

Disaster Relief Information

Source: Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA

Many of you have asked how to help the victims of Katrina. Some of our member companies and friends are already trying to meet some of the needs. Their information follows, in no particular order, along with other opportunities for service and key websites or contacts that we have compiled from several sources. You may want to share this information with your members, churches or other contacts.

Have a Full-Time or Part-Time Job You Can Offer?

The Governor's office and Department of Workforce Services request that all employers make a concerted effort to list, without delay, any part-time jobs (and of course full-time jobs) they can make available to those adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina. The employers may contact any local employment office, or they may use Arkansas' Job Link at www.arjoblink.arkansas.gov.

Household Items and Beds Needed

The Salvation Army in Little Rock is attempting to provide household items and beds for 25 displaced families. These families have been provided subsidized housing by the government. The following items are priority: mattresses and box springs, kitchen dishes and glass ware, pots and pans, towels, sheets, cleaning supplies and any other item necessary to set up a household. Also, gift cards for clothes purchases would be greatly appreciated. All donations could be tax deductible. Please bring all household items, gift cards and cash donations to The Salvation Army 1111 W. Markham. For donations of mattresses, box springs and or bed frames, please call Brenda at 374-9296, ext. 711.

The Salvation Army is also in need of cash donations for their hurricane fund. Or if you prefer for your donations to be used for evacuees in your community you may purchase gift cards from local grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Sam's, etc. If you take them to your local Salvation Army office they can write you an official receipt for the donation for your tax records.

Hosting Families

The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau (LRCVB) helping with hosting families and entertain them. LRCVB is monitoring hotel availability within the city and will continue to do so through Friday, September 2 from 7am-7pm. For visitors needing hotel information, please call the Little Rock Hotel Availability Helpline at 1-800-844-4781. The Helpline provides information on hotel availability, pet-friendly hotels and other general visitor information.

Since many of the refugees are families, Little Rock CVB has worked with Little Rock attractions to help keep the children entertained for FREE. Refugees can show a valid Mississippi or Louisiana drivers license and entry fees will be waived at the following: Little Rock Zoo, Museum of Discovery, and the War Memorial Fitness Center. Little Rock Parking Enforcement will not be issuing parking tickets this week to cars with Louisiana or Mississippi license plates.

For additional Little Rock information go to www.littlerock.com.

To Support the American Red Cross

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Red Cross 501-748-1075
American Red Cross 800-HELPNOW

Job Fair for Refugees

Representatives from Little Rock area staffing agencies and the Central AR Human Resources Assn. will be accepting applications for positions that are immediately available at a job fair on Saturday September 3, 2004 from 10am - 1pm in the Atrium of the Statehouse Convention Center on Markham Street. For more information, call 800-844-4781 or 501-376-4781.

Summit Arena in Hot Springs is a Red Cross Shelter

Summit Arena in Hot Springs has been activated as a Red Cross Shelter. Hot Springs hotels are full and have been for several days now. Hot Springs organizations, businesses, and individuals have been truly generous to help these folks. Call 501-620-5057 for shelter information. This line rings directly to the Summit Arena and a Red Cross person will answer.

Pine Bluff Convention Center is Also a Red Cross Shelter

The Pine Bluff Convention & Visitors Bureau is also providing shelter. Call Sheri Storie and Bob Purvis at 1-800 536-7660 for specific needs. The Red Cross has set up a help desk in the lobby of the convention center and the banquet area is being used as a shelter to house the refugees.

Health Care for Families

Arkansas Medical Society (AMS) in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services is issuing this disaster relief alert: "... The AMS and the DHHS urge physicians to do what you do best... take care of these people. They will need your compassion and your medical care. ... Please alert your office staff so that they can have an action plan fitting these patients into your schedule. As relief efforts proceed, more assistance may be needed including physician volunteers to provide medical treatment at refugee centers. The Arkansas Medical Society will issue future alerts as more information becomes available.

The Arkansas Hospital Association Coordinating Relief: Staff at the Arkansas Hospital Association are coordinating efforts for hospitals in Arkansas including those in Pine Bluff, Fordyce and Stuttgart with various government agencies or organizations including FEMA, Arkansas Division of Health and the National Disaster Medical System to provide medical care for the refugees housed in shelters. (501) 224-7878

Gift Cards and Cash Needed – Arkansas Hospitality Association

The Arkansas Hospitality Association, representing hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions in Arkansas, is collecting gift cards to distribute through hotels and convention centers. The hotels are also collecting needed personal items since many refugees are short on cash. Many of the area hotels have refugee guests who have already maxed out their credit cards and are unable to buy food or gas. Contact Montine McNulty (501) 376-2323, montine@arhospitality.org.

Free Transportation

Arkansas Transit Association Members Providing Transportation: Ann Gilbert's Arkansas Transit Association member, CATA (Central Arkansas Transit) are providing free transportation to the shelter at Barton Coliseum on the State Fair Grounds for the refugees arriving at the Greyhound Bus Terminal. Many of their drivers are volunteering their time to make special routes by picking up families at an area hotel to take them to the Imax Theatre for an afternoon. A few of the buses are also giving tours of Little Rock for the refugees. For information, call CATA, 375-6717 ext. 226 and ext. 231.

Office or Home Space Needed

The Arkansas Bar Assoc. is in contact with the leaders of the legal profession in these states, and we would ask your help as follows: if you have offices and/or home space available, please e-mail or call your name, telephone # and e-mail address to the following: Louisiana - Hot Line 1-800-469-4828, Mississippi - Hot Line 601-948-4471, Fax 601-355-8635

American Red Cross and Other Organizations

If you wish to assist with Louisiana Hurricane Katrina relief efforts please contact: The American Red Cross www.redcross.org <<http://www.redcross.org>>

Operation Blessing
1-800-469-4828
www.ob.org <<http://www.ob.org>>

America's Second Harvest
1-800-344-8070
www.secondharvest.org <<http://www.secondharvest.org>>

Shelters in Arkansas Communities

Shelters in the following towns have been set up:

Ashley County: Crossett Readiness Center

Conway: Meadowlake Baptist Church, 2105 Meadowlake Road

El Dorado: Family Life Center, West Side Baptist Church (870) 862-1552 or (870) 863-4113

Texarkana: Emergency Preparedness Center, 821 Spruce St. (903) 793-5602 and

Southwest Center, 3233 West Seventh St. (903) 223-3298

Pine Bluff: Pine Bluff Convention Center

Little Rock: State Fairgrounds

Hot Springs: Summit Arena (501) 623-9321

Mena: First Baptist Church (479) 394-2541

Chicot County: Chicot County Fairgrounds, Eudora; Lakeside High School in Lake Village

Dumas: First United Methodist Church

McGehee: First Baptist Church, 312 Seamans Drive; First United Methodist Church; Boys and Girls Club; McGehee Christian Center

Monticello: The Armory; the Presbyterian Home

Union County: Community Center and City Hall in Junction City; Junction City Baptist Church

West Memphis: First Baptist Church
White County: Searcy Readiness Center

More information on Arkansas hotels and emergency shelters at www.arkansas.com
<<http://www.arkansas.com/>>

Information about hotel availability in Little Rock, at 1 (800) 844-4781

Guests Register With FEMA

One of the things we were all strongly encouraged to do is ask our guests to register at www.fema.gov <<http://www.fema.gov>>. This does a couple of things. They can get information from the coastal areas since there are no phones, and it registers them as being somewhere safe if they have loved ones looking for them. FEMA can track where these people have fled since leaving the hurricane. Or they can call 1-800-621-3362.

EMS folks are saying the things that people need are water and juices. Preferably NO soft drinks. They need CANNED foods not just non-perishable foods. Non perishables that have to be cooked will do them no good. email contact: kim@desotocountytourism.com

At-a-Glance — Key Resources:

* 1-800-HelpNow (American Red Cross hotline) www.redcross.org
<http://www.uschamber.info/ct/LpzpN5K1EzB0/>

Disaster response and recovery

* www.fema.gov/rrr/help2.shtm; <http://www.uschamber.info/ct/SpzpN5K1EzBk/> — FEMA's information about donating
* www.guidestar.org <<http://www.uschamber.info/ct/L1zpN5K1EzB9/>>

Houses information on working with NGOs

* www.nvoad.org <<http://www.uschamber.info/ct/LdzpN5K1EzBo/>>

List of disaster-response organizations

* www.pointsoflight.org <<http://www.uschamber.info/ct/L7zpN5K1EzBl/>>
Advice about disaster volunteering
* www.swern.gov <http://www.uschamber.info/ct/_1zpN5K1EzBp/> — DHS gift-matching program for corporate offers
* www.uschamber.com/ccc/disaster http://www.uschamber.info/ct/_pzpN5K1EzBR/ —

Information on multiple disaster relief organizations and tips for business disaster donors

* www.volunteermobile.org <<http://www.uschamber.info/ct/A1zpN5K1EzBY/>>
volunteer center based in Mobile, Alabama

How to Help

The following information is for those wishing to donate to hurricane relief efforts and for those seeking information about shelters for evacuees.

TO DONATE:

American Red Cross 1 (800) HELP-NOW www.redcross.org

Salvation Army 1 (800) SAL-ARMY www.salvationarmy.org

Clear Channel Little Rock

(501) 217-4300 Accepting donations of food and water for Feed the Children in conjunction with Arkansas Rice Depot between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Clear Channel Metroplex on Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock at least through this weekend.

Emergency Information

For emergency information: 1 (866) GET INFO

The Red Cross is accepting calls on this number only from people who have emergencies concerning immediate family members.

Where to turn for information, how to help

(CNN) -- Disaster response officials are urging evacuated residents not to return for at least a week to areas. Officials are asking people not to contact local fire and police agencies, which are busy responding to emergencies. Instead, disaster officials recommend the following Web sites and phone numbers:

Next of Kin Registry

- * American Red Cross <<http://www.redcross.org/> (800-229-819,1-866-GET-INFO or 866-438-4636)
- * National Next of Kin Registry <<http://www.nokr.org/>>

Property damage and temporary housing

Claims can be filed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Because phone lines remain down in some areas and disaster response officials are overwhelmed, officials are asking that callers be patient.

- * FEMA <<http://www.fema.gov/>> (1-800-621-FEMA)
- * Disaster <<https://disasterhelp.gov/portal/jhtml/index.jhtml>> Help