

# NGO Katrina Recovery Assistance

## REBUILD OCEAN SPRINGS FUND

The city of Ocean Springs, Mississippi was one of the many communities along the Gulf Coast that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Due to the storm surge and high winds, thousands of homes were lost or severely damaged, most of which were not covered by flood insurance. The community also lost many jobs. Many of the things that make Ocean Springs so unique were damaged or destroyed - including beautiful beaches and parks, arts and culture, recreation facilities, and historic neighborhoods.

However, Ocean Springs was spared the wholesale devastation of some of its sister cities. Schools, public safety facilities and the downtown-shopping district were left salvageable or mostly intact. The city has water, sewer, electricity, and basic services. Ocean Springs is ready to recover and is poised to be an anchor for the rest of the Coast as it rebuilds.

To that end, the Rebuild Ocean Springs Fund, an Advised Fund, was established with the Foundation for the Mid South. The fund has two primary purposes:

- **Humanitarian assistance to individuals.**  
A portion of the funds raised will be distributed to individuals to help rebuild their homes and lives. A committee of FMS employees and volunteers will review applications and make the grant awards.
- **Rebuilding public infrastructure and key institutions.**  
A portion of the funds raised will be utilized to help rebuild neighborhoods and town centers, recruit businesses, and invest in parks, green space, arts and culture, childcare, health and social services. In order for individuals to recover and thrive, there must be homes, businesses, services and amenities for them to depend upon.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program area will assist individuals in rebuilding their homes and lives. This program area will utilize case managers who will help each family develop a long-term recovery plan of its own. Resources such as FEMA grants, private donations and volunteer work crews will be used to help.

Many local governments, churches, and voluntary organizations from across the country have made long-term commitments to Ocean Springs and to its citizens to help them rebuild. This program area will help coordinate and deploy these resources.

## REBUILD OCEAN SPRINGS PROGRAM

This program area will make grants to local nonprofits and government entities to help rebuild the community facilities and infrastructure that residents rely upon. Grants will be made in the following categories:

1. Designing and planning to rebuild neighborhoods and town centers. These funds can be used for planning, engineering and architectural services. The goal is to have neighborhoods and town centers that are attractive, environmentally sensitive, and more capable of withstanding future storms. Special attention will be given to low and moderate income housing design.
2. Rebuilding the local economy. Funds may be granted to develop the tourism economy or other key sectors. This will be done in conjunction with the local Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation
3. Rebuilding the physical infrastructure. This will include beaches, parks, bike paths, piers, and other public areas
4. Rebuilding the arts and culture sector.
5. Recruiting and supporting key services to assist the workforce in returning to the job place. This will help support the health, mental health, childcare, and senior citizens services required by the citizens of Ocean Springs as they return to work.

Tax deductible contributions can be made online at the link below, or they can be sent to:

**Rebuild Ocean Springs Fund**  
Foundation for the Mid South  
134 East Amite Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

**Make checks payable to the FMS / Rebuild Ocean Springs Fund**

To donate by phone, call 1-888-355-8168  
after hours 1-601-355-8167

For more information on the application process, please contact:

**Denise Ellis**, Grants Officer  
Foundation for the Mid South  
[bdellis@fndmidsouth.org](mailto:bdellis@fndmidsouth.org)

[http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Rebuild\\_OS\\_Fund.htm](http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Rebuild_OS_Fund.htm)

### **HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY AND RESTORATION FUND**

The Foundation for the Mid South has established the Hurricane Katrina Recovery and Restoration Fund to benefit those impacted by the disaster and the forthcoming recovery efforts. **100%** of the contributions made to the Fund will benefit nonprofits in the Louisiana, Mississippi, and the Alabama Gulf Coast, working to rebuild the lives and communities of those affected by the disaster. Need does not begin and end at the Gulf Coast; communities throughout the Mid South are affected by the influx of hundreds of thousands of evacuees who fled to seek safety from the storm. In fact, communities as far as northern Arkansas are desperate for aid, as the state has the highest number of evacuees after Texas.

The Foundation for the Mid South is committed to the long-term issues of building equitable communities that include and care for all of its citizens. The disaster is making hundreds of millions of dollars of private and philanthropic funds and billions of dollars of government support available to the region. The end result must not be the establishment of communities of exclusion, of institutionalized poverty, and of ignored racism. A risk of this outpouring of emotion and financial support is that, if spent unwisely, an opportunity to change the way our region includes and cares for its entire people will be lost.

In the wake of this unprecedented disaster, several opportunities are available to the people of the region - especially in the often-overlooked rural communities and the faith-based community - and those who care deeply about its future. This is an opportunity to create a new Mid South that works for everyone - not one that limits opportunity based on race, gender, or geography. This is an opportunity for a relatively small regional nonprofit sector to make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people - especially those who are most vulnerable and who have the least ability to provide for themselves - and to change the way we work together. And this is a time for all Mid Southerners to realize that pervasive and persistent poverty diminishes the quality of life of ALL of us - not just during a time of crisis, but every single day.

[http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Katrina\\_Recovery\\_Fund.htm](http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Katrina_Recovery_Fund.htm)

### **THE POWER OF HOPE FUND**

By ENTERGY CORPORATION

In response to the widespread damages and devastation caused by Hurricane Rita, Entergy has expanded the scope of the Power of Hope Fund to provide assistance to victims of this latest storm. The fund, which Entergy launched with a corporate donation of \$1 million, was initially created to help Entergy customers and employees recover from Hurricane Katrina. The fund differs from immediate relief efforts of other agencies in that it will focus primarily on helping victims transition from shelters and temporary housing back into the community. Beginning Monday, September 26, any contributions received to the fund can be used to provide assistance to victims of Rita as well as Katrina. Donors will be able to designate whether they want their contributions to be used to aid hurricane victims in Louisiana, Mississippi or Texas. All donations given prior to September 26 will be used only for victims of Katrina. **100% of all donations will benefit grant recipients.**

Among the first contributors to join Entergy as contributors were Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and TXU Energy, which contributed \$100,000 and \$250,000 respectively. Entergy Chairman Bob Luft and CEO Wayne Leonard have also each made personal pledges of \$50,000. **Currently, the fund total stands at more than \$3.5 million.**

[http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Power\\_of\\_hope.htm](http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Power_of_hope.htm)

## **Build Back the Coast Fund**

By Gulf Coast Foundation

Build Back the Coast Fund was established in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau to focus energy and resources on regenerating jobs and business on the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Grants will be given to local organizations and businesses when appropriate and all decisions will be made by a team of local leaders and government leaders.

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

## **Goodworks Fund**

Goodworks Fund is a long-standing fund of the Community Foundation used in times of crisis. This fund is designed to help individuals as well as organizations. All granting decisions are made by the Foundation Board of Directors.

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

## **Gulf Coast Libraries Renewal Fund**

AMERICANS FOR LIBRARIES COUNCIL

Americans for Libraries Council today announced establishment of the *Gulf Coast Libraries Renewal Fund* with a lead gift of \$100,000 from philanthropist Dorothy Lemelson to carry out the *Lemelson-Gulf Coast Libraries Children's Book Program*. The Fund will not only help redevelop the many libraries lost or gravely damaged in Hurricane Katrina, but will also support surviving libraries as front line resources for families and adults displaced by the storm.

*The Lemelson-Gulf Coast Libraries Children's Book Program* will be the first initiative under the aegis of the new Fund. It will enable libraries in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi to distribute books directly to children displaced by the storm. "One overlooked story of the Katrina disaster has been the loss of reading materials for children," said Dorothy Lemelson, a philanthropist from Lake Tahoe, Nevada. "This loss has consequences. Books and stories can be instrumental in helping children cope with anxiety, fear and change. My intent is to help librarians meet the immediate needs of these children as well as help renew children's book collections."

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina there has been a surge in demand for libraries and library services across the Gulf Coast states. "Libraries not damaged in the storm, and some of those that did suffer damage, are providing a remarkable array of information and services," said Diantha Schull, President of Americans for Libraries Council. "Through the Lemelson-Gulf Coast Libraries Children's Book initiative we will be able to assist libraries in offering children vital reading materials to help ameliorate the disruption of their education and their lives."

More than 20 libraries have been completely destroyed, and many others severely hurt by wind, water, structural damage and loss of power, in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Small parish libraries, county libraries and large urban systems have all lost book collections, computers, furniture, roofs, equipment, and, most importantly, staff.

#### **Among the many libraries in trouble**

- **New Orleans:** Main library was flooded. Some branches, including the Martin Luther King Branch, are lost.
- **Biloxi Public Library:** Flooded and may be condemned.
- **Mobile Public Library:** Heavily damaged, collections ruined and one branch library destroyed.
- **Gulfport Public Library:** Badly damaged and may be condemned.

#### **About the Fund**

*The Gulf Coast Libraries Renewal Fund* will: (1) Build a pool of private sector support so surviving libraries in the coastal states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi can continue to offer necessary services; (2) Aid in the restoration and rebuilding of libraries rendered unusable by the storm, a list that continues to grow; (3) Strengthen public awareness and use of libraries as essential institutions for the educational, economic and civic redevelopment of the Gulf Coast states; (4) Promote public-private partnerships for long term library renewal and innovation. *Gulf Coast Libraries Renewal Fund* is managed by Americans for Libraries Council, a national non-profit dedicated to the preservation and renewal of American Libraries. The fund is designed to enable both short and long term redevelopment of the coastal states' library infrastructure. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation is a local partner, providing advisement on fund distribution and project implementation.

<http://www.americansforlibraries.org/give/gulfcoastfund.html>

#### **CPB Emergency Grant Assistance Expanded**

Additional funds to support services in devastated hurricane areas

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) today announced that it will provide an additional \$500,000 in immediate assistance to public television and radio stations in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The additional funds bring the total of CPB's emergency assistance to stations in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to more than \$1,000,000.

<http://www.cpb.org/katrina/index.html>

#### **Assistance for Schools Impacted by Katrina**

Best Buy: te@ch Emergency Response

To help schools cope with the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Best Buy has inaugurated te@ch Emergency Response. This program will provide assistance to schools around the United States that have enrolled children displaced by these disasters. Through a simple online application, Best Buy will award up to \$3 million in gift cards through this special program. Applications for te@ch Emergency Response will be accepted online until November 5, 2005. Visit the website listed below for more information.

<http://www.bestbuy.com/site/olspage.jsp?id=pcmcat52100050011&type=category>

### **Support for Organizations Helping the Disabled**

#### **Disability Funders Network Rapid Response Fund**

The Disability Funders Network Rapid Response Fund has been launched to help nonprofit organizations meet the immediate and long-term needs of people with disabilities in the Gulf region as a result of hurricanes, storms and other severe weather conditions. The Fund, with seed money initially from NEC Foundation of America, is offering mini-grants to nonprofit organizations to meet specific needs which include, but are not limited to, transportation, shelter, medication, medical equipment and assistive technology. Grants will be disbursed directly to organizations with the capacity to affect the greatest need among hurricane victims and/or evacuees with disabilities. Visit the website listed below for more information.

<http://www.disabilityfunders.org/kat-rrf.html>

### **Disaster Relief for the Arts**

#### **Americans for the Arts Emergency Relief Fund**

The Americans for the Arts Emergency Relief Fund provides timely financial assistance to victims of a major disaster for the purpose of helping them rebuild the arts in their community. Relief funds are distributed directly to local arts agencies and other cultural relief efforts. Local arts agencies may use relief funds to assist with their own recovery as well as to provide needed services and funding to local nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists. There are no deadlines for this program. Visit the website listed below for more information.

[http://ww3.artsusa.org/get\\_involved/emergency\\_relief\\_fund/default.asp](http://ww3.artsusa.org/get_involved/emergency_relief_fund/default.asp)

### **Support for Communities Affected by Katrina**

#### **Bush Clinton Katrina Fund**

The Bush Clinton Katrina Fund welcomes proposals from community organizations and state and local governments supporting initiatives that fill in the gaps and unmet needs of families and communities affected by Hurricane Katrina. Applications should be submitted online at the website listed below.

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

### **Emergency Fund for Music Programs**

#### **Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation**

Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation is dedicated to restoring music programs in schools affected by Hurricane Katrina. In an effort to help put instruments back into the hands of children from the affected areas and surrounding states that will be absorbing the displaced students, the Foundation is providing support to school music programs in need of replacement instruments. Visit the website listed below for more information.

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

### **Emergency Funding for Humanities Organizations**

National Endowment for the Humanities Emergency Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities will make available at least \$1 million for emergency grants to libraries, museums, colleges, universities, and other cultural and historical institutions in Gulf Coast areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Application letters are currently being accepted. Visit the website listed below for guidelines on developing the application.

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/hurricanekatrina.html>

### **Support for Small Business Owners**

Small Business Disaster Relief Fund

Following the devastation brought by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, the Louisiana Association of Business & Industry created the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund. The Fund will provide grants to small business owners and operators who were impacted by the hurricane(s). The business must have suffered substantial losses or the potential of long-term business interruption as a direct result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. This grant is designed to provide gap funding for elements that insurance will not cover to assist small businesses' reentry into the economy.

### **Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund**

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham is supporting Hurricane Katrina relief efforts through: the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund, supporting organizations and programs meeting the needs of people who have been evacuated to the greater Birmingham area from the Gulf Coast regions devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The needs include housing, food, education, health care and basic survival necessities; and the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund, funds being directed according to the wishes of the donor and can be specified for recovery efforts in Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi. The Foundation will process these contributions locally, without administrative fee, and forward them to the community foundations serving these areas as they focus on rebuilding infrastructure and providing basic human services to residents of each state.

### **Funds for Animal Rescue**

American Humane Association: Second Chance Katrina Fund

Through the Second Chance Katrina Fund, the American Humane Association is assisting its member agencies with everything from transporting animals from shelters to their families that may now be relocated to other states, to helping expand existing foster programs until families have new places to live, and to paying for the medical needs of animals that were injured during or after the storm. There is no application deadline for this program.

### **Disaster-Relief Grants**

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is saddened by the devastation left in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and has designated up to \$1 million to respond to breast health and breast cancer needs in affected areas. That response has taken the form of Komen Foundation Disaster-Relief Grants, a program developed to help nonprofit institutions and providers of breast health and breast cancer care address the

most pressing needs of displaced individuals and affected communities. There are two types of relief grants available - rebuilding grants and patient services grants. Application guidelines for the Disaster-Relief Grants are available on the website listed below.

[http://www.komen.org/intradoc-cgi/idc.cgi\\_isapi.dll?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&ssDocName=katrina](http://www.komen.org/intradoc-cgi/idc.cgi_isapi.dll?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&ssDocName=katrina)

### **Hurricane Katrina Recovery and Restoration Fund**

Foundation for the Mid South

The Foundation for the Mid South has established the Hurricane Katrina Recovery and Restoration Fund to benefit those impacted by the disaster and the forthcoming recovery efforts. One hundred percent of the contributions made to the Fund will benefit nonprofits with ongoing recovery efforts serving Louisiana, Mississippi, and the Alabama Gulf Coast. Visit the website listed below for more information.

[http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Katrina\\_Recovery\\_Fund.htm](http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Katrina_Recovery_Fund.htm)

### **Support for Animals Impacted by Hurricane Katrina**

PetSmart Charities

As part of its grantmaking, PetSmart Charities provides emergency relief aid to assist pets in times of hurricanes, fire, and other natural catastrophes. In 2004, PetSmart donated funding and supplies to provide immediate help for pets affected by 45 natural disasters and cruelty cases. PetSmart Charities is currently assisting hundreds of animal welfare agencies as they work to help the pets affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. To request assistance or to offer financial support, call 1-800-423-PETS.

### **Habitat for Humanity Responds to Hurricane Katrina**

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity International announced an emergency appeal for funds to help Habitat families and other low-income families in the affected areas recover and rebuild. In addition to the emergency appeal, Habitat's Disaster Response Office has initiated the process of assessing the status of Habitat partner families. Further assessments will continue on the housing needs created by the Hurricane as the first step for planning the long-term recovery and the building of permanent recovery homes. As conditions on the ground allow, Habitat teams will move to assist Habitat families and others who lived in the storm's destructive path and provide whatever immediate assistance possible. Long-term assistance will involve Habitat affiliates and volunteers working together with those impacted by the storm in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Click here to let Habitat know your housing needs. Visit the website listed below for more information.

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

### **Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund**

Twenty-First Century Foundation

The Twenty-First Century Foundation is a national public foundation created to promote strategic philanthropy by the African American/Black community. The Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund of the Twenty-First Century Foundation will partner with organizations in the region to ensure that resources get to the people who need them most, and achieve

the justice goals at the heart of this initiative. The Fund will provide strategic grants for relief, recovery and advocacy efforts that promote long-term equitable solutions. Contributions to the Fund will pool individual gifts and target resources to provide direct assistance while investing in the civil rights and economic empowerment of Black communities in the region. Donations to the Fund may be made through the website listed below.

- Long-term right of return for displaced residents of the Gulf Coast
- Housing
- Rebuilding and reconnecting families
- Preference for jobs and contracts to local residents
- Providing physical and mental health care
- Ensuring the integrity of the environment
- Protecting legal, economic, and voting rights of displaced residents
- Addressing long term poverty of the region

<http://www.21cf.org/HurricaneKatrina.html>

### **Support for Artists Affected by Disasters**

Craft Emergency Relief Fund: Disaster Relief Grant

The Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) offers Disaster Relief Grants of up to \$1,000 for craft artists who have been seriously injured or whose homes or studios have been severely damaged by a significant, widespread disaster such as destructive floods, earthquakes, storms or terrorist attacks. To be considered for this grant, the applicant is required to complete the Quick Loan application. CERF will determine whether a loan or a grant offer or a combination of the two will be made. Priority for grants will be given to those most severely affected by the disaster. Visit the website listed below for more information.

<http://craftemergency.org/programs/relief/offer>

### **Home Depot Provides Disaster Support**

The Home Depot

The Home Depot announced a direct cash donation of \$1.5 million to support the relief and rebuilding efforts of areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The company will make a donation of \$400,000 to emergency management organizations for immediate disaster relief and recovery. In addition, the company will also make a donation of \$600,000 to support long-term rebuilding efforts in the affected communities. This portion of the funding will go to "Rebuilding Funds" established by the Corporation for National Community Service and Hands On Network. These organizations will re-grant funds to nonprofit organizations and manage volunteer-driven rebuilding projects for community facilities, such as schools, senior and community centers, and parks. Visit the website listed below for more information.

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

### **'Adopt a Library' Program**

American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) has established an "Adopt a Library" program to provide assistance to libraries damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The program will provide an opportunity for U.S. libraries of all types to adopt a library in the Gulf Coast. The ALA will collect information from libraries that need assistance, and will connect those libraries with others that can provide relief. Contributing libraries are asked to lend support in the way of books, computers, fundraising and volunteers. Libraries interested in adopting a library may visit the website listed below and complete a participation form.

<http://www.ala.org/template.cfm?section=cro&template=/cfapps/katrina/request.cfm>

### **Support for Katrina Disaster Programs**

Youth Venture: Hope Venture Grants

Youth Venture and MTV are offering Hope Venture Grants of up to \$1,000 to support young people who want to launch a venture - an organization, club, or business - that will aid those affected by Hurricane Katrina. First priority will be given to proposals that support the creation of sustainable ventures that aid the citizens and communities who have lost so much from this disaster. A second priority will be proposals to start organizations solely for the purpose of raising and distributing funds for those in need. Hope Venture Grants will be offered every week for the next six months to groups of two or more young people (ages 13-20) with the most compelling venture ideas to assist the people and communities affected. Applications for one-time projects will not be considered. Visit the website listed below for more information.

[http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/features/take\\_action/disaster\\_relief/help4.jhtml](http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/features/take_action/disaster_relief/help4.jhtml)

### **LISC Community Recovery Fund**

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

To address the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina, LISC has created a Community Recovery Fund with the purpose of working with local and national community development partners to support long-term redevelopment and recovery in impacted urban and rural communities. The Funds will consist of three major components: 1) a special equity fund earmarked for Hurricane Katrina redevelopment efforts; 2) building the capacity of local partners in the region, along with technical assistance and expertise to local organizations for rebuilding their neighborhoods; 3) grants and loans to local partners for a range of community development efforts that include housing, community facilities and economic development. Visit the website listed below for more information.

<http://www.lisc.org/section/supporters/>

### **Ms. Foundation for Women's Katrina Women's Response Fund**

Ms Foundation

The Katrina Women's Response Fund provides strategic support to meet the immediate needs of women of color and low-income women in the Gulf Coast region and ensure that their leadership and priorities are central in both short and long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. By making grants to organizations throughout the region, the Katrina Women's Response Fund invests in the crucial infrastructure that promotes the health,

safety, and economic well-being of women, their families and communities.  
<https://secure.ms.foundation.org/donate/contribute.cfm>

### **Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham**

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham is supporting Hurricane Katrina relief efforts through: the Hurricane Katrina Displaced Residents Fund, supporting organizations and programs meeting the needs of people who have been evacuated to the greater Birmingham area from the Gulf Coast regions devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The needs include housing, food, education, health care and basic survival necessities; and the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund, funds being directed according to the wishes of the donor and can be specified for recovery efforts in Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi. The Foundation will process these contributions locally, without administrative fee, and forward them to the community foundations serving these areas as they focus on rebuilding infrastructure and providing basic human services to residents of each state.

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

### **Foundation of Greater Jackson Establishes Emergency Relief Fund**

Community Foundation of Greater Jackson

The Community Foundation of Greater Jackson has established an emergency relief fund to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Foundation is accepting gifts from the public and will forward 100 percent of all donations to appropriate aid agencies on the Mississippi Gulf Coast as soon as possible.

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

### **National Archives Offers Assistance to Gulf States**

Washington, DC...Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein announced several initiatives to aid in the recovery of original records in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

In making this announcement, the Archivist said: "The potential loss of information that directly affects the lives of people in these states is staggering. The loss of our collective memory of this region, 'identity loss' in other words, is at stake. Property deeds; birth certificates; personal papers; information documenting the rights and entitlements of citizens, such as social security and veterans benefits, are all at risk. Records found in Federal, state, local and cultural sites must be rescued.

As 'first preservers', the National Archives is committed to being a partner, along with the major archival organizations, in helping assess, recover and preserve these irreplaceable records. We are sending both financial and human resources to aid in this disaster and will continue to offer assistance as long as it is needed. Archives staff has already spent hundreds hours working with Federal agencies and our partners in state and local government to scope out this effort and begin to identify and recover records. In the coming days and weeks, working with our partners in the states and the Federal agencies, we are committed to spending thousands more."

**Current initiatives include:**

- At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Archives will provide a senior conservator to assist the State of Louisiana Medical Examiner and the Orleans Parish Coroner in providing document recovery advice and support.
- The Archivist of the United States in his capacity as Chairman of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has authorized emergency grants of up to \$25,000 from FY2005 grant funds to the State Archives in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for disaster assessment and response activities identified in consultation with their State Historical Records Advisory Boards.
- NHPRC will consider additional grants as needed per affected state of up to \$100,000 from FY2006 when these funds are appropriated. The NHPRC also is working closely with the leadership of the Council of State Archivists and the Society of American Archivists to identify other funds and sources of support.
- The National Archives is working with FEMA to identify avenues for the affected states to quickly obtain emergency funds for recovery and preservation efforts of documents.
- The National Archives is continuing dialogue with Federal and state officials to assess their needs.

**Initiatives already underway: The National Archives has:**

- Aided the victims of this disaster - veterans and retired civil servants from the Gulf Coast region – by providing expedited access to copies of their veterans and civil service records so that they can establish or re-establish their personal information and obtain relief benefits.
- Developed a web presence for Federal agencies and courts, state and local governments, cultural institutions, and the general public which contains recovery and preservation guidance and information. [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)
- Offered Federal agencies with offices in the affected regions advice and assistance on records recovery issues, emergency disposal and other records management issues through the National Archives headquarters and the Atlanta and Fort Worth regional archives.
- Consulted with Federal agencies concerning classified national security information that may be affected by the hurricane.
- Delegated authority to Federal agencies to destroy contaminated records that constitute a menace to health, life, or property if those records have a temporary disposition of 10 years or less and if the information from the records is likely captured, at least in part, in other sources.
- Utilized National Archives professional preservation and records management staff from across the nation, to provide advice and assistance in the region.

<http://www.archives.gov/>

**Herbarium Emergency Fund**

The American Society of Plant Taxonomists has created a Herbarium Emergency Fund to provide support for herbaria, such as GCRL, that have sustained damage as a consequence of hurricane Katrina. We have created an ad hoc committee to evaluate requests for assistance and identify additional ways that ASPT can provide financial or

volunteer assistance. Lucinda McDade (mcdade@acnatsci.org), at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, has agreed to chair this effort.

Please contact Lucinda McDade (mcdade@acnatsci.org) or rjensen@saintmarys.edu if you have suggestions for this effort. If you wish to make a donation to the relief effort, please go to <http://www.aspt.net>, choose **membership**, fill in the asterisked fields (last name, first name, city), make sure the default setting is in the membership payment field ("None- Donation only or Miscellaneous payment - \$0.00"), go to the end and complete the credit card information, enter the amount in the "Miscellaneous Donation" field, and be sure to specify ASPT Herbarium Emergency Fund in the text box immediately below the Miscellaneous Donation field.

We realize that this request must take a back seat to the more immediate needs of those whose lives have been devastated by this catastrophe and ask you to give them your first priority.

<http://www.aspt.net/HEF.html>

### **Hurricane Katrina Grant Program**

C Tech Development Corporation, the Worldwide Leader in True 3D Earth Science Software, Announces a Software Grant Program Valued at Over \$125,000 to aid victims of Katrina and/or environmental or water resource issues related to Katrina.

C Tech's software is used throughout the world for analysis and visualization of complex issues such as water resources, environmental contamination, and ocean monitoring. In the wake of hurricane Katrina, all of us at C Tech want to ensure that our software is available to researchers assisting the affected areas. To that end, we are establishing a grant program to provide free licenses of our software to organizations directly working on issues related to this tragedy.

C Tech's worldwide user community has dramatically expanded the applications for our software. Our users are performing analysis and visualization tasks ranging from geologic and environmental analysis, to groundwater flow and transport, emergency management, radio frequency and electromagnetic modeling, oceanic exploration and characterization, civil engineering, archaeology and even the restoration of ancient buildings. The devastation wrought by the hurricane has created a myriad of problems to which our software is ideally suited.

The purpose of our grant program is to provide software to researchers and organizations located in the stricken areas to help address human and environmental health issues related to the disaster and to aid in the infrastructure restoration. C Tech's grant program will provide five free licenses of our flagship MVS software which has a list price of \$24,995 U.S.

To apply for the grant licenses, organizations must submit a simple one-page application and grant proposal that will address the following issues:

- 1) The hurricane related issue(s) your organization will be addressing
- 2) Your organization's experience in this field

- 3) The manpower and other resources you plan to apply to this issue
- 4) Your organization's funding sources and ability to pay

Priority will be given based on the following guidelines:

- 1) Organizations located in the stricken areas
- 2) Non-profit organizations
- 3) Universities
- 4) Government agencies
- 5) Issues related to human health
- 6) Issues related to environmental health such as coral damage or contamination

The grant proposals will be judged by C Tech's management and awards will be made immediately to deserving organizations. The grant program will remain open until all 5 licenses are awarded, however it is our desire to make these awards as soon as possible to help address the immediate need.

To apply for free or reduced cost MVS licenses under C Tech's Tsunami Grant Program, e-mail your application and grant proposals to [grant@ctech.com](mailto:grant@ctech.com).

[http://www.ctech.com/news/katrina\\_grant\\_program.htm](http://www.ctech.com/news/katrina_grant_program.htm)

### **Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund** **Grant Application 2005**

The Community Foundation of South Alabama, United Way of Southwest Alabama, Inc. and WKRG TV5 in Mobile, Alabama are offering grants to **nonprofits** in the coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana that serve victims of Hurricane Katrina. All funds will be allocated to agencies that engage in helping their clients with human and social services and community disaster relief. Funding for the grants will be taken from the Relief Fund to which the public has donated. Grants will be awarded while funds are available.

Required attachments:

- IRS letter of Determination, 501(c)(3) or proof of nonprofit status
- 2004 audited financial statements if available (or latest available)
- List of board members if available

Please type answers to each question within the space provided. Submit the original completed application along **with 8 copies** to The Community Foundation of South Alabama, P.O. Box 990, Mobile, Alabama 36601. If copies cannot be made, please note that on the application. Applications may be faxed to 251-438-5592. If paper is not available, you may submit an electronic completed application to [program@communityendowment.com](mailto:program@communityendowment.com).

**There is no deadline for receipt of applications.** Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and grants will be awarded as soon as possible while funds are available.

<http://www.uwsa.org/pdf/katrinagrapp.pdf>

## **Special Disaster Relief Grant Program**

The Disaster Relief Grant Program is designed to address the housing and community investment needs of communities in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The grants may also be used to support hurricane-displaced residents in other locations within the Bank's five-state District.

The program has three components that focus on housing, economic development and Community-Based Organizations. Applications for all three will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are exhausted.

### **About the Housing Disaster Relief Grant Program (HDRG):**

Provides funding assistance to replace owner-occupied and multi-family affordable housing in officially declared disaster areas in the Ninth District for income-qualified individuals/households up to 120% of AMI. This includes projects that provide housing for evacuees that have relocated to other cities within the District. For owner-occupied housing, the maximum grant is \$7,000 for households at or below 80% of the AMI. The maximum grant for households above 80% and up to 120% of the AMI is \$5,000. All member institutions eligible to obtain advances through the Bank may apply. For rental projects, the maximum grant is \$50,000. The cumulative grant total per member is \$250,000.

- Owner Occupied Housing Disaster Relief Grant Application
- Rental Housing Disaster Relief Grant Application
  - Rental Project Worksheet

### **About the Economic Development Disaster Relief Grant Program (EDRG):**

• Provides working capital to small businesses in officially declared disaster areas in the Ninth District to promote economic development, and create or retain jobs. Small businesses must create/retain jobs for individuals at or below 120% AMI. All member institutions eligible to obtain advances through the Bank may apply. Member institutions may apply for a maximum of \$100,000 in EDRG funds; up to \$20,000 may be granted to any one small business.

- Economic Disaster Relief Grant Application

### **About the Disaster Relief Partnership Grant (DRPG):**

• Provides working capital to Community-Based Organizations in officially declared disaster areas in the Ninth District involved in affordable housing programs, local community development funds, and small business technical assistance programs. All member institutions eligible to obtain advances through the Bank may apply. The maximum grant for a Community-Based Organization is \$5,000. The cumulative grant total per member is \$20,000.

To supplement these new programs, the Bank has also made additional funding available for its existing **EDP Plus Program**. EDP Plus grants assist small businesses by providing working capital for start-up or business expansion, purchase of equipment

or materials and construction, and are used in conjunction with **Economic Development Program** (EDP) at-cost advances.

- Disaster Relief Partnership Grant

#### Special Disaster Relief Advance Program

The program makes subsidized advances available to help individuals and families whose homes or businesses were damaged or destroyed.

#### **About the Special Disaster Relief Advance Program:**

- Funds are priced 10 basis points below the bank's regular at-cost rate for its Economic and Community Development Programs.
- Income eligibility limits have been expanded to 165% of the area median income.
- Terms from overnight to 30 years are available.
- Member institutions must be located or have branch offices in the officially designated Disaster Areas.

A listing of the qualifying incomes is shown below and rate information is available in the Interest Rate section (<http://www.fhfb.com/rates.html#Rates>) of this website. For additional information, call the Community Investment Department at 800.362.2944.

#### **FREDDIE MAC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION FUND FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

#### **Donation to Help Nearly 4,000 Foster Children, Support Foster Parents, Rebuild Foster Care Non-profits**

McLean, VA – The Freddie Mac Foundation is continuing its work in support of the nation's foster children by committing \$1 million to help foster children who are victims of Hurricane Katrina along the gulf coast. The Katrina Fund for Foster Children is part of the Foundation's \$5 million donation to help ease the burden for the thousands of families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"Hurricane Katrina has made the lives of many foster children, who often already live with displacement, uncertainty and instability, even more difficult. The Freddie Mac Foundation continues its commitment to helping children in America's foster care system through the establishment of the Katrina Fund for Foster Children for foster children affected by this disaster," said Freddie Mac Foundation Chairman Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.

Hurricane Katrina has affected nearly 4,000 foster children. In the New Orleans area alone, 1,000 foster families have lost their homes. Most of the children affected have remained with their foster families, but have been displaced around the country. The foster parents are now struggling to find stability and the sense of home that they once offered to these children in need.

In addition, many of the community-based organizations that work to ensure that foster children and their foster families have the support and services they need, are now struggling to fulfill their mission.

The Katrina Fund for Foster Children will be devoted to helping meet the needs of foster children, foster parents, and the organizations that support them. The Foundation has chosen to work with two of their national partners, the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) and the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), which will receive funds to meet immediate and long-term needs as these are identified. Both organizations have state agencies located in the affected areas as well as throughout the country so they can serve displaced families and children.

NFPA, a member organization comprised of state foster parent associations across the country, will receive funds to provide for the needs of foster families who have been affected by Katrina, and will serve as intermediaries in identifying the needs of foster children and families affected by Katrina. Despite losing their homes, most foster parents have remained committed to the children in their care. NFPA will use the Foundation's donation to help these parents meet their families' basic needs, as well as any special needs that government subsidies are not able to cover.

Significant funding will also be directed to CWLA, a member organization that includes public and private service providers focused on helping children and families in need, so it can offer immediate support to the private community-based organizations that assist foster children. The need for these organizations' help is now tremendous, but their capacity to respond cannot keep up with demand. Many of the organizations located in the affected areas have lost their facilities, as well as staff members who have been displaced. CWLA's 1,000-member network will help to identify non-profits affected by Katrina and in need of help to maintain their operations.

"The Katrina Fund for Foster Children will initially serve the immediate needs of foster children affected by the hurricane, their foster families, and the organizations that support them. However, the Foundation will continue to seek out other opportunities in the months and years to come that will help strengthen and stabilize these children's lives and brighten their futures through the Katrina Fund for Foster Children," said Boyd.

The Freddie Mac Foundation's \$5 million commitment to provide relief to Hurricane Katrina victims is part of Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation's \$10 million combined donation made earlier this month. Employees are also committed to helping, and the Freddie Mac Foundation is matching their contributions as well as doubling the match for their donations to support Habitat for Humanity's hurricane relief efforts. To date, employee donations and donation matches total more than \$700,000.

Created by Freddie Mac in 1991, the Freddie Mac Foundation is dedicated to opening the doors to hope and opportunity for children and their families. As one of the largest corporate funders in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation have invested \$250 million in organizations serving the community.

Created by Freddie Mac in 1991, the Freddie Mac Foundation is dedicated to opening the doors to hope and opportunity to children and their families. As the largest corporate funder in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation have invested nearly \$250 million in nonprofit organizations serving children and families. [http://www.freddiemacfoundation.org/news/20050922\\_foster.html](http://www.freddiemacfoundation.org/news/20050922_foster.html)

## **Hewlett Foundation Grant Assists Women, Families and Low-Income Residents Affected by Hurricane Katrina**

### Planned Parenthood Receives \$1 Million to Provide Basic Health Services

Menlo Park, CA — The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation today announced a \$1,000,000 emergency grant to Planned Parenthood Federation of America to help its affiliate health centers provide counseling and essential health care services to women, families and displaced residents affected by Hurricane Katrina.

At no or reduced cost, Planned Parenthood is offering evacuees critical services, such as birth control supplies, medication to treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and prenatal care. Planned Parenthood is serving clients at health centers and is conducting outreach in areas that have received the greatest number of displaced residents.

"This grant from the Hewlett Foundation and donations from our private supporters will make it possible for Planned Parenthood to provide essential contraceptive and health care services to those who have been displaced by this devastating catastrophe," said Karen Pearl, interim president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "From our nearly 90 years of experience, Planned Parenthood knows the importance of providing urgently needed reproductive and primary health care services to help those who have been uprooted by disaster to get their lives back on track."

"The Hewlett Foundation has been a longtime supporter of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and this emergency grant will provide critical aid to survivors," said Hewlett Foundation President Paul Brest. "This funding will help ensure that the health care needs of tens of thousands of women and families are met."

Many women who escaped the storm left behind medication and other items vital to their well-being. Planned Parenthood health centers are providing urgently-needed medical supplies and health care services, such as testing and treatment for STIs, cancer screenings and birth control methods. Reports also indicate the increasing importance of providing services to the increased number of rape victims in the aftermath of the hurricane, including medical treatment, counseling, emergency contraception and abortion services. Planned Parenthood's efforts will allow women and families to focus on rebuilding their lives with the security of access to high-quality health care services.

Planned Parenthood's primary focus is providing urgent care to those in need. Currently, the Planned Parenthood health centers in Baton Rouge, LA, Hattiesburg, MS, and Mobile, AL, are open; however, the organization has not yet been able to assess damage to its New Orleans sites. Planned Parenthood health centers throughout the Southeast are providing much-needed services to evacuees who have been moved to cities as far away as Houston, TX, Nashville, TN, and Tulsa, OK.

In addition to the generous grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Planned Parenthood has raised over \$200,000 in online donations to provide services to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The public can make donations to Planned Parenthood clinics serving evacuees from the hurricane-affected areas of the Gulf Coast at the following Web site: [https://secure.ga3.org/02/pp\\_hurricane\\_katrina](https://secure.ga3.org/02/pp_hurricane_katrina)  
[HTTP://www.hewlett.org/grants](http://www.hewlett.org/grants)

### **AMA Foundation Health Care Recovery Fund**

The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation is offering grants to help physicians rebuild their medical practices in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Grants will be awarded from the AMA Foundation's newly established Health Care Recovery Fund, an ongoing fund that will also be available to physicians affected by future natural or man-made disasters. Physicians whose practices were damaged or destroyed in areas declared disaster zones by the Federal Emergency Management Agency are eligible to apply. Grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded.

Grant applications may be submitted online or are available for download (PDF, 129KB, requires Adobe® Reader®). Physicians need not be AMA members to apply, nor will their AMA membership affect their application status.

The AMA Foundation will accept donations (PDF, 172KB) by mail to the fund. The Health Care Recovery Fund was started with a \$100,000 grant from the AMA.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/1576.html>

### **American Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Assistance**

Lawyers can provide pro bono civil legal assistance to the victim's of Hurricane Katrina working through the Louisiana State Bar Association, Mississippi State Bar Association, Texas State Bar Association / American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Legal Assistance Program. Lawyers must file with each State Bar Association and work with designated legal services providers.

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

### **American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry**

AACD's deepest sympathies are with all those that are affected by the Hurricane. Many AACD members have offered support to their fellow dental professionals in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. We have heard from some members in the area who are safe, though have lost homes or offices. Others are still out of touch, and we anxiously await word. The AACD leadership will continue to closely monitor the situation, and look for ways to support members hardest hit by the storm.

[http://www.aacd.com/professionals/member\\_relief.aspx](http://www.aacd.com/professionals/member_relief.aspx)

### **Federation/LAF Establishes Relief Fund For Rural Victims of Katrina EMERGENCY FUND DEVELOPED**

ATLANTA.... The Federation has launched a Katrina Relief & Recovery Fund to assist farmers and rural poor people affected by hurricane Katrina. "We are witness to immense tragedies in the rural areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana," said Ralph Paige. "We now have farmers who have lost all their crops and markets. Many have lost houses and means of livelihood," he continued. "We are also expecting some 300 evacuees seeking housing, food and water throughout the region." The Federation is

partnering with the Cooperative Development Foundation, FARM AID and Oxfam America and others in providing relief to effected rural communities. "The funds will be used for long term relief to help cooperatives rebuild facilities, re-build markets and help with direct emergency assistance in housing, food and water," said Ralph Paige. In Alabama we are partnering with the 21rst Century Youth Leadership Project in southwest Alabama where up to 300 displaced people will be temporarily housed the 21rst Century Training Center.

Contributions for the Federation's Katrina Relief & Recovery Fund can be sent to the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, 2769 Church Street, East Point, GA 30344. We thank you in advance for your assistance. Please call the Federation's office at 404 765 0991 or e-mail at [fsc@mindspring.com](mailto:fsc@mindspring.com) if you have questions and/or would like to assist in this effort.

<http://www.federationsoutherncoop.com/relief05.htm>

### **Enterprise's Hurricane Relief and Recovery Efforts**

In displacing hundreds of thousands of Americans and devastating entire communities, Hurricane Katrina has created a housing crisis of unprecedented magnitude. As a national leader in providing affordable homes, Enterprise is on the front lines of the effort to build new and more equitable communities in the Gulf Region.

Since the first days of the disaster, we have been providing emergency housing and relief services to low-income Hurricane survivors. Now we're working with partners to help plan, finance and manage the construction of thousands of new homes for low-income Americans left homeless by the storm.

As in all our work, Enterprise's response to Katrina focuses on the challenges facing low-income people and communities, especially those with acute housing and other human needs. Our overarching objectives are to ensure that Katrina survivors have full opportunity for decent, affordable homes and that low-income people have a strong voice in the long-term planning and rebuilding of new communities that are environmentally sustainable, mixed-income and accessible to employment and educational opportunities.

Enterprise is committing substantial staff and funding capacity from its own resources to launch its efforts, but much more support is needed. To do our part to help respond to this historic disaster, we are soliciting support from many partners: individuals, corporations, financial institutions and foundations.

Enterprise has established two vehicles for delivering assistance.

The Enterprise Community Relief Fund. Resources from this fund are providing urgently needed services to Katrina evacuees in Austin, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and St. Louis. Enterprise is deploying pass-through grants and expert staff assistance to community-based organizations that are providing emergency shelter, housing, meals, health care, job placement and services to displaced families.

Enterprise is also working directly to help meet the urgent need for emergency, transitional and permanent housing. For example NHT-Enterprise, a joint venture between Enterprise and the National Housing Trust, is providing housing for 200 families (300 adults, 425 children) in vacant apartments in Houston and Dallas. NeighborWorks America is a key partner in these efforts.

Through the Enterprise Community Relief Fund, our corporate and philanthropic partners are also helping to purchase household items and other necessities for needy families in our care.

The Community Recovery Fund. Resources from this large-scale fund will be raised and managed in partnership between Enterprise and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to provide permanent affordable homes to a significant number of working poor and extremely low-income people primarily in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Enterprise and LISC will generate low-interest loan funds and equity investments through the federal Low Income Housing and New Markets Tax Credit programs to support this development. Philanthropic partners will contribute funds to support staff costs and to provide pass-through grants to community partners.

In addition to supporting new homes, resources from the Community Recovery Fund will complement Enterprise activities to strengthen community- and faith-based groups working on the ground to address both the immediate and long-term needs of hard hit communities.

The fund will also support Enterprise's crucial work with local, state and federal leaders to ensure that public rebuilding efforts meet the real needs of low-income families. In providing expert advice on redevelopment plans and forging new private-public partnerships, our priorities will be to ensure a strong voice for low-income people in rebuilding and to make the most of opportunities to create communities that are healthier, smarter, fairer and sustainable, with the appropriate level of public resources to do the job.

### **Cisco pledges aid for schools: \$20 million program to help 7 Miss. districts devastated by storm**

Computer equipment supplier Cisco Systems Inc. announced a \$20 million, three-year commitment Tuesday to seven Mississippi school districts devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The San Jose, Calif., -based company will commit another \$20 million over the same period to enhance schools in other Gulf Coast states. The money will buy computers, wireless infrastructure in communities and provide teacher training.

"This is an opportunity not just to build our schools a little bit better and not just to make a financial contribution," said John Chambers, Cisco president and CEO, "but to redesign the schools in Mississippi as the pilot for our country, for us to regain our leadership in education which we have lost for many decades."

Cisco's program, dubbed 21st Century Schools Education Initiative, was unveiled at the Mississippi Economic Council's Hobnob Mississippi meeting Tuesday.

Chambers said the program could expand nationwide to improve America's educational system, which is falling behind other developed countries.

Cisco will adopt Hattiesburg's Rowan Elementary as the first of three model 21st Century Schools. In about three months, Rowan will receive an Internet network that would include video and voice capabilities, technology and support for interactive class activities, individualized online learning materials and training for administrators and teachers.

"We don't want just the technology," said Hattiesburg Public Schools Superintendent Annie Wimbish, whose district had millions in losses from wind and water damage. "We want training for our teachers who can get beyond technology."

Some of the school's students have not used a computer, she said. The school's students mostly are minority and living in poverty. Some of the district's computers are at least 10 years old.

"We have a chance to catch up," she said. "This will help make sure our children can compete."

Children can learn through technology, Chambers said, citing an example of students in a Cisco program in Jordan who use Internet computer games to learn math and science.

"This will get us back to where we were and beyond," said David Rubenstein, chief financial officer for the Moss Point School District, which had an estimated \$14 million in damages from Katrina. Gov. Haley Barbour, who was in Washington D.C. lobbying Congress for aid, thanked Chambers in a taped message.

"Thanks for believing in Mississippi and knowing that the rebuilding in our state after Katrina can be a rebuilding in education that sets a standard of more than just virtual schools and online education," Barbour said.

State Superintendent Hank Bounds praised the initiative as an example of private business boosting student performance.

"In short, Cisco is building the first wireless 21st century community network," he said. Bounds, who was appointed a month before Katrina crushed schools in the southern half of the state, told business leaders he wants to cut the dropout rate in Mississippi schools from 40 percent to 20 percent within five years and improve test scores.

"We will improve education and work-force development," he said. "We're going to be more responsive to the needs of business and industry."

Funding for the initiative comes from Cisco Systems Inc. and a \$10 million personal donation from Cisco Chairman John Morgridge.

Chambers is making a \$2 million personal donation.

### **Universities Rebuilding America Partnership (URAP)**

URAP, a partnership between the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Corporation for National & Community Service, is offering two new grants listed in the *Federal Register*.

- The Community Design Grant Program  
Architecture and Planning Schools may apply for grants up to \$300,000 for a two-year project to work with Gulf Coast communities to develop long-range neighborhood plans for reconstruction and future growth
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant  
All Historically Black Colleges and Universities are eligible for two-year grants of \$350,000 to provide resources and assistance to low- and moderate-income hurricane victims and their communities

Applications are now being accepted for both grants, and their deadlines are Nov. 30, 2005.