reasons of analysis and assessment of our grantmaking impact, we have divided the region into four districts: East Baton Rouge Parish; Ascension, Iberville and Livingston Parishes; West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee; and East and West Feliciana.

The Foundation understands that its performance is linked with its capacity to build relationships, coordinate effectively, and conduct thorough screening processes. In order to meet immediate operational needs, the Foundation may have to find and place personnel, paid or volunteer, to fill gaps in staffing necessary to link to organizations providing the immediate services to these devastated communities. Typically, this fund will fill gaps in services not available through the federal and state government, local municipalities, the Red Cross or other major public charities.

Structure of Response

The Foundation has divided the types of organizations it will fund by identifying the needs of the displaced community by priority. Ensuring that basic human needs are met is the first priority in consideration for funding. The Foundation classifies basic human needs into two sub-categories consisting of food, shelter and security; and healthcare. Further, healthcare is split into physical and mental health. By focusing on Basic Human Needs first, the Foundation is promoting stability and well-being, qualities that are essential to the relief and recovery of displaced residents. Education is the Foundation's second priority area in this response. Returning children to schools smoothly is paramount to their future success, both in and out of the classroom. Through cooperation with the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, the Foundation is emphasizing Employment and Opportunity as its final focus for this fund.

Hurricane Katrina Grants

✓ **The Big Buddy Program and Boys and Girls Club:** It is imperative that children currently housed in the many emergency shelters across the region are exposed to an atmosphere of learning, and that they are adequately prepared to transition back into schools when the time comes. Impacting affected children, especially concerning confidence and self-worth, is a priority.

The Foundation has issued a grant to the **Big Buddy Program and Boys and Girls Club** for \$38,294. This grant will be used to implement an educational activities program in shelters for grades K-8th, which should serve as a stabilizing influence on children's lives and ease their transition back into schools.

Staff and volunteers for this program, working with Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge, will make individual commitments to maintain contact with each child, a crucial component in achieving the goals of this program.

✓ **Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baton Rouge** is providing long-term care and shelter for children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. There are several children who are without traditional support structures and cannot rely on family and friends in this time of crisis. Those children desperately need safe, nurturing atmospheres.

With a commitment of \$36,900, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation is helping Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baton Rouge provide basic care and shelter for 6 displaced girls from Boys Hope Girls Hope in New Orleans.

✓ **Glen Oaks High School Security Dads** recognizes the importance of building a strong sense of community with new neighbors, and the risk of many displaced residents feeling isolated, burdensome, or unwelcome. Cultivating new relationships and building trust among new residents, permanent or temporary, enriches our communities and contributes to smoother transitions for evacuees.

With a \$2,000 grant, **Glen Oaks High School Security Dads** is implementing a Get Acquainted Fun Day for students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The event will bring the parents and students, new and old, of Glen Oaks Middle and High Schools together, and help displaced residents adjust to their new communities.



Process

The Grantmaking Programs Department of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation has assembled teams of professional and volunteer evaluators who are assigned to perform regular assessments of the work of public charities and report the current state of shelters for displaced persons. Teams stay informed about shifts in activities, changes in mood, and variations in services within their assigned district as the facilities evolve. With the significant help of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), grantmaking teams will recommend organizations for funding to the Grant Proposal Screening Committee, a group that includes several members from the Hurricane Katrina Task Force. The Screening Committee will challenge the recommendations of the grantmaking teams, where they can identify weaknesses, and forward exemplary proposals to the Executive Committee of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for consideration.

The Screening Committee's duties include presenting proposals to the Executive Committee and validating the levels of funding recommended. The Executive Committee reviews the recommendations and screening process, and approves grants to qualified programs. Once the Executive Committee has acted, checks are issued to the designated organizations; then, evaluation teams can monitor and chronicle the impact of the grants. In the interest of maximizing the already stretched resources of public charities involved in disaster relief, the teams will provide summary sheets and the other necessary information to the Screening Committee, rather than the usual grant request prepared by the charity. This allows organizations to continue providing services instead of devoting precious time to writing grant requests.

Initial Results: By moving according to this prioritized response, the Foundation has maintained quality and stability during this urgent time. Our grants have helped sustain many of the shelters and programs providing immediate relief for displaced residents in our area. After a full month, the Foundation is beginning to address its longer-term priorities:

Housing: Recognizing the need for a long-term housing strategy, Plan Baton Rouge, a parish resource for best-practices in planning and design, convened a meeting to discuss the plans for developing more permanent housing solutions. Forty-five people attended the meeting,

including representatives from the Governor's Office, City-Parish Government, FEMA, HUD, Congressman Richard Baker's office, and Senator Mary Landrieu's office. Non-profit housing developers, area architects and lenders also attended.

With nearly 350,000 homes destroyed in the Gulf region by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many displaced residents are now living in shelters, have no place to return to, and are having difficulty locating affordable housing options. This group is investigating the possibilities of temporary and permanent housing, including identifying adjudicated properties, and integrating new, affordable housing into existing neighborhoods. Additionally, the group is moving to ensure that displaced residents have access to informed choices and don't fall victim to predatory lending practices as they exit shelters and seek more permanent housing.

Education: Aware that re-engaging displaced children in the learning process is crucial to their future success, the Foundation is implementing an Education plan that brings the Baton Rouge and New Orleans communities together by promoting stability and excellence. Potential projects include Neighborhood Centers that feature social services, child care, *Ready to Go* programs, and a learning center; and educational charters and charter schools that could move back to New Orleans, intact, at the appropriate time. The *Ready to Go* program, first implemented at the River Center, establishes relationships with children and their families at shelters and prepares them for re-entering school. The International Rescue Committee (www.theirc.org) directed the development of this model with the help of Sister Judith Brun, Advance Baton Rouge's Executive Director.

Mental Health: Shortly after the storm, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation consulted with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and The New York Community Trust and determined that mental health must be a long-term priority. Calling on their own disaster experiences, these foundations warned of the risks of underestimating the impact that recent events would have both on evacuees and local residents. The Foundation is working with Capital Area Human Services and other mental health professionals to prevent a local mental health crisis. Currently, we are seeking to identify a national team of experts to assist in this effort. •


The Foundation's Coordination Efforts

by Mary Ann Sternberg

In the month after Hurricane Katrina, the Foundation received over 6,000 phone calls, more than 600 emails offering goods or services to evacuees, and nearly 4,000 contributions by mail. Combined, braf.org and FoundationsForRecovery.org welcomed more than 5.2 million visitors. We also hosted 2,247 visitors and over 50 meetings in our conference center.

Whether they needed to be connected to shelters and other relief services or wanted to contribute, people from around the world turned to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for help. Our staff has dedicated themselves to finding answers. When callers and other inquirers were weary, we encouraged them; when they were anxious, we comforted them. When they were confused and didn't know where to turn or how they could help, we found solutions.

By relying on our over 40 years of experience in Baton Rouge and existing relationships with local non-profits and service organizations, we identified high-demand resources and found ways to get gifts quickly and responsibly into the hands of the people who needed them.


 Paul Alan Caldwell burst unannounced in BRAF's email inbox shortly after pictures of ravaged New Orleans began to appear on television. Caldwell, a successful asset manager who divides his time between New York and Houston, wrote: I have a Citation 5 jet and a helicopter and want to help the hurricane victims. Can fly people from area into Houston for hospital exchange... Also would like to help displaced families. Can pay for hotel rooms and food (and) can buy a bus or two or rent several buses if that will help get people out of the impacted areas...

The Foundation was aware that Woman's Hospital might need baby transport and put Caldwell in touch with Carey Lawson at the hospital foundation. The criteria for transporting babies is very specific, Lawson noted, but she asked the entrepreneur if he would fly two very expectant, displaced New Orleans mothers to Houston. Both were near-term; one had been evacuated from the Superdome; the other had been rescued from her home.

In the process of his good deed, Caldwell discovered that one of the mothers had been separated from her 1-


year old child, who was now somewhere in Houston. Through his connections with CNN, he convinced the network to feature her story. The child was identified among those at the Reliance Center children's shelter and reunited with his mother. He also linked up the two moms with obstetricians at Texas Woman's Hospital and found the other woman's boyfriend in a San Antonio shelter.

The two women are among the 50 evacuees living at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Houston, sponsored by Caldwell, who is also helping to find them jobs. When asked if his extraordinary kindness might be featured in a story, Paul Caldwell responded yes, but only if the credit went to his foundation "so all of my people... who work so hard helping... get the credit." And, he added, he especially didn't mind if it served as a model for "other people who are likewise fortunate in their financial circumstances," that they might be inspired to do the same thing.

 Karen Futrell of Baton Rouge called to report that the Methodist Church had collected a warehouse full of material goods for evacuees. Trouble was, it was located outside Lafayette and they didn't have a truck large enough to transport the disaster relief supplies to Baton Rouge.

Serendipitously, the Foundation office received an unsolicited email from Pete Mirakian in Guymon, Oklahoma, about the same time. His company, responding to a communiqué from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, was collecting employee donations to be sent to the BRAF Katrina funds. But also, Mirakian offered, "we have about 60 trucks which ship out our meat from our hog slaughter plant...(we could) provide free trucking to move donated goods to the New Orleans area."

So the Foundation connected Mr. Mirakian with Ms. Futrell. The result: a truck dispatched from Oklahoma to Lafayette which then arrived in Baton Rouge, filled with welcome necessities for evacuees. Synchronicity at its best!

 Eric Maillaird is a fourth grader at Utica Elementary School in Utica, PA. "The principal at my school agreed to let me and my mom put a box in the cafeteria for 1 week to get school supplies for the kids affected by Hurricane Katrina." He emailed the Foundation. Eric's school is small—95 students in K-6—but their hearts are big.

Please use my donation wisely and apply it to the most needed situation.

I wish safety and comfort to the people of Louisiana.

—anonymous

I will send more donations on paydays to try and help out with this horrible tragedy.

—anonymous

HUMAN SERVICES

✓The programs offered by **Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area** are stretching to provide services to displaced families and patients. Their core programs include a helpline, Dementia Care Training, a resource library for caregivers, and the Safe Return identification bracelet national return program.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is supporting **Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area** with a grant of \$40,000 for expanding their core programs to benefit 50 additional patients.

✓**Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center:** Following Hurricane Katrina, many local organizations have been overwhelmed with callers seeking basic aid information. On their 211 (Information and Referral) and crisis lines, the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center's call volume rose from approximately 150 calls a day to over 1,000. Callers, too, have been frustrated; many have been sent from number to number without adequate answer.

To increase their capacity to handle the large volume of callers seeking information assistance, the Foundation has granted the **Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center** \$59,000. Funds will be used to pay for 4 new phone lines, expanded staffing, long-distance telephone charges, and lodging/meals for out-of-state volunteers. The Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center's 211 line allows callers to get answers to multiple issues in one call, from one source.

✓The **Boys and Girls Club** is working to assist displaced children as they return to school. A program has been implemented at Scotlandville Middle School that provides classroom assistance for displaced students during the day, and an after-school educational and enrichment program.

The Foundation has committed \$74,430 to the **Boys and Girls Club** to continue this program. Activities will focus on Education and Career Development, Character and Leadership Development, Health and Life Skills, and the Arts and fitness.

✓**Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council** is gathering and refurbishing computers from around the country to meet the needs of displaced non-profits and families. 1,000 computers will be collected, refurbished and distributed, free of charge, to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The donated computers will require new operating systems at a cost of \$5.00 per computer; CACRC requested a fee waiver from the licensing organization, but was turned down.

The Foundation's Coordination Efforts...Continued

by Mary Ann Sternberg

The donation of crayons and school supplies was directed to East Baton Rouge Parish Schools' superintendent Charlotte Placide which has been charged with accommodating thousands of displaced school-age children. "On behalf of the system family and all of the families who have been affected, we are extremely grateful," the superintendent responded. "We will need the school supplies!"

Matches and Connections

🎗️ Offer of blood donations: by Riegelwood Federal Credit Union "with over 6,000 members... heard on our local news the area was in dire need of blood donations"—referred to United Blood Services of Baton Rouge.

🎗️ Offers of housing—to United Way's 211 line; to Catholic Community Services. The most generous offer of housing came from Aurora, CO, where a group had collected donations to make 23 furnished apartments available rent-free for 18 months. The only stipulation was that the recipient had registered with FEMA or would not object to registering with FEMA. The group would also help with job placement.

🎗️ Jim Dillon, CEO and owner of San Diego-based Dillon Telephone Company and now director of his private Dillon Foundation, offered to send 1,000 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste, as well as 150 new toys to children in Baton Rouge. The Dillon Foundation specifically supports humanitarian projects aiding children / families, in the United States, Baja California, Mexico, and Central America.

The Foundation directed his gift to the Shiloh Baptist Church which is serving as both a non-Red Cross shelter and a distributor to other non-Red Cross shelters. Smiles throughout Baton Rouge are now brighter, thanks to the Dillon Foundation.

🎗️ Shortly after Katrina passed, a French rescue team based in Paris—Groupe de Secouristes Français—contacted the Foundation offering to come to New Orleans with their own equipment to help in the search and rescue operations. They had called the Office of Homeland Security to ask for official documentation that would allow them free airfare and would certify

their need in New Orleans. When Homeland Security never responded, the team contacted Elfie Majoie, a friend and business associate in Houston. She had spotted a report on CNN about BRAF and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that had arrived in the area on an invitation from BRAF.

Elfie contacted IRC who turned the connection over to the Foundation. The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Baton Rouge agreed to sign the necessary paperwork for the team to come to Louisiana.

More red tape ensued even after the ten French fire fighters reached Houston. Eventually, through a contact with the fire Marshall, the Foundation could direct them to groups already on the ground in New Orleans where they joined the search and rescue efforts in St. Bernard Parish. A subsequent report on their experience noted that "In St. Bernard, since Katrina, life suddenly stopped. Usually a lively city of 80,000 inhabitants, this suburb located only 5 miles from New Orleans, is now a ghost town... deserted houses, schools, stores... this lonely and silent place..."

Thierry Velu, the leader of the French team, had previously worked at Ground Zero after 9/11 and welcomed the opportunity to work again with Americans. In St. Bernard, they worked alongside firefighters who had come from Baltimore and Chicago to go house to house, seeking survivors or victims not yet found. They entered, Velu wrote, "with their feet, sometimes with electrical saws, axes, any means are used to open the doors... Because of the water which invaded the houses, the moss and rotten smell is unbearable and mud is everywhere." In the incredible ruins, they discovered bodies, as well as survivors like an 18 year old man, lying on his kitchen floor, still alive thanks to a "a peanut butter can which fed him during 2 weeks."

The report ends on a poignant note: the members of the team of GSCF are "not ready to forget what they saw...(and) has been very happy to be able to help... and to be also witness of this drama and to be able to testify about it to the French people." •

Hurricane Katrina Grants

*Please know that all of the
country stands with you
as you move toward recovery.*

—anonymous

A \$5,000 grant will pay the licensing fees for the new operating systems and help Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council get working computers to the people who need them, filling a significant gap in our technological infrastructure.

✓ **Catholic Community Services**, responding to an assessment by the International Rescue Committee that recognized gaps in services at several shelters in our area, has formed the Hurricane Katrina Rapid Response Care Team to address the following human services at 3 priority shelters: access to information, eligibility determination for benefits, crisis counseling, family care planning, and school registration.

Through a grant of \$50,000, **Catholic Community Services** will organize case management teams to work with families and ensure that stability and recovery are accessible goals for the approximately 500 displaced residents sheltered at Motel 6 on Siegen Lane, Fellowship Baptist Church in Greenwell Springs, and Brownsville Baptist Academy on Plank Road.

✓ **East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority**: It is estimated that over 3,000 families will move to Baton Rouge who were receiving housing assistance prior to Hurricane Katrina. Many of these families, once they locate new housing, will be unable to pay living expenses and other various utility deposits and connection fees.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation has issued a grant to the **East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority** in the amount of \$202,500 to make deposits for leases and utilities on behalf of evacuees who receive housing assistance. Approximately 400 section 8 and public housing recipients will be immediately supported by this program. In light of the large number of evacuees who have received housing assistance in the past, requests for this program are likely to increase.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority will issue payments directly to service providers and landlords on behalf of beneficiaries. In the event that FEMA grants cover these costs, the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority will be responsible for repaying the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

✓ **Approximately 70 Independent Shelters** have been identified and visited by staff or volunteers from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, United Way, or International Rescue Committee. These shelters, independent of the government and Red Cross, began relief operations immediately. Independent shelters have played vital roles for displaced residents during this critical

*Please let people there know
an American is an American;
one bleeds, we all bleed.*

*Here is an earthquake
and there is a hurricane.*

Color makes no difference.

—anonymous

Generosity in America

While Louisiana and the Gulf Coast scrambled to cope with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the rest of the country responded with unprecedented acts of generosity and kindness. From clothes and canned goods to funds for relief programs and shelters, Americans from all fifty states have given whatever they could afford—many of them stretching their own budgets and making personal sacrifices for the benefit and recovery of people they have never met.

To date, more than 11,000 people from all fifty states and 23 countries have contributed over \$13,000,000 to our Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The people of New Orleans are receiving ample care during their displacement because of these amazing displays of generosity. In addition to donations, the Foundation has received hundreds of letters and notes of encouragement. These notes have provided a welcome respite and boost in morale for both staff and volunteers.

From JoBeth Halper on behalf of the Cardiff School District in California:

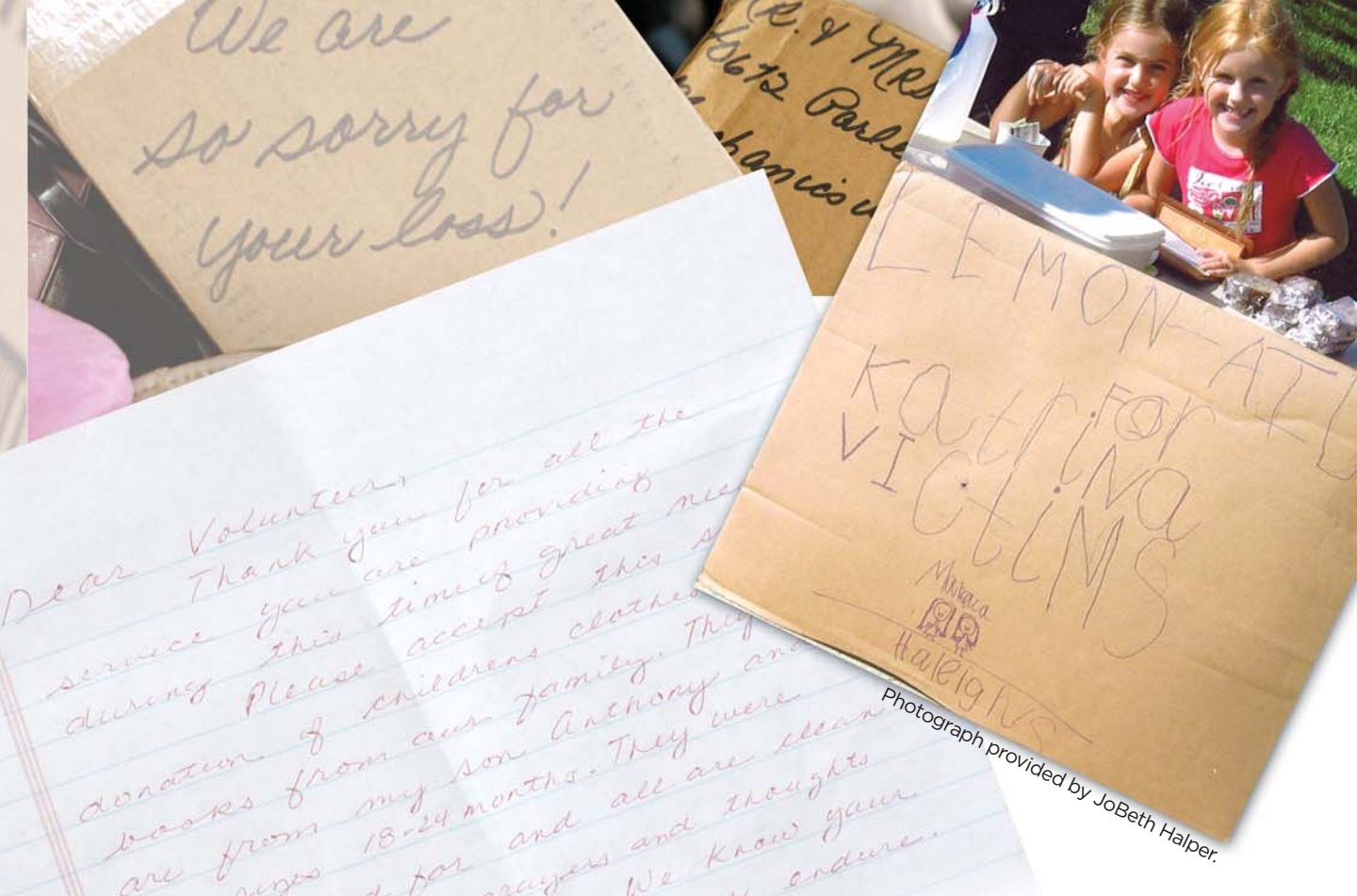
“I am proud to enclose 65 checks made out to the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund totaling \$4,327. These checks, and the credit card contribution made to your fund on September 15, 2005 by JoBeth Halper on behalf of Cardiff School District in the amount of \$3,197, were raised by the parents and children of the Cardiff School District in Cardiff, California over the week of September 6th by collecting money at designated sites at the two schools. There are approximately 600 children in the District, making the district very small and the fundraising effort from this community substantial. Children actively were involved in the collection process, by collecting at the sites, preparing posters, hosting lemonade stands and collecting door to door. Enclosed is a picture of two first grade children who collected \$36.00 for the fundraiser. Another lemonade stand manned by older children collected over \$1,000.

Thank you so much for your efforts not only helping the Katrina victims, but in your day to day activities...”

From Angelica D. Light, President of The Norfolk Foundation:

“I am pleased to enclose a check from The Norfolk Foundation for \$50,000 to be divided equally between the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund and the Hurricane Katrina New Orleans Recovery Fund.

There is a little history that you should know that played a part in our also making a grant to your Hurricane Katrina funds. In 1855, Norfolk and its neighboring city of Portsmouth, Virginia were struck by a devastating outbreak of yellow fever that had originated with ill crewmen of a merchant ship docked in Portsmouth. Ultimately, Norfolk lost a third of its citizens to the disease. A relief fund was organized by local civic leaders, and contributions arrived from all over the nation and abroad which were used to bury the dead and to open a hospital and orphanage. Funds left over from that crisis were invested and the income used for grants for medical relief and support of hospitals until 1986 when the trustees turned the fund, known as the Howard Association Fund, over to The Norfolk Foundation as a discretionary fund.



Below are two relevant excerpts from the 1856 report of the Howard Association:

'We acknowledge with grateful emotions valuable assistance...from the state of Alabama, and particularly from the city of Mobile, which sent as noble a band of philanthropists as any state or nation can boast of. Nor can we find words to express our thanks to the city of New Orleans, for the noble and generous manner in which she responded to our call for help. No sooner had our appeal gone forth, than skillful physicians and experienced nurses rushed to our aid. Being the first to volunteer assistance, they were among the last to leave us.'

[The report lists donations of \$559.60 from Alabama and \$573.75 from Louisiana. At least two doctors came from Mobile and six from New Orleans. Singled out was a Miss Annie M. Andrews of Louisiana who came as a nurse.]

'She shrank from no danger, she performed with cheerfulness and alacrity every duty assigned her; and

few, very few, even amongst the sterner sex, can be found, who have undergone such fearful risks, and faced such imminent dangers. She has won for herself a name and a fame that will be immortal. To her, in a peculiar manner, do we owe a debt of gratitude. It was no doubt her example that induced many others to come. Her name will be handed down to posterity, side by side with that of Florence Nightingale, as examples of heroism, rarely equaled, never surpassed.'

I wish I could say that Miss Annie Andrews is so remembered, but that is not the case. But The Norfolk Foundation, founded in 1955, serves as part of the institutional memory of our area, and we are pleased to repay our debt of gratitude for the support provided by our sister port cities 150 years ago.

With kind regards and best wishes for the extraordinary tasks that you, your organizations and your communities face." •

Hurricane Katrina Grants

time, typically absorbing all emergency expenses into their normal budgets.

\$70,000 has been allotted to issue individual, **\$1,000 grants to independent shelters**. Funds will be used to cover expenditures directly related to Hurricane Katrina. These funds are not for future action, but are an affirmation of the compassionate expenses that these 70 independent shelters have already incurred and may never recoup from any other sources.

✓ **The Louisiana Arts and Sciences Museum** is working with Red Cross volunteers at the River Center shelter to provide educational and entertaining programming and activities to displaced residents. Mothers-and-Children Discovery Workshops will serve up to 60 people a week, and offer quality one-on-one time in a quiet setting for displaced parents and children living in shelters.

A grant of **\$9,000 to the Louisiana Arts and Sciences Museum** will provide access to a calm, distraction free atmosphere where parents and children can engage in creative activities and projects. The Louisiana Arts and Sciences Museum is located across the street from the River Center shelter, which is the largest shelter in the region.

✓ **Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association:** Wildlife and fisheries agents from agencies in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas are working around the clock (as many as 72 hours straight) in search and rescue missions. Realizing that there was no shelter for rescue workers, the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association began organizing a space at First Nazarene Church to accommodate 300 people.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation has given the **Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association \$75,000** for food, personal hygiene items, and other shelter expenses to house rescuers.

✓ **O'Brien House** has identified 13 residents of the New Orleans halfway house run by Volunteers of America who need to be in a clinically supervised facility. These displaced residents have already received in-patient treatment for substance abuse and were in a licensed program similar to O'Brien House.

In order to cover expenses until funds can be obtained from the Veterans Administration, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation grants **\$7,076 to O'Brien House**, allowing the 13 displaced patients the opportunity to resume their substance abuse recovery.



*Please do the right thing
with all the money donated—
get these people food, shelter and care.
—anonymous*

The Foundation and Collaboration

FoundationsForRecovery.org

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation formed *www.FoundationsForRecovery.org*, an internet portal for reporting our Hurricane Katrina relief efforts to donors and the greater community.

FoundationsForRecovery was created to (1) recognize the incredible support of community and private foundations, and individual donors around the country; and (2) fulfill our commitment to transparency and open reporting. We value the contributions of each donor and take our stewardship responsibilities seriously. Because integrity in grantmaking requires great diligence, our assessment teams have been busy reviewing the practices and capacity of local service organizations and non-profits, and considering grant requests for the basic care and relief of Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Baton Rouge.

We have a great responsibility to our donors to make the most of their contributions. Our processes allow us to quickly identify organizations/programs that are making an impact in areas of basic care and need immediate assistance to continue their good works. In the coming months, you'll find frequent updates on the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund and the practices of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation at *www.FoundationsForRecovery.org*.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is working now to establish a contractual relationship with The Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) that would create a vehicle for them to distribute all amounts in the Hurricane Katrina New Orleans Recovery Fund in conjunction with their own newly established fund. Any contractual relationship will require that all grants made by GNOF of these funds strictly meet the original intent of the fund, and that detailed reporting of grant allocations will be provided to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for reporting on the *FoundationsForRecovery* web site.



FOUNDATIONS
for RECOVERY.org

The International Rescue Committee

At the invitation of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, emergency response experts from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have begun assessing humanitarian needs in Baton Rouge for people displaced by the Hurricane Katrina disaster. The Foundation hopes that the IRC can help boost the capacity of local groups in addressing the needs of the massive displaced population. Typically an international aid organization focusing on humanitarian aid for victims of war and persecution, the IRC has an outstanding history of disaster relief, including responses in Rwanda, Afghanistan, and Croatia.

The seven member IRC team includes crisis coordinators and specialists in health, water, sanitation, emergency education and child trauma and refugee resettlement. By combining the IRC's tremendous international experience with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation's forty years of local expertise, we hope to establish assessment teams that can accurately determine the immediate and long-term needs of evacuees in our region.

"Our initial impression is that there is urgent need for mental health programming for adults and children and that teachers in schools that are absorbing displaced children will need immediate training in order to address the psychosocial needs of incoming, traumatized students," says the IRC's Camille Evans, a specialist in aiding children in conflict.

The IRC's relief and resettlement experts are working to coordinate a rapid needs assessment in Baton Rouge, and lending their insight and expertise to the Foundation in areas of public health, education, psycho-social aid for children, family tracing and relocation of the displaced. With a strong record of operations in communications-poor settings, the IRC is also lending their coordinating expertise to our efforts.

While the IRC's mission is to provide humanitarian relief for refugees and displaced persons uprooted or affected by violent conflict and oppression, the organization does respond to natural disasters when they strike regions where the IRC is already operating.



Photographs by Copper Alvarez.

BREDA Creates Louisiana Small Farm Survival Fund

On September 14th, the Baton Rouge Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREDA) announced the establishment of a relief and recovery fund with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for Louisiana small farm enterprises that have been affected by natural disasters. The fund, named Louisiana Small Farm Survival Fund, is a resource for small, family farms, especially when facing unanticipated need and weather related damage.

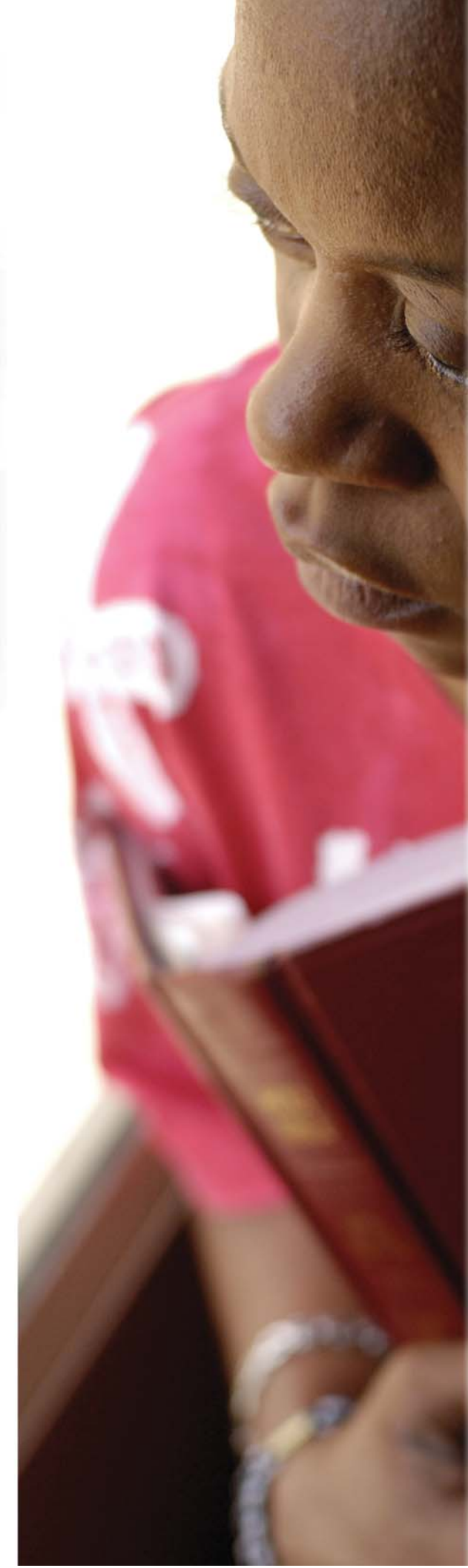
“In the aftermath of Katrina it is critical to offer gap funding for small, family farms that have experienced major losses to their agricultural businesses. They are often too small to receive grants from the Department of Agriculture and our region must not lose its link to its small, family farms,” said Susan Turner, President of the Board of Directors for BREDA.

Traditionally, farmers and small agricultural-related enterprises have been the foundation for our South Louisiana foodshed. The Farmers Markets who support locally grown, seasonal produce provide both an

economic base and an important cultural gathering spot, creating a sense of community between urban and rural residents. Unfortunately, many farmers and local Farmers Markets sustained significant damage during Hurricane Katrina.

Over 50% of all farmers that sell their products at area Farmers Markets have structural damage to their farms, including buildings, greenhouses, equipment, crops and livestock, or for some Louisiana fishermen, their fishing boats. Additionally, most small farms have lost critical distribution for their products in the New Orleans and Slidell areas.

Smith’s Creamery, an artisan dairy farm in Washington Parish that processes and pasteurizes milk from its own herd, and processes other dairy products at its creamery, has suffered significantly from Hurricane Katrina. Their home parish, including restaurants and grocery stores, has shut down, and many of their normal customers have evacuated. Now, like many small farmers, Smith’s Creamery faces the task of balancing the cost of recovery with normal operating expenses while experiencing a 60% drop in income.



✓ **Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana** is deeply concerned by a University of North Carolina study that found an increase in particular kinds of child abuse after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. In order to help displaced parents deal with added stress and possible depression (two risk factors for child abuse and neglect), and protect displaced children from sexual predators; **Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana** is offering children's activities, parent and professional training, and other services to displaced residents.

A grant of **\$50,140** will help sustain their efforts and expand the number of onsite activities available at shelters for the protection of children. The program, in part, will train shelter workers on identifying and reporting instances of child abuse.

✓ **Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church** is currently housing and providing supportive services for fifty displaced citizens, and serving 400-500 meals daily, many delivered to offsite locations. In addition to food and lodging, the church is providing basic medical attention, access to telephones and computers, and counseling with the staff case worker.

By committing **\$125,000** to this effort (in two installments - \$75,000/\$50,000), the Baton Rouge Area Foundation is supporting the basic needs of evacuees, and ensuring that this independent shelter has the resources it needs to remain successful.

✓ The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is filling gaps in basic needs for evacuees, including providing food, clothing, toiletries and school uniforms; and filling prescriptions. During a one week period from August 30 through September 6, they served 22,401 meals and provided over 40,000 pieces of clothing. According to estimates, they have also filled more that \$20,000 worth of prescriptions.

Concerned about the financial burden placed on the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** and confident in the value of their services, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation issued a grant of **\$50,000** for continued operations.

✓ The **Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation** is housing 25 families, approximately 150 individuals, in two apartment complexes (which they own), and providing case management, rental and energy fees, and deposits. These services allow displaced families 3-6 months to stabilize their housing and living arrangements, and re-establish residency, employment, school enrollment, health care, child care, and transportation.

Louisiana Association of Business and Industry forms the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund

Responding to the tremendous desire of the business community across the United States to help with the hurricane disaster relief effort, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), with the assistance of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, has established the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund.

In a span of only 24 hours, Louisiana lost almost a third of its economy. The vast majority of businesses that have been shut down or greatly impaired are small businesses, the backbone of the area's economy. These businesses provide the bulk of the jobs in any area. Until these small business owners get back on their feet, the Gulf Coast's economy cannot substantially recover.

The Small Business Disaster Relief Fund will provide grants to help small businesses damaged by Hurricane Katrina get back into business as soon as possible. The grants will serve as "gap funding" to cover expenses not covered by insurance in order to bring as many enterprises as possible back on line quickly.

Contributions will go directly to small businesses that need funds to recover. All applications will be handled anonymously to ensure total fairness in the grant selection process. Volunteers from the CPA Society, local Bar Association, and Independent Insurance Agents association will be recruited to screen the applications.

Commenting on the fund, LABI President Dan Juneau stated: "I have literally received hundreds of emails from businesses and business associations from throughout the United States asking how they can help the businesses hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. The formation of the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund is one of the most effective ways they can join the effort to rebuild the economy of the Gulf Coast."

Heeding Juneau's call and eager to maximize their contribution to this fund, students in a graduate business planning class at San Diego State University (SDSU) have put together a plan to turn \$25,000 in seed money, donated by their professor, into \$1 million to assist small business owners affected by Hurricane Katrina.



Jazz at the Lincoln Center

On Saturday, September 17th, the Emmy Award-winning PBS series, Live From Lincoln Center, hosted the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert to raise funds for disaster relief. Viewers were urged to make donations to the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund, the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. The Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund was established by Jazz at Lincoln Center and administered through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to benefit the musicians, music industry related enterprises and other individuals and entities from the areas in Greater New Orleans who were impacted by Hurricane Katrina and to provide other general hurricane relief.

The show was broadcast nationwide, and included appearances by Wynton Marsalis, Laurence Fishburne, Terence Blanchard, Ken Burns, Shirley Ceasar, Cyrus Chestnut, Peter Cincotti, Bill Cosby, Elvis Costello, Aaron Neville, Robert De Niro, Renee Fleming, Herbie Hancock, Norah Jones, Diana Krall, Abbey Lincoln, Bette Midler, Toni Morrison, Arturo O'Farill, Dianne Reeves, Paul Simon, Meryl Streep, James Taylor, McCoy Tyner, Robin Williams, Cassandra Wilson, Jeffrey Wright, and Buckwheat Zydeco. •

Hurricane Katrina Grants

A grant of \$40,500 allows the **Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation** the chance to continue helping families in need, and gives displaced residents the opportunity they need to recover from this disaster.

✓ Since the day after Hurricane Katrina, **Volunteer Ascension** has been working throughout Ascension Parish to coordinate volunteer and donation efforts, including screening for certified rescuers, collecting school supplies and uniforms, and recruiting volunteers for shelters. As shelters close, Volunteer Ascension understands that churches and other agencies involved with relief efforts will continue to need support.

The Foundation has issued a grant of \$17,348 to **Volunteer Ascension** for an additional phone line and staff member who will man that phone, enabling them to continue tracking and prioritizing local need, and connecting volunteers to service opportunities.

✓ **Volunteer Baton Rouge**, identified as the designated agency for coordinating volunteer efforts by United Way 211 and the state VOAD, has been placing follow-up calls to people who tried to volunteer (through multiple outlets) and were not connected to a service opportunity. Operating their Volunteer Connection program six days a week for 12 hours a day has strained Volunteer Baton Rouge as they try to manage the amazing influx of offers to help.

In order to increase their capacity to organize and connect volunteer efforts, the Foundation issued a grant of \$12,418 to **Volunteer Baton Rouge**.

✓ **Volunteers of America** is working with Catholic Community Services to provide resources and comprehensive case management to the six priority shelters identified by the International Rescue Committee. Ensuring that displaced residents at those shelters have access to information about schools, government benefits, healthcare, and housing is essential to their long-term success in this recovery process.

A grant of \$50,000 to **Volunteers of America** will provide immediate assistance for families at 3 Baton Rouge shelters: Green Chapel on N 32nd Street, Allen Chapel AME on Scenic Highway, and New Light Baptist Church on Kelly Street.



*We live in Mexico
and just went through
Hurricane Emily.
Our thoughts and prayers
are with all of those
affected by this tragedy.
We are very happy
to help a local charity.*

—anonymous

Hurricane Katrina Grants

✓ Realizing that many families are struggling to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, **Yes, I Can** is locating housing for displaced residents and assisting with expenses. Relocation funds will be allotted for 5 families, including 2 months rent, utility fees, furniture costs, and grocery bills.

With a grant of **\$37,500**, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation is making sure that **Yes, I Can** has the capacity to help displaced families find more permanent housing.

JOB DEVELOPMENT

✓ The **Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge**, working with many displaced artists, understands that art can have significant positive affect on people in stressful situations. The Council is initiating a series of performances and activities for displaced residents, and serving as a resource to displaced artists and musicians in finding employment, housing, and studio space.

A grant of **\$36,185** to the **Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge** will fund 9 concerts, various shelter programs including art therapy, visual and performance art, and a cultural appreciation program for 35 schools (nearly 17,000 students).

MEDICAL/HEALTH

✓ **Capital Area Human Services District** provides mental health services, addiction services and developmental disability services to residents of Louisiana's capital region. Since Hurricane Katrina, Capital Area Human Services District has seen the number of walk-ins increase by 400%.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation realizes the urgency of mental health issues, and has granted **\$235,006** to **Capital Area Human Services District** so that they can increase their capacity. Funds will be used, primarily, to pay for additional staffing.

✓ **Grief Recovery Center** is working to address the mental health and emotional needs of hurricane victims living in our area by placing urgently needed counselors in the various shelters across the region. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, evacuees have a high risk for Post Traumatic Stress syndrome, which is often caused by loss of family members, fear of death, and prolonged separation from loved-ones.



***Your region is in hearts
throughout the country.
The biggest promise we can make
to you is to not forget
as the media buzz dies
and the more enduring work
begins. I pledge not to.
—anonymous***

New Funds Third Quarter 2005

100 Black Men Community Involvement Fund
Adams and Reese Disaster Relief Fund
BASF Katrina Relief Fund
BREADA Louisiana Small Farm Survival Fund
Coca-Cola Hurricane Relief Fund
Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge Recovery
& Development Fund
EMCO Disaster Relief Fund
Emdeon and WebMD Health Corporation HK Fund
Emeril Lagasse Employee Disaster Relief Fund
First National Banker's Bank and Banker's Bank
Council Disaster Relief Council
Foundation for Historical Louisiana HKRF
Harvard Displaced Persons Medical Relief Fund
Higher Ground Relief Fund
Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund
Hurricane Katrina Education Fund
Hurricane Katrina New Orleans Recovery Fund
Hurricane Katrina Physicians Relief Fund
Hurricane Relief Fund
Johnson & Johnson HKR Donations
Kids & Families Foundation
Louisiana Family Recovery Corps Fund
LA Hydro Relief Fund
LAB Broadcasters Fund
Lee Michaels Disaster Relief Fund
Phil & Gretchen Giltner HKRF
Pointe Coupée HKRF
Relief 2 Louisiana
Small Business Disaster Relief Fund

Thank you. Because of our members, the Foundation was prepared to respond to the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and able to move quickly, efficiently, and responsibly in the most urgent of situations.

Contributions by members typically fund 15% of the Foundation's operational budget and make our work possible. With an everyday mission of improving the quality of life in the Baton Rouge area, the Foundation has been facilitating care for evacuees in the month since the storm. While the enormity of this effort has considerably stretched our resources, the Foundation has remained committed to ensuring that each evacuee receives the basic care and support that they need, while planning for the future. Early estimates project our annual operations costs to exceed our approved budget by \$300,000 due to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Flexibility, made possible by a strong membership base, is vital to the Foundation's success during this time, especially as our staff faces tremendous, new grantmaking responsibilities. Ten days after Hurricane Katrina, the Foundation issued its first set of grants, and began a bi-weekly relief disbursement. This was essential to the survival of many of the 98 programs and shelters who received funding in the first 3 weeks. This initial, rapid grantmaking process included coordinating and performing over 175 assessments at shelters and program facilities around the region. Membership income made our response to this emergency situation possible. If you've ever wanted a clear example of how valuable membership is to this community, this is it.

As we continue, the Foundation will need your help in maintaining our high-quality services. Due to fee restrictions of 1% imposed on relief funds, operational costs must be recouped through our membership program. If you value our work and want to help us take care of our displaced neighbors, please consider becoming a member of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

Thank you for your confidence and amazing support.
Sincerely,

Alice D. Greer
Chair, Membership Committee

Membership fees start at \$100 and support the day-to-day operations of the Foundation. To become a member and support the future of our community, visit www.braf.org



Hurricane Katrina Grants

Realizing that mental and emotional health is often overlooked in catastrophe-type situations, the Foundation has identified the **Grief Recovery Center** as an organization capable of providing aid in this area. This grant of \$20,000 will allow counselors to dedicate themselves to working with people (adults and children) in shelters for the next 3 to 6 months.

✓ **Health Care Centers in Schools** has experienced significant growth among their client base (public school students), and identified mental health as an area that needs immediate, additional attention. They understand that displaced students face significant risks as they recover from Hurricane Katrina.

With a \$100,000 grant from the Foundation, **Health Care Centers in Schools** is hiring 10 displaced mental health professionals to operate in public school health centers. They are working with Capital Area Human Services District to organize this effort.

✓ **McMains Children's Developmental Center** is hosting United Cerebral Palsy of Greater New Orleans (UCP) and providing temporary office space. Since Hurricane Katrina, they have been flooded with calls from UCP employees and clients.

A \$10,000 grant has been made available to the **McMains Children's Developmental Center** for additional phone lines and a social worker who can properly direct incoming calls.

✓ **Volunteers of America, Greater Baton Rouge, Inc.** is locating emergency housing for Volunteers of America, Greater New Orleans clients, including 120 mentally ill needing supportive housing, 140 single room occupancies, 120 supported living and independent living persons, 60 people in substance abuse recovery, 4 babies awaiting adoption, and 900 households made up of 1200 elderly or disabled individuals.

With a grant of \$100,000, **Volunteers of America, Greater Baton Rouge, Inc.** will expand their capacity to locate appropriate housing for special needs clients. New case managers will ensure that each situation is handled appropriately, and that each client receives the treatment and care that they need.

Total: \$1,700,097



The Foundation's Ideals, Core Values & Responsibilities

In the whirlwind of activity following Hurricane Katrina, the Foundation was careful not to lose sight of its guiding principles and core values. Maintaining our identity and fulfilling our normal responsibilities has been an important concern for the Baton Rouge Area Foundation during this frantic time.

Our Mission Statement

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation unites human and financial resources to enhance the quality of life in Louisiana's capital region.

To achieve our mission, we:

- *Serve donors to build the assets that drive initiatives and solutions;*
- *Engage community leaders to develop appropriate responses to emerging opportunities and challenges; and*
- *Evaluate our work and share the results with our stakeholders.*

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is a nonprofit organization that forms partnerships with philanthropists, nonprofit organizations and other community leaders to ensure that our community can exceed any challenge, and that our residents have every opportunity to succeed.

In our practices, the Foundation emphasizes two primary ideals: transparency and flexibility. This combination ensures responsible, productive efforts throughout our grantmaking programs and other initiatives.

What is Transparency?

Transparency is our commitment to open reporting and accessible leadership. Central to our beliefs, the Foundation regularly presents updates through print and web media. Our website, braf.org, highlights our normal operations; FoundationsForRecovery.org has been established to report on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Our staff is friendly and welcoming, eager to discuss enhancing the great city of Baton Rouge with anyone.

Our pursuit of transparency helps the Foundation promote accountability in philanthropy. As a base practice, we seek to compliment the confidence that our donors and members have shown us with responsible and informed practices.

The Foundation fulfills its duties with integrity, as demonstrated by our recent relief grant activities. Our grantmaking teams visited shelters and service organizations across the region, performing assessments, nearly 175 in all, prior to issuing relief funds. Following these visits and assessments, the Foundation disbursed relief funds confidently, sure that every grantee was working efficiently and according to the best practices in their field.

What is Flexibility?

Flexibility refers to the Foundation's ability to respond immediately and effectively to any civic situation. Remaining poised to respond, however, requires great diligence and a substantial, accessible stockpile of resources, including communications systems and established relationships with other service organizations, trained administrative and assessment staff, and a pool of emergency/unrestricted funds.

The Foundation's coordination expertise has been crucial during this crisis. Because a portion of our operational costs are paid for through our membership program, we were positioned to connect many of the resources pouring into our area to the organizations that desperately needed them without worrying about our administrative expenses. Flexibility enabled the Foundation to respond to Hurricane Katrina calmly, with leadership and insight.

We connected evacuees to shelters, doctors to medical supplies, and helped countless others find answers and develop solutions. By rule, we listened first, considered how our resources might be best utilized, and then responded to requests thoughtfully and according to the urgency of the need. Cultivating a strong membership base will help the Foundation maintain our flexibility for the future.

The benefits of a healthy community foundation fill the pages of this *Currents*. Now that you've reviewed our practices, consider how our relief efforts have impacted Baton Rouge and improved local conditions for displaced residents. Consider becoming a member of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and supporting the operations of an organization that has worked to enhance life in Southeast Louisiana for over 40 years.

To become a member and learn more about the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, visit www.braf.org



For updates on our relief efforts, or to contribute, visit [www.FOUNDATIONSForRecovery.org](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSForRecovery.org)



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