

The Power of Help and Hope After Katrina By the Numbers: Volunteers in the Gulf

575,554 Americans	Estimated number of individuals who have volunteered in Gulf Coast
18 million 18-28 year olds	Donated or volunteered to Katrina relief and recovery
51,178,222 lbs. of food.....	Or about 131,000 meals a day or 47,815,000 meals total distributed through Catholic Charities of New Orleans-operated Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana
5,668,226 hot meals.....	Served by Salvation Army volunteers
330,000 hours of service.....	Provided for Katrina relief through the Volunteer Centers of the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network
220,000 volunteers.....	Supplied by the Red Cross alone to Gulf relief and recovery
21,595 gallons	Water purified by Southern Baptist Convention volunteers
22,000 survivors	Received free medical services from Episcopal Relief and Development
18,725 displaced people	Supported by Travelers Aid volunteers
10,000+ college students	Sacrificed Spring Break to volunteer in Gulf region
1,900 pets.....	Rescued and cared for by Noah's Wish volunteers
777 homes.....	Gutted by Hands On Network volunteers
350 "built in a box" houses	Sent to the Gulf by Habitat for Humanity volunteers
280 families	Received long-term housing from Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
100 playgrounds.....	KaBOOM! volunteers have committed to build in the Gulf
375,000 mentors	Needed to provide positive support to "Katrina's Kids" – the approximately 400,000 children who survived the storm
100,000 more volunteers	Needed to support the Miss. Gulf coast's current recovery efforts
Thousands of homes	Still needing to be gutted or cleared of debris

These facts and figures attempt to capture the incredible outpouring of compassion by our nation's volunteers in the year since Katrina struck. They represent "best estimates" based on self-reported data gathered by the Corporation for National and Community Service from a group of volunteer-driven organizations in an effort to understand the overall volunteer contributions to the relief and recovery efforts.

The numbers reported do not account for possible duplication (the same individual serving through multiple organizations or projects); nevertheless, this estimate is conservative because no one has yet surveyed or captured many of the sources of volunteers, and across the country, the outpouring of generosity has been nearly universal.

To find volunteer opportunities in the Gulf Coast or ways to help from home, visit www.volunteer.gov and conduct a volunteer search using the "Hurricane Relief/Recovery" search category.

Organizations Helping in the Gulf

America's Promise

In October 2005, America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth announced *Katrina's Kids*, a two-year initiative to help the more than 400,000 young people affected by Hurricane Katrina recover from the devastating storm. The Katrina's Kids website at www.katrinaskidsusa.org serves as a portal for interested citizens and groups to donate their time or money to help these young people. For more information, contact Mike McGill at mikem@americaspromise.org or (703) 535-3819.

American Red Cross

More than 95 percent of Red Cross' Katrina relief workers have been volunteers. Through the Red Cross's 800 locally supported chapters, more than 15 million people each year gain the skills they need to prepare for and respond to emergencies in their homes, communities, and world. For more information, visit www.redcross.org or contact Renita Hosler at hoslerr@usa.redcross.org or (202) 303-5786.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Louisiana

Despite having their building destroyed by Katrina, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Louisiana continues the very important work of providing quality volunteers who serve as mentors to children in Southeast Louisiana. Through the organization, more than 300 volunteers have assisted with recovery and relief efforts in the Gulf. BBBS of Southeast Louisiana has served 800 children in the past year - -their goal is to be serving 2,000 by 2007, but to reach that goal they need volunteers to sign up as mentors. For more information, contact M. Dolores Medina-Whitfield at MDMWhitfield@aol.com or (504) 231-7733.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

With support from the Corporation for National and Community Service, 14 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies serving the Gulf region are partnering with corporations, business, service organizations, and schools to identify and recruit "baby boomer" age volunteers as youth mentors. Boomer volunteers are screened and matched with at-risk children ages 6-16 impacted by the 2005 hurricanes. BBBS mentors are helping children and their families cope with the emotional stresses associated by the disasters by providing quality, one on one time and attention to their mentees. Since April 2006, more than 190 Boomers have been recruited as mentors to at-risk children in their communities with a program target goal of 850 by the spring of 2007. For more information, visit www.bbbs.org or contact Michael Hackman at Michael.Hackman@bbbs.org or (215) 665-7746.

Boys and Girls Club of America

Many local Boys & Girls Clubs serving thousands of young people have been seriously damaged along the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina's destructive power. In the storm's wake, many children and their families are being relocated to numerous cities across the country. Clubs are in major need of financial support to rebuild and bring vital youth services to children whose lives are severely disrupted. For more information, visit www.bgca.org.

Bonner Foundation

Through sustained partnerships with colleges and congregations, the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation seeks to improve the lives of individuals and communities by helping meet the basic needs of nutrition and educational opportunity. Since Katrina, many schools in the Bonner network have been actively involved in service trips to the Gulf, raised money to help, accepted displaced students from universities in the Gulf, and more. Close to 600 volunteers from 16 universities representing 10 states participated in service trips to the Gulf coast. The Foundation contributed more than \$200,000 to support these volunteer efforts, an amount matched in full by participating colleges and universities. For more information, visit www.bonner.org or contact Krista Hector at krista@bonner.org or (609) 924-6663.

Campfire USA

The Camp Fire USA system immediately respond to Camp Fire USA councils and communities in the Gulf region with volunteer hours, youth service projects, donations, and supplies. Camp Fire USA affiliate councils from as far away as the California and New England areas engaged youth and adults in their efforts to provide relief to Camp Fire councils and communities in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. Camp Fire councils in the Gulf served by providing safe shelter and housing for displaced residents and volunteers from around the county at and in their camp facilities and home that were still intact. The Southwest Louisiana Council in Lake Charles, LA, the Big River Council in Baton Rouge, LA and The Orange Council in Orange, TX, all received funding to provide camping opportunities for displaced children. Those camps that were operable became safe havens for many of the children who had been affected by the devastating loss of homes and familiarity. For more information, visit www.campfireusa.org or contact Paulette Riley at priley@campfireusa.org or (816) 285-2006.

Campus Compact

Campus Compact is a national coalition of nearly 1000 college and university presidents — representing some 5 million students — dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement, and service-learning in higher education. Many of its member universities were instrumental in organizing the tens of thousands of college students who participated in service trips to the Gulf during their spring and summer breaks. For more information, visit www.compact.org or contact Liz Hollander at ehollander@compact.org or (401) 867.3950.

Catholic Charities USA

Catholic Charities agencies in the Gulf Coast and beyond continue working to rebuild better communities, help families become self sufficient, and help hurricane victims to overcome their grief. To date, over 800 homes of the elderly, disabled, or uninsured residents have been gutted and prepared for rebuilding with the help of more than 5,000 volunteers through Catholic Charities of New Orleans Operation Helping Hands. In Biloxi, over 1,500 volunteers worked on 500 homes with Catholic Community and Social Services' Susan's House Projects. With hundreds of houses still on the waiting list, there is a desperate need of more volunteers, especially skilled volunteers. For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesusa.org or contact Shelley Borysiewicz at sborysiewicz@catholiccharitiesusa.org or (703) 236-6218.

Christians Organized for Relief Efforts (CORE)

CORE, Christians Organized for Relief Efforts, was established by two churches from Houston, Texas – Gateway Community Church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – to assist in meeting the needs of people hit by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast area. CORE operates as a staging platform to organize and mobilize volunteers to serve in Mississippi Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricane Katrina. More than 8,300 Volunteers from every state in the United States as well as 15 foreign countries have served through the CORE Base Camp – giving days and weeks of their time to serve everyday people impacted by Katrina. In 10 months, CORE volunteers cleaned and sanitized 541 homes, rebuilt 68 homes, and re-roofed 81 homes. Tons of debris has been removed from yards, neighborhoods, and beaches. For more information, visit www.corebasecamp.org or contact Tim Sims, Gateway Community Church at (713) 551-4842 or tsims@gateway-community.org.

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) is a relief, development, and educational ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. CRWRC maintains a roster of about 2,000 long term volunteers who help offer the following services: Rapid Response (clean up, repairs, etc), Organizational Capacity Building, Community Needs Assessments, Construction Estimating, Accounting, and Reconstruction. For more information, visit www.crwrc.org or contact Bill Adams at adamsb@crcna.org or (800) 848-5818.

Common Ground Relief

Common Ground Relief was formed in the wake of Katrina to provide immediate aid to residents in the Gulf Coast region and long-term support in rebuilding their communities in just and sustainable ways. Since Sept. 2005, Common Ground, a grassroots, volunteer organization, has an average of 150 to 300 volunteers on the ground at any time and a network of more than 8,000 volunteers who have provided relief to 70,000 residents in seven Parishes. For more information, visit www.commongroundrelief.org or contact commongroundvolunteers@gmail.com or call (504) 218-661.

Community Action Partnership

The Community Action Partnership was established is the national organization representing the interests of the 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) working to fight poverty at the local level. The Community Action network has responded to the disasters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with a tremendous outpouring of support, donations, and offers of help and shelter from across the country. Community Actions nationwide are providing social services and case management to displaced families. For more information, visit www.communityactionpartnership.com or contact Lisa Holland at lholland@communityactionpartnership.com or (202) 265-7546.

Corporation for National and Community Service

Working with the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama State Service Commissions as well as local nonprofit and faith-based groups and municipalities, more than 35,000 national service participants representing the Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs contributed nearly 1.5 million hours to the hurricane relief and recovery effort in the Gulf region and across the country, and have coordinated an additional 75,000 community volunteers. The Corporation for National and Community Service facilitated the production of this fact sheet in collaboration with a group of volunteer-driven organizations active in the Gulf region. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov or contact Siobhan Dugan at sdugan@cns.gov or (202) 606-6707.

Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) has provided Hurricane Katrina emergency funds to the Dioceses of Alabama, Central Gulf Coast, East Tennessee, Western Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, West Texas, Louisiana and Western Kansas. ERD established a partnership with the Episcopal Migration Ministries to help settle additional evacuees across the country. ERD also worked with the Church World Service to provide thousands of medical kits to ecumenical partners in the Gulf Coast. For survivors of Hurricane Katrina, the outpouring of generosity from Episcopalians and Anglicans equals more than \$15 million and thousands of hours of service from volunteers. ERD is supporting its partners in rebuilding housing and small businesses, providing case management services, creating infrastructure for medical and volunteer services, and supporting psychosocial counseling. For more information, contact Richard Ohlsen at (212) 716-6360 or visit www.er-d.org.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity recognizes the need to provide long-term solutions to the housing needs of families who have been affected and displaced by disasters and conflicts. While Habitat cannot act as a relief agency, it seeks to facilitate recovery options for those victims who seek permanent housing to rebuild their lives. Habitat for Humanity's Operation Home Delivery is an effort to rebuild the Gulf Coast region devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. To be notified of opportunities to participate in building trips in the hurricane-affected areas, visit www.habitat.org and click on the "Get Involved" menu option. For more information, contact Fiona Eastwood feastwood@habitat.org.

Hands On Network

Hands On Gulf Coast and Hands On New Orleans are disaster response projects of Hands On Network – a network of 64 nonprofit organizations around the world that inspire volunteers, create leaders, and change lives and communities through effective volunteer action. Hands On volunteers have rebuilt famous Jazz landmarks in New Orleans, helped provide medical care, installed playgrounds, and gutted numerous homes. It is estimated more than 4,000 Hands On volunteers have contributed more than \$5.2 million in labor. Despite the progress, there is still much work to be done and volunteers are always needed. For more information, visit www.HandsOnNetwork.org or contact John Jowers at jjowers@handsonnetwork.org or (404) 979-2941.

Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN)

The mission of HCRN during times of disaster is to: 1) coordinate and deploy volunteers, resources, and financial assistance to the affected areas; 2) serve as advocates to help victims obtain assistance from appropriate agencies and organizations; and 3) assist in devising and implementing post-disaster long term recovery plans for local communities. Since Katrina struck, HCRN volunteers have contributed more than 120,000 volunteer hours estimated at an in-kind value of \$3,096,000. They have completed more than 900 jobs ranging from debris clean-up and removal, to tarping and home repairs, to rebuilding and new construction. For more information, visit www.hcrn.org or contact Valerie Cox at Valerie@hcrn.info or at 574-522-2547, Ext. 201.

Independent Sector

Independent Sector is the leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good in America and around the world. Many of its members, including America's Promise, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Hands on Network, KaBOOM!, National Youth Leadership Council, National Assembly, Points of Light Foundation, Salvation Army, United Way, Youth Service America, and others, are doing incredible work to help rebuild communities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Independent Sector continues to encourage communication among charities, foundations, and government about rebuilding and planning for future emergencies. Independent Sector serves as a resource to media to help the American people better understand how the charitable sector is working to create real, positive change for those living in the affected areas. For more information, please visit www.independentsector.org or contact Elizabeth Jenkins at (202) 467-6134.

International Relief and Development

IRD-US is a charitable nonprofit whose mission is to reduce the suffering of vulnerable groups in the United States and provide the tools and resources needed for their self-sufficiency. In early September 2005, IRD-US immediately responded to emergency needs and began implementation of community development programs targeting the most vulnerable populations along the Gulf Coast. The long-term goal in working with these devastated communities is to "build back better" – to improve conditions for residents beyond the level that existed before the hurricane. In November 2005, IRD-US opened the Gulf Coast Community Services Center located in Gulfport, MS. For more information, visit www.ird-us.org or contact Lori West at (228) 864-6677 or lorinmax@aol.com.

Junior League International

Since Hurricane Katrina, the Junior League has been committed to helping those affected by disasters. Efforts have included support of the Women of the Storm initiative, the creation of a Junior League Disaster Fund, and a disaster preparedness partnership with the American Red Cross. An especially important volunteer story lies in the launch of a large-scale volunteer effort to help rebuild New Orleans neighborhoods known as the Junior League Rebuilding

Together program. Beginning on September 29, the Junior League of New Orleans, along with over 350 volunteers from across the four countries of the Association of Junior Leagues International, is launching a large-scale project to help restore neighborhoods devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The restoration program is part of the national Rebuilding Together initiative, which revitalizes low-income houses for the elderly and disabled in 1,897 cities across America. The project's goal is to rebuild nine houses and make other improvements in the area known as the Freret Street neighborhood. This effort supports the League's commitment to the overall development of this community, which is home to the League's thrift store as well as the Green Charter School, with whom the League has many ongoing educational programs. For additional information, contact me Jessica Amason at jamason@ajli.org or (212) 951-8300 x. 313.

KaBOOM!

To address the vital need for safe places to play and help restore a sense of community and childhood, KaBOOM! has launched Operation Playground, a two-year initiative to build 100 playgrounds in Gulf Coast communities affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Since Hurricane Katrina, KaBOOM! has built playgrounds from New Orleans to Moss Point with dedicated partners like Motorola, The Home Depot, Foresters, AmeriCares and the Mississippi Orthopedic Society. To mark the anniversary of Katrina, KaBOOM! and its partners, The Home Depot, Playworld Systems and Hands On Network, will mobilize more than 3,000 volunteers to build playspaces at Nelson UNO Charter School (August 28, New Orleans); Second Street Elementary School (August 28 Bay St. Louis); John Henry Beck Park (August 29, Biloxi); Pass Christian High School (August 29, Pass Christian); Owen T. Palmer Park (August 29, Gulfport); Carol Vegas Park (August 30, Bay St. Louis); Central Elementary School (August 30, Pascagoula); Miramar Park (August 31, Biloxi); Carolyn Park Middle School (August 31, Slidell); and Hancock Medical Center (August 31, Bay St. Louis). For more information, visit www.kaboom.org or contact Mory Fontanez at mfontanez@kaboom.org or (202) 464-6171.

Katrina Aid Today

Katrina Aid Today is a consortium of 10 social service and voluntary organizations – led by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) – dedicated to helping survivors navigate the system to recover from this tragic disruption of their lives. In an effort to further encourage agencies to use volunteers to assist with management, a practice that may be new to many, Katrina Aid Today is providing resources and tools to assist in developing a volunteer component to all Katrina Aid Today Programs throughout the country. For more information, visit www.katrinaaidtoday.org or contact info@katrinaaidtoday.org or (888) 528-5281.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA.org) and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS.org). Following a major domestic disaster, LDR seeks to minister holistically to the unmet needs of those affected, regardless of faith or creed. Volunteers are perhaps the greatest asset of Lutheran Disaster Response. Since Katrina, more than 15,000 volunteers have contributed more than 600,000 hour of service through LDR to communities in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. From the last week of February through the end of March, nearly 1,100 college students from 54 different schools participated in the first-ever LDR "What a Relief!" Alternative Spring Break. The students represented campus ministries and volunteer groups from their respective institutions, and they lived and worked for a week at a time at one of our many volunteer sites along the Gulf Coast. For more information, visit www.ldr.org or contact Michael Nevergall at michael.nevergall@elca.org or (800) 638-3522 x. 286.

Mennonite Disaster Services

Mennonite Disaster Service is a channel through which various constituencies of the Anabaptist churches can respond to those affected by disasters in North America. While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this activity becomes a means of touching lives and helping people regain faith and wholeness. The major contribution of MDS to most disaster situations is supplying volunteer personnel for cleanup, repair and rebuilding operations. In most cases, the MDS organization will not provide resources for housing materials. These come from elsewhere. MDS currently involves more than 3,000 Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and Amish and districts, which are divided into 50 units, 15 representative areas, and five regions (four in the U.S. and one in Canada). Over 4,100 volunteers have spent a week or more down in the Gulf helping with clean up, repair and rebuild from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These volunteers have put in 28,100 days of work. For more information, contact Heather Good at (717) 859-2210.

Mercy Medical Airlift

Mercy Medical Airlift manages and coordinates large-scale charitable air medical transportation programs for individuals, often children, who need access to medical research centers and disease-specific treatment programs. In the wake of Katrina, MMA managed the use of donated corporate jets with flight crews to transport relief workers, government employees, disaster specialists and to reunite evacuee families. For more information, visit www.mercymedical.org or contact Ed Boyer at MercyMed@aol.com.

MyGoodDeed.org

A new national survey of Americans released by the nonprofit initiative MyGoodDeed.org reveals that even though 63 percent of Americans now have a greater personal sense of national unity and patriotism as a result of 9/11, with 44 percent more likely to volunteer to help others, more than two-thirds (68 percent) feel that the climate of national unity and compassion that existed after 9/11 has largely dissipated. Since its inception in 2003, the organization's grassroots movement to establish 9/11 as a national day of charitable service has drawn more than three million people. The goal of their latest campaign is to document at least one million good deeds, service projects and other charitable activities between today and Monday, Sept. 11, 2006. For more information, visit www.mygooddeed.org or contact Amy Hamaoui at (949) 809-6778 or ahamaoui@painepr.com.

National Human Services Assembly

The National Human Services Assembly is a non-profit membership organization comprising more than 70 human service organizations, many of whom played a significant role helping volunteers and non-profits located in Gulf Coast region recover and rebuild post-Katrina. Specifically, several organizations (YMCA of the USA, United Way, Salvation Army, United Jewish Communities, and many others), through the auspices of the National Assembly, conducted a federal and grassroots outreach campaign to enlist the aid of local elected officials to steer federal funds to community non-profits to help them reopen and serve the local population and influx of volunteers alike. Additionally, the National Assembly authored a brief on coordinating case management for families impacted by Katrina and other disasters: *Re-establishing Normalcy: Helping Families Address the Long Range Effects of Disaster Through Case Management* at <http://www.nassembly.org/nassembly/documents/casemanagementbrief.pdf>.

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)

NVOAD coordinates planning efforts by many voluntary organizations responding to disaster. Member organizations provide more effective and less duplication in service by getting together before disasters strike. Once disasters occur, NVOAD or an affiliated state VOAD encourages members and other voluntary agencies to convene on site. This cooperative effort has proven to be the most effective way for a wide variety of volunteers and organizations to work together in a crisis. To help provide support for its members' volunteers, in July 2006, NVOAD released *Light Our Way: A Guide for Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster for Disaster Response Volunteers, First Responders and Disaster Planners*. For more information, visit www.nvoad.org or contact Ande Miller at ande.miller@nvoad.org or (202) 955-8396.

National Youth Leadership Council

More than half of young adults between the ages of 18 and 28 contributed to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, according to the NYLC, a service-learning organization whose mission is to empower youth to transform themselves from recipients of information and resources into valuable, contributing members of a democracy. According to their Transitions to Adulthood Survey, conducted in November and December of 2005, 40% of young adults donated money, 23% donated food, clothing, or other materials, 15% collected donations, and 5% provided direct services, such as assisting with the cleanup or helping displaced families. For more information, visit www.nylc.org or contact Maddy Wegner at maddy@nylc.org or (651) 999-7354.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

Supported by Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Nazarene Disaster Response (NDR) is a denominationally supported network of disaster volunteers supported. These volunteers are assisted by trained district, regional, and national leaders who cooperate with other national, state, and local agencies to respond to victims of natural and human-made disaster. Restoring Hope is a year-long volunteer project that began March 1st, 2006, with concentrated focus in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. NDR is looking for nearly 400 volunteers per week who can give of their time toward clean-up, rebuilding, and restoration. For more information on how you can help, please see www.ndrrestoringhope.org.

Noah's Wish

Noah's Wish is a nonprofit animal welfare organization focused exclusively on animal disaster preparedness and relief. The organization is dedicated to raising the standard of how animals are managed during a disaster and raising the level of knowledge people have of disaster preparedness. The group's volunteers provide life saving services during the response and recovery stages of disasters; offer temporary sheltering; long and short-term foster care; and grief counseling. For more information, visit www.noahswish.org or contact info@noahswish.org or (916) 939-9474.

National Peace Corps Association

From the first days of the hurricane emergencies, the Peace Corps community responded nationwide. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) used online bulletin boards to post messages and share information with the wider Peace Corps community. RPCVs at the local level mobilized resources, those living elsewhere provided temporary shelter to Peace Corps alumni who had to evacuate the Gulf Coast, and more than 270 alumni volunteered directly with relief efforts through Crisis Corps. For more information, visit www.rpcv.org or contact David Arnold at pubs@rpcv.org or (202) 293-7728 x. 16.

Operation NOAH Rebuild (Northern American Mission Board)

Operation Noah Rebuild is a two-year project in the New Orleans area that will use volunteer labor to rehab more than 1,000 homes and 20 churches. It is a partnership project between the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Louisiana Baptist Convention, New Orleans area associations and churches, the Salvation Army, and Promise Keepers. Skilled and unskilled workers are being recruited to help with roofs, dry wall installation, electrical work, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and more. Visit http://www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEpH/b.1711603/k.6B25/Operation_Noah_Rebuild.htm or call (877) 934-0808 or e-mail noah@namb.net.

Peace Corps

For the first time in Peace Corps' 45-year history, through the Crisis Corps program, returned Peace Corps volunteers were deployed domestically to assist in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. To date, 272 volunteers engaged in various projects, and helped open a new disaster recovery center in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, the area most damaged by the hurricane. For more information, visit www.peacecorps.gov/crisiscorps or call the Peace Corps Press Office at (202) 692-2230.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) plays a coordinating and supporting role in a long-term recovery response that is shaped by the local survivors, including presbyteries and local recovery organizations. PDA recently received a big boost thanks to a \$75,000 contribution from the rock group *3 Doors Down*. The funds will help purchase construction materials for volunteer projects to rebuild homes along the Gulf Coast. PDA helps operate six volunteer villages throughout the Gulf to house volunteer teams from churches across the country. For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/katrina or contact Pamela Burdine at (888) 728-7228 x.5839 or pda@pcusa.org.

Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network

During the past year, volunteers and staff from the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer centers nationwide have journeyed to seven different Volunteer Centers in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to help organize volunteer efforts and provide relief to over-worked local workers. The Foundation also provided funding and personnel to 32 member Volunteer Centers throughout the country to help them meet the comprehensive needs of evacuee families in their communities. Registering volunteers before disaster strikes is the mission of a new website – HelpinDisaster.org – launched by the Foundation to help register volunteers whose skills are needed after a disaster. And, on August 29, 2006, the anniversary of Katrina, the Foundation, along with other national partners, are launching “We Are Family,” a campaign to increase services to designed to strengthen American families – particularly those displaced or affected by the 2005 hurricanes. The centerpiece of the campaign is a star-studded remake of Sister Sledge’s “We Are Family.” Proceeds from sales of the single and other related products will help support volunteer efforts that focus on strengthening families. For more information, visit www.pointsoflight.org or contact Fred Whiting at fwhiting@pointsoflight.org or (202) 729-8177.

RandomKid

After Katrina hit, a 10-year-old girl named Talia in a small Iowa town made it her goal to have kids raise a million dollars for hurricane relief by trick-or-treating. RandomKid, a national movement, was created as across the country “random kids” just like her reached out to help the survivors from the Gulf Coast in their own ways. Combining their unique talents, kids from over 4,000 schools across America reported to have raised more than \$10 Million Dollars in just under a year. Every day, new reports of children creating their own fundraising effort for the hurricane relief charity of their choice are reported in to this national tally. Today, RandomKid’s mission is to lend support to children who have ideas on how to help a person or a community. For more information, visit <http://www.randomkid.org> or contact Anne Ginther anne@randomkid.org or (612) 210-9952.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army responded to the immediate needs of survivors following the 2005 Hurricanes by providing shelter, food, water, ice, cleaning supplies, baby supplies, and hygiene products as well as spiritual and emotional care. All told, the Army helped more than 1.7 million people in at least 30 states. As part of that effort, more than 57,000 volunteers contributed greater than 400,000 hours of service. The Salvation Army is now implementing a long-term plan to operate volunteer villages to that offer housing and meals to volunteers and relief workers, among other efforts. For more information, visit www.salvationarmyusa.org or contact Melissa Temme at melissa_temme@usn.salvationarmy.org, (703) 519-5890.

Travelers Aid International

The mission of Travelers Aid is to advance and support human service organizations committed to assisting individuals and families who are in transition, or crisis, and are disconnected from their support systems. Travelers Aid places volunteers at or near transportation centers such as airports and bus and train terminals to assist distressed or stranded travelers. The Travelers Aid network assisted more than 18,725 displaced individuals in the three months after Katrina. For more information, contact Martha Morris at mmorris@travelersaid.org.

United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR)

UMCOR is recognized nationally as a leader in disaster case management. UMCOR provides training and personnel to local communities to help define the need for a case management system within long-term recovery. UMCOR has been designated the lead agency of Katrina Aid Today, a consortium of ten social service and voluntary organizations that together will oversee 3,000 professional staff and volunteers who will assist the hundreds of thousands of families by Hurricane Katrina. For more information, visit www.umcor.org.

USA Freedom Corps

USA Freedom Corps, an office of the White House, was created in 2002 by President George W. Bush to strengthen and expand volunteer service by Americans. When the President addressed the Nation from Jackson Square, New Orleans, on the evening of September 15, 2005, he asked USA Freedom Corps to create an information clearinghouse, so that families anywhere in the country could find opportunities to help families in the affected region. For more information about getting involved in the President's Call to Service, please visit www.volunteer.gov or call 1-877-USA-CORPS.

United Jewish Communities

United Jewish Communities represents and serves 155 Jewish federations and 400 independent Jewish communities across North America. It reflects the values of social justice and human rights that define the Jewish people. United Jewish Community members have raised more than \$28 million to date for Hurricane Katrina relief and sponsored numerous service trips to the region. For more information, visit www.ujc.org or contact Robyn Gershenoff Judelsohn at (202) 736-5877.

United Way

United Way locally and nationally supports efforts to prepare for and respond to disasters. Currently, United Way is with several national disaster relief providers to implement the Community Assistance Network (CAN), an information sharing system which allows participating agencies nationwide to share client information and eligibility verification, as well as track the services needed by those clients. United Way is also leading the charge to bring 2-1-1 to the states affected most directly by Katrina. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember three-digit dialing system that makes a simple but critical connection between individuals and families seeking services or volunteer opportunities and the appropriate community-based or government agencies. 2-1-1 is active and running in nearly 50% of the United States. For more information, visit www.unitedway.org or contact Sheila Consaul at sheila.consaul@uwa.unitedway.org or (703) 683-7871.

VOLUNTEERMATCH

While the world watched in shock as the events of Hurricane Katrina unfolded, millions of Americans turned to the Internet to find some way to respond. The unprecedented outpouring of empathy and goodwill prompted an extraordinary surge in activity on the VolunteerMatch network, the leading national online service for volunteer recruitment. In the month following the disaster, the network welcomed nearly one million visitors and delivered 80,000 volunteer referrals. In addition, VolunteerMatch assembled an emergency response team that engineered a new "Hurricane Relief" search category to organize and highlight relevant information. This new search category was adopted at the national level by USA Freedom Corps. The team also launched a stand-alone emergency resources page that is still available today. Visitors to this page can find rebuilding and recovery volunteer opportunities in their neighborhoods, and in the Gulf Coast, as well as virtual opportunities they can do from home. For more information, please visit www.volunteermatch.org/volunteers/resources/hurricane.jsp

Volunteers of America

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Volunteers of America helped established a communications network that connected faith-based organizations to help more people. During the tremendous crisis of Hurricane Katrina, the organization worked tirelessly to serve people along the Alabama-Mississippi Gulf Coast who were hungry, homeless, and fighting for survival. They launched Operation "Love In Deed," a program that continues to provide emergency medical assistance, food, water and clothing to hurricane victims. And, as part of its membership in the Katrina Aid Today consortium, more than 60 case management teams, many comprising volunteers, have been deployed in the Gulf Coast region to provide one-on-one support to more than 19,000 Katrina survivors. For more information, visit www.volunteersofamerica.org.

Week of Compassion (Christian Church/Disciples of Christ)

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development ministry fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) responding around the world. In the first year after Katrina, Week of Compassion, in partnership with Church World Service, sent 3,000 volunteers through our network to the Gulf South. Those groups have worked in several Disciples Mission Stations: Foley, AL; Moss Point and Gulfport, MS; New Orleans, LA; Slidell and Covington, LA; Lake Charles, LA; and BeaumontPt. Arthur, TX. Week of Compassion has begun a program to build 10-15 Habitat Houses for hurricane affected families - the first two of which already have been dedicated (Nashville, TN and Meridian, MS). Week of Compassion has just launched a two-year hurricane recovery initiative that calls for sending 750 volunteer groups to the region from Sept. 1, 2006 - August 31, 2008. For more information, contact Elaine Cleveland at ecleveland@woc.disciples.org or (317)713-2442 or visit www.weekofcompassion.org.

YMCA of the USA

YMCAs nationwide have been committed to assisting those impacted in the affected region, serving as a platform for the extended relief efforts of our government and nonprofit partners, and making certain that YMCAs are present to provide service and support, not only in the immediate and midterm period of this crisis, but for the long term as well. In the weeks after the storm, many devastated folks (including first-response emergency workers) found showers, hot meals, child care, and more at YMCAs, along with help in tracking down lost loved ones. YMCA of the USA raised and donated more than \$2.8 million to relief efforts. Principally involved among Gulf Coast area YMCAs, the YMCA of the Capital Area (Baton Rouge, LA) continued to provide services and support to those involved in the Katrina aftermath. With almost a quarter of a million evacuees in the area, the YMCA provided them with direct services and served as a staging ground for and provided shelter to relief workers.

Youth Service America

Youth Service America (YSA) is a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. Founded in 1986, YSA's mission is to expand the impact of the youth service movement with communities, schools, corporations, and governments. YSA envisions a global culture of engaged youth who are committed to a lifetime of service, learning, leadership and achievement. It works toward that mission through four core strategies: Organizing Public Policy and Awareness Campaigns, Convening the Field, Offering Incentives and Recognition, and Providing Information and Educational Resources. As part of its incentives and recognition strategy, YSA provided young people grants to support their desire to contribute to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. These grants were made possible by generous support from State Farm Companies Foundation, Disney, and America's Promise. Through these grants programs we were able to engage 2,137 young people for a total of 63,075 hours of service focused on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. For more information about Youth Service America, please visit: www.YSA.org.