

Katrina Disaster Central Oklahoma's Efforts

September 14, 2005

“One-Stop Shop”: Now Open!

We want to make sure that you all are aware that the “one-stop” **Assistance Center for Hurricane Katrina evacuees** seeking assistance here in central Oklahoma is open! The shop is located within Trinity International Baptist Church, at 1329 NW 23rd Street in Oklahoma City.

D.J. Thompson (236-8441 x 221 or dthompson@unitedwayokc.org) will be the point of contact for agencies wanting to provide services at the Center.

There is limited space availability, so we are asking that agencies with similar services work together to coordinate coverage at the Assistance Center. That way each agency does not have to have a person down there, on-site, full-time. The mental health providers have already worked together to develop a rotation schedule to ensure that counseling services are available.

A complete list of agencies and their services will be maintained for referral purposes. Case managers will be able to refer evacuees to your agency for their more specific needs. If your agency provides a service that should be on-site rather than through referrals, please contact D.J.

Updates

- Compassion Resource Center – served 30 families with clothing and household items.
- Hope Community Services – they are currently supporting 21 evacuees by staff.
- Oklahoma Democratic Party has helped 12 people sign up for FEMA numbers.
- Salvation Army – Have provided 166 shelter, food, clothing, gift cards.
Healing Hands – Processed 10 families. Health care is a problem without an ID, will take without I.D. referrals for specialty care needed.
- Red Cross OKC – processed 538 cases. Over 420 volunteers and staff have dedicated their time to the efforts. So far, \$400,000 has been spent here in Central Oklahoma on recovery efforts thru the Red Cross.
- Red Cross of Norman – some of their evacuees have nothing to return to, and are planning to stay and relocate here to Oklahoma.
- Presbyterian Urban Missions – assisted 44 with Wal-Mart vouchers, helping them enroll in school, and receive prescriptions.

- Meeting with churches and religious organizations to be headed by Reverend Glenn Cranfield from the City Rescue Mission, to coordinate the individual efforts of every church in the metro and their donations.
- Presbyterian Urban Missions – supplies back packs to the children that are enrolling in school, if you have items, or need items please contact.
- Catholic Charities – has school uniforms available for those in need.
- Travelers Aid – helping 3-4 families per day

Donations Needed

- Compassion Resource Center –beds needed.
- Temple Home Church – 20 people, need 20 cots.
- The Concerned Clergy for Spiritual Renewal (CCSR) will be assisting families of the Katrina Hurricane. Families that should need assistance should contact Pastor Lee Cooper of the Prospect Baptist Church 2809 N. Missouri in Oklahoma City (405-424-1795). The CCSR is also accepting items for the survivors of Katrina at the McFarland Branch YWCA located at 1701 N E 16th (corner of N E 16th and Martin Luther King) in Oklahoma city, OK
 - Drop off times:
 - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.
 - 4:00 p.m.- 6:45 Monday and Wednesday
 - Subjected Items:
 - Bibles, Personal Items, toiletries, deodorant, unused underwear, packaged underwear, T-shirts, panties, shorts, socks, bras, (underwear includes men and women items) hair products, black hair products and women, toys, books for all ages, board games, coloring books and crayons, baby clothes, un-open diapers, formula, baby food, baby wipes, baby items, packed water, non-perishable food items, games and items for Youth and Children.
- Easter Seals – need wheel chairs, walkers, medical equipment
- County Medical and Central Oklahoma Integrated Network System (COINS), helping to locate health services – “CARL” (405.557.1100) is recruiting Dr.’s.

Fundraising Efforts

- United Way is activating their disaster fund and opening it to contributions. A volunteer committee has been established for oversight.
- Victory House is no longer accepting “items”, monetary donations always welcomed.
- There has been a Fund set up for the victims of Katrina by the Concerned Clergy for Spiritual Renewal (CCSR). You may mail your donation to the address. below: Christian Relief Fund

P O Box 17452
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73136

Multi-Services

- Goodwill - accepting Red Cross cards at their thrift stores with an additional 50% off on the items. All the monetary donations being received are going towards putting together "hygiene kits." Each kit will be separated into the appropriate age and gender category.
- Salvation Army is providing the following items to the evacuees - In-Kind donations, Food Orders, Gift Cards, Emergency Shelter, Clothing, and are currently working towards getting Utility Assistance as well. Monday - Friday, 9AM - 4PM: Salvation Army Disaster Services:
 - The Salvation Army: 501 S. Harvey - OKC - 73109
 - 405.246.1060
 - Services Provided: Clothing, Food, Hygiene Items, Wal-mart gift cards, Shelter and On-Site Meals, Adult Rehab Center (ARC) - for pickup call: 236-3677

Food Services

- Food Bank - Working with 4 pantries in OKC and assisting shelter sites.
 - Brit-Vil Community Center: 405.842.1275
 - Presbyterian Urban Missions: 405.946.1596
 - Salvation Army: 405.270.7838
 - First Baptist Church: 405.232.8631
- Angel Food Network
- WIC - waiving residency requirements to receive vouchers.

Shelter & Housing Services

- Community Action - The FHA has agreed not to foreclose on the homes.
- Catholic Charities - parish to family program. They are adopting families, but strongly oppose placing evacuees "in-home" setting, liabilities are too great. The families are putting together "welcome wagons" to celebrate the children's birthdays, etc. They also have the capability to help those that are passing thru, by accessing their national data base, so that when they get to their final destination they already know there is a placement waiting for them, and know exactly who to contact when they arrive. Catholic Charities uses, what they call "Scouts," to actually go out and scout out the locations to make sure they are suitable accommodations for the evacuees to be housed in.
- Oklahoma City Housing Authority has placed 25 families in homes.
- Sunrise Park Apartments - Donated 200 apartments for as long as needed, and has agreed to pay the first month's electric bill. Currently, 20 families

have been placed within the complex. Located at 2101 Crooked Oak Drive SE 15th and I-35. Needs volunteers and furniture.

- www.gosection8.com – Previously used for national access to strictly section 8 housing, but in the aftermath of the disaster has been opened to include all housing availability nationwide. Access this database if you have housing needs, or if you have property available.
- American Red Cross – Supplies evacuees with a 14 day voucher, during this time they can also receive free corporate lodging for 14 days.
- National Red Cross is looking for hotel rooms for short-term, and also trying to track long-term housing through FEMA aid.

Mental Health Assistance

- Sunbeam – Granting mental health services, need to coordinate needs as a community.
- Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) – helping at Camp Gruber, have received a crisis counseling grant, and are working with Community Mental Health Centers to secure some of the expenditures.
- Need for therapists – Mental Health Association – Sunbridge counseling has been supplying some of their staff to the Red Cross to help.
- North Care – Is willing to take 5-6 cases for Case Manager Work.
- Crisis Center - 1-800-522-9054 All Mental Health agencies will be coordinated through this number.
- Case Management:
 - Red Rock - Cases dealing with mental health. 405-425-0441
 - North Care - Cases dealing with mental illness. 405-858-2700

Healthcare Assistance

- HeartLine – 405-848-CARE (405-848-2273) information and referrals available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Walgreens will help with one month's supply of prescriptions.
- Wal-Mart – granting prescription drugs for a one-week's supply.
- CVS/Eckerd – granting prescription drugs for a one-month's supply.
- Easter Seals – Helping to donate medical supplies for disaster relief.
- County Medical and Central Oklahoma Integrated Network System (COINS), helping to locate health services – “CARL” (405.557.1100) referrals line, typically helps with infant and prenatal health. Can help with other health needs.
- Medicare assistance – how do you get help? The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OKHCA) is working closely with Medicaid agencies in the Gulf coast states and with the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. OKHCA is staffing telephone lines to assist Medicaid recipients who have relocated to Oklahoma and who need health services. For more information,

call (877) 252-6002. The phones will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information is also posted on the agency's web site, www.okhca.org

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has enacted a national hotline for emergency victims: Crisis Counseling Hotline 1-800-273-8255
- Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) - Looking for help concerning HIV medicines and assistance.
- Oklahoma Insurance Department can assist hurricane victims by answering their questions regarding the claims process, helping them to determine which insurance carrier they had if they are unable to remember the company name, and by providing contact information for the insurance companies. If any of the storm evacuees need such assistance, they can call this office at 521-2991 and ask for: Brad Bryant or Angie Lawson. For life & health insurance issues ask for Lydia Shirley.
- D-DENT - providing dentures to those who misplaced, broke, or need them (must not have natural teeth). If there are any SPECIAL cases-where someone is in extreme pain-we might be able to find a DDS willing to help.
- Case Management:
 - OU Health Science Center - Cases with chronic illness and disease.
 - RAIN, Tracy Ecker - Cases dealing with HIV. 405-947-3434
 - Red Rock - Cases dealing with HIV. 405-425-0441
 - Community Action / Turning Point - Can handle cases dealing with Substance Abuse. 405-634-0508.

[Persons with Disabilities](#)

- A disability website has been set up: www.katrinadisability.info this website is a comprehensive resource on everything from special needs shelters to accessible house for rent.
- The Department of Homeland Security has a disability-preparedness site: www.dhs.gov/DisabilityPreparedness.html. The Department of Homeland Security also has an Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The council includes representatives from 24 federal agencies.
- As far as donating funds is concerned, there are several agencies that are currently accepting donations for Katrina relief. They include the ARC, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Family Voices, National Downs Syndrome, Spina Bifida, TASH, and United Cerebral Palsy of Houston. A multiagency cross-disability fundraising proposal is currently being developed by Marca Bristo. Marca is a former Chairperson of the National Council on Disability, and is currently head of Access Living, an Independent Living Center in Chicago.
- The National Council on Disability has released a brief on Hurricane Katrina and emergency response to disasters. This brief can be found on

www.ncd.gov under the "What's New" tab. NCD's 2005 report titled Saving Lives: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning is also available on the website

(<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2005/publications.htm>).

- Dale Rogers Training Center - is a training/work facility for the disabled. Are willing to evaluate issues and help evacuees get documentation/information that would qualify them for these programs. Contact: Connie Thrash McGoodwin

Education Services

- YWCA - working with Concerned Clergy, also assisting students from Dillard University and displaced persons in getting into colleges and universities to continue their education.
- Oklahoma City Public Schools have enrolled 27 students so far.
- FHA is granting Head Start to anyone.
- Oklahoma City University & Oklahoma City Community College granting tuition waivers for displaced persons experiencing an interruption in their education.

Transportation Services

- Travelers Aid - Helping with transportation assistance.

Job Assistance

- Express Personnel - can help people find jobs, from low skill to professional jobs. Call: Jan Demry 405.730.A-JOB (2562) or cell 405.850.8720
- Urban League - Providing On-Line assistance for FEMA ID#, emergency food and basic needs vouchers, job placement assistance, and transportation to Wal-Mart to redeem vouchers. Contact Lonetta Smith at 405-424-5243 x 106 for additional information.
 - Employment Orientation Sessions: Mondays, 9AM - 1:30PM
 - To make an appointment call: Beverly 424-5243 x 107
 - Bring resume and employment history
 - Business Attire is required
- TEEM - The Education and Employment Ministry 405-235-5671

Elderly Services

- Lennie Marie Tolliver Center - Will take in some elderly persons on a temporary basis. Working with Trinity Church on northeast side with food and manpower.
- Case Management:
 - Sunbeam - Elderly shelter (5people). 405-528-7721

Money & Credit Services

- Consumer Credit Counseling Center – National credit companies are granting grace periods to displaced persons.
- Social Security – send evacuees to register and receive their social security checks, come in as quickly as possible.

Legal Assistance

- Legal Aid – Assistance with any civil legal services. 405-521-1302

General Resources

- The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) has compiled a list of resources for the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The resources span from general disaster relief resources to meeting the mental health needs of the hurricane survivors, along with resources for schools. The list of resources is on the SPRC website at:
http://www.sprc.org/library/hurricane_katrina_resources.pdf.
- Website for Oklahoma resources: www.211oklahoma.org.
- Volunteer Database – If you have volunteers that are calling to volunteer their time and need somewhere for them to be entered, refer them to 523.3000 Becky VanPool, Volunteer Coordinator for Catholic Charities. She will be maintaining a composite list of volunteers.
- Crisis Center - 1-800-522-9054
- HeartLine – 405-848-CARE (405-848-2273) information and referrals available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Register for a FEMA #. 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
<http://www.fema.gov/register.shtm>

Announcements

- Animal Rescue Efforts –
 - Oklahoma City Obedience Training Club 942-2388
aday9@sbcglobal.net Angie Dayton, training director.
 - Full Circle Obedience School 721-7829.
 - Boxer rescue is already full-
 - Sooner Golden Retriever Rescue Inc. (405) 749-5700 PO Box 57139, Oklahoma City, OK 73157
- We are trying to contact displaced Gulfcoast artists of all disciplines. The Paseo Artists Association of the Paseo Arts District of Oklahoma City loves and values all the creative people who have been uprooted by hurricane Katrina. Whether you are a visual artist or a performance artist or a literary artist, we want to do everything we can to help you. We don't have much money, but we can offer exhibition & performance & literary opportunities, along with living space, creative space, basic needs, artistic supplies, and an opportunity for you to interact with fellow artists of all kinds, and displaced citizens who are starving to re-connect with their culture. The Paseo family is

all open-arms. If you know of an artist in need of this support, please help them to contact Tom Lee at tomphoto@sbcglobal.net or call 405-525-2688, or email Skip Largent at skipsilver@gbronline or call 405-557-1369.

Mail to PAA, 3000 N Lee, Oklahoma City, OK 73103

To know more about us, see our website at <http://www.thepaseo.com/>

- Oklahoma County - has a specific obligation, by law, to provide burial or cremation services to anyone who dies within the geographic boundaries of the county, if the body is unclaimed, or there are no available funds to pay for a service.

Public Relations / Raising Awareness

- We need to better inform hospitals, restaurants, schools, etc. of where families can find help.
- Evacuees need city maps to assist in traveling the city to receive services.
- State is working with (FEMA) on Public Service Announcements (PSA's).

Volunteer Efforts

- Girl Scout troops are collecting items, and putting together care packages.
- Catholic Charities - If you have volunteers that are calling to volunteer their time and need somewhere for them to be entered, refer them to 523.3000 Becky VanPool, Volunteer Coordinator for Catholic Charities. She will be maintaining a composite list of volunteers.

Case Management

- Please use case management to track individuals:
 - Catholic Charities - Julia Reed (405) 523-3000 or (405) 523-3012
 - Salvation Army - Toni Hinton (405) 246-1100
 - American Red Cross - Sue Bullard (405) 232-7121
 - Travelers Aid - Terry Womack (405) 232-5507
 - Presbyterian Urban Missions - Peggy Garrett (405) 946-1556
- www.nvoad.org - Case Managers can activate a Long Term Recovery Manual that will be useful in conducting our efforts in OKC. Will also be using the forms to present needs to the Unmet Needs Committee.
- Do we have the capability to track the trends? Looking at what needs are being met, to whom and how? Is there a way to link all the agencies thru cyberspace to ensure that needs are being met and not duplicated?
- This is a long-term project. Many indicated that they are in it for the long haul and have the capability to staff the long-term effects and manage cases for the duration.
- Referrals: Make sure that when someone comes to you for help they are managed thru one of the agencies that are offering Case Managers. First send them to: Red Cross, Salvation Army, or Catholic Charities. These are national

organizations that can possibly utilize disaster funds and national funds before needing to tap into our local dollars.

- Register for a FEMA #. 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
<http://www.fema.gov/register.shtm>
- Concern over being able to track...to verify that the number is actually good. Suggestion: If you have internet capability plug their FEMA number into the system to check their profile. If the number is good, print a copy for them to be able to use in future referrals.
- Once this is completed identify their needs and concerns. For example: if they have mental illness needs...refer them to North Care so they can be treated the best we can provide. Knowing who does what, the best will help us maximize our dollars and resources.
- Future checks: to see where the victim is now in regards to recovery efforts, where they were before, and potentially what needs they still have.
- Travelers Aid - Can take about 3 or 4 cases of general need.
- Social Workers used here locally to fill need first and then can be tracked through National Red Cross if needed in Houston area, or other places.
- Meeting Time Set: Every Tuesday at 2 PM at Catholic Charities, in the basement.