



City of Slidell

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Cultural and Public Affairs ♦ 444 Erlanger Street ♦ Slidell, LA 70458

September 28, 2005

For more information, call 985-646-4381

American Red Cross Offers Assistance for Critical Needs and Recovery Following Hurricane Katrina

September 28, 2005 – This morning, American Red Cross disaster relief volunteers began distributing client assistance cards to victims of Hurricane Katrina at 1000 Caruso Boulevard in Slidell, LA. By the end of the day, it is estimated that more than 1,000 families will have been helped.

In Louisiana, the American Red Cross has provided 32.2 million in financial assistance to 43,747 families.

This is an innovative partnership with local government officials, labor, and other organizations to provide disaster financial assistance and will be duplicated in other sites around the metro area. The public will be informed of additional sites as they are finalized.

The location at 1000 Caruso Boulevard is open from 9:00-7:00 7 days a week. To reduce traffic and expedite the process of distributing assistance, officials ask that clients access the site in one direction by traveling on I-10 West, exiting on Oak Harbor, and then take I-10 east and exit at Old Spanish Trail Road. Caruso Boulevard intersects with Old Spanish Trail Road.

Individuals or families who apply to the Red Cross for assistance must provide photo identification showing their address, as proof that they lived in the areas affected by the Hurricane Katrina. At this time, the site is unable to service walk up clients, and can only provide assistance to those in a vehicle.

There is absolutely no charge for any Red Cross disaster assistance. All disaster assistance is free -- a gift from the American people.

The American Red Cross is employing a variety of options to service the needs of all those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Disaster victims who--because of age, physical difficulty, or similar reasons—cannot come to a Red Cross service delivery site, may also use the Red Cross' financial assistance toll free number at 1-800-975-7585 to request assistance.

American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of the recent hurricanes and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call 1-800-HELP NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.