



Together, we can save a life

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AMERICAN RED CROSS HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11, 2005 -- The American Red Cross is relying on the American people to aid hurricane survivors by making a donation to the Disaster Relief Fund. Hurricane season is not over and giving to the Disaster Relief Fund has never been more important.

- The American Red Cross has provided financial assistance to **more than 1.1 million families** and individuals or more than **3.4 million hurricane survivors** to date.
- Since Hurricane Katrina slammed ashore, the Red Cross has provided more than **3.3 million overnight stays** in **nearly 1,100 shelters** across 27 states and the District of Columbia
- The Hurricane Katrina and Rita special accommodations program, which the Red Cross is carrying out on behalf of the federal government, has provided more than **5.8 million overnight hotel stays** (as of the most recent data available) for hurricane survivors in nearly **9,700 hotels** in 50 states and the District of Columbia. This program is funded by FEMA.
- The Red Cross has served **more than 24.4 million meals**, along with **more than 15.3 million snacks**.
- More than **187,000 Red Cross disaster relief workers** from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have responded to help their neighbors in need.
- More than **273,000 people** have reported their status to the Red Cross **“Family Links Registry,”** which is helping reconnect loved ones separated by the hurricanes. To register, go to www.katrinSAFE.org or call **1-877-LOVED-1S**.
- To date, Red Cross donors have **given or pledged more than \$1.15 billion** for hurricane relief.
- The most recent data available indicates that the Red Cross estimates approximately **\$1.51 billion has been spent or committed** for hurricane relief efforts. This includes money that has been spent or committed: \$1.06 billion in financial assistance; \$110 million in food and sheltering; \$134 million on hotel accommodations for survivors.
- The total cost for Katrina relief alone is estimated at more than **\$2 billion**, and the Red Cross is **counting on the American people to make a donation to help their neighbors in need**.
- **The best way to help** is by making an online contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund at www.redcross.org. You may also help by calling **1-800-HELP-NOW**.

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. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation.

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