

How Can I Help? Donate to the Red Cross to Fund Disaster Relief

When we see our fellow Americans in need, our first instinct is to lend a helping hand. While the devastation we see on the Gulf Coast is hundreds of miles away, DuPage County citizens can have an immediate impact in helping rebuild the lives of many.

According to the American Red Cross, the best way to help people after a disaster like the recent hurricane is to make a monetary donation. Monetary contributions enable the Red Cross to support the greatest needs in the most efficient manner. Cash can be used to purchase items in adjacent, staging areas and eliminate the added costs involved in transporting goods.

According to the Red Cross, their first priority is to meet the critical needs of displaced people, including providing shelter, food and water.

To make a donation, call 1-800-HELP NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (for Spanish) or go on-line at www.redcross.org.



Robert J. Schillerstrom
DuPage County
Board Chairman

Hurricane Volunteer Opportunities

Log-on to www.ovoad.org
(National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

Salvation Army –
800-SAL-ARMY

Catholic Charities –
703-549-1390

Christian Disaster Response –
941-956-5183

Lutheran Disaster Response –
800-638-3522

September 2, 2005

Volume 1 • Number 2

Volunteers On Hold - No Call to Mobilize to Hurricane Stricken Areas For Now

At this time, The National Citizen Corps Program Office has not issued a national call to mobilize volunteers to aid in the recovery efforts as was done for Hurricane Francis last year. Unsolicited volunteers are **not**, at this time being sought.

In addition, volunteers are urged not to call FEMA offices as they are distracting operators from the deployment process.

Citizen Corps members are asked to be patient and simply wait for their official deployment call and carefully follow directions.

Only Citizen Corps volunteers who have already received FEMA security clearances from their 2004 employment will be deployed at this time. It will take time to contact everyone and we again ask for your patience.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is activating their members in support of the American Red Cross only and are being given their instructions directly.

FEMA has deployed over 1700 trucks to move supplies and equipment into the hardest hit areas as quickly as possible, especially water, ice, meals, medical supplies, generators, tents and tarps.

We ask Citizen Corps volunteers to monitor the situation and will issue regular updates on the situation.

Volunteers are urged not to attempt to travel to the hurricane ravaged areas at this time as it could be dangerous to your safety as well as to the safety of emergency personnel already on the scene.

While we all feel the need to extend a helping hand, it is critical that we work together to efficiently serve those who need our help at this time.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Issues Statement of Aid

"At this time, we are directing the full range of federal resources and capabilities to assist and protect those who have born the brunt of this catastrophe. We will ensure that citizens in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina have the sustained support and aid necessary to recover and reclaim their homes and communities."

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff

For more information go to <http://www.citizencorpsdupage.org>