

Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope Along the Gulf Coast

Helping families most ravaged by hurricanes

Last year's hurricane season caused unimaginable suffering for residents living in the Gulf Coast states. The storms killed more than 1,300 people, displaced about 1.5 million families, and destroyed almost 275,000 homes. Yet today, physically and emotionally devastated communities have hope for the future.

Long-Term Plan to Bolster Hurricane Victims

Episcopal Relief and Development received close to \$15 million for those affected by Hurricane Katrina from generous Episcopalians. Our multi-year rehabilitation program working with diocesan partners and local outreach ministries involves four phases: immediate response, assessment and clean up, recovery and long-term development.

By providing everything from face-to-face emotional support to housing and job training services, we are rebuilding, restoring and strengthening demolished and demoralized communities.

ERD and its partners will continue to:

- **Identify people and families** who are most vulnerable and in need of practical assistance as well as emotional support.
- **Provide critical medical services** through mobile units and churches throughout Louisiana and Mississippi.
- **Establish distribution centers** to provide food, water, medical care, cleaning supplies and shelter for up to 3,000 families each week.



Through your generous giving, we were able to provide critical medical care to children and their families.

- **Heal emotional and spiritual scars** through crisis counseling, spiritual support, suicide prevention and therapeutic camps for traumatized children.
- **Plans to build 100 to 150 homes in 2006**, homes that are more disaster-resistant and located on higher ground than the ones lost by people and families in need. The program will build at least 500 homes over the next five years.
- **Connect people to needed services**, helping them register with FEMA, gain access to the Red Cross, and secure housing, transportation, financial counseling and job placement.

The Recovery & Long-Term Phase in 2006

While other agencies are leaving, ERD and its diocesan partners still continue to restore and strengthen Gulf Coast communities. ERD has pledged almost \$7.7 million for 2006 to complete the current assessment phase and begin the recovery stage. Our partnerships will serve the most vulnerable through the following important recovery phase initiatives:

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■ **Case Management** Case Managers identify those most in need by door-to-door canvassing and working through local congregations. They establish an individual recovery plan for each person or family and advise and assist them step by step toward self-sustainability in housing, transportation and job placement. Twenty-nine case managers have been assigned to assist 945 households. Case management services are also being provided for 3,900 evacuees in New Haven, CT, Louisville, KY, Minneapolis, MN, as well as Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, TX.

■ **Psychosocial Care** Many disaster survivors suffer from psychological issues and anxiety. Our psychosocial care provides post-traumatic counseling that reduces acute stress, restores or enhances adaptive capabilities, and in some cases prevents suicide. This important service also includes spiritual counseling for clergy and caregivers.

■ **Livelihood and Housing Renewal** ERD will help beneficiaries rebuild their lives and improve conditions. In Mississippi, ERD is exploring ways to enable small business to get back on its feet, with needed enterprise loans, spaces for business set up and job training. ERD is developing plans to provide families with affordable, structurally sound housing on elevated land, home loans, job-training programs and credit for new businesses. Plans are underway to build up to 150 new homes on superior land to mitigate future disaster risk in the first phase of a housing development program.

Much has been accomplished in terms of responding to immediate health and emotional needs and assessing the best course of action for long-term rehabilitation. The recovery stage is underway: thousands of people are receiving compassionate care and practical assistance. Although rebuilding hard-hit Gulf Coast communities will take years, progress is being made, and hope for the future will return.

Our work is made possible by our generous donors and through our partners: The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and the diocesan Office of Disaster Response, the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi, Camp Coast Care, Grace Community Services, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Hope Community Credit Union, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Episcopal Migration Ministries, Interfaith Refugee Ministry, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Minnesota Council of Churches, Refugee Services of Texas, Inc., Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, Good Samaritan Center of San Antonio, and Starfishers' Case Management Team.



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To learn more about the four-phase plan, visit us at www.er-d.org/katrina.